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OR OLD WORLD.

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OF
The American Revolution



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COMMODORE HOPKINS,
COMMANDER in CHIEF of the AMERICAN FLEET.
Published in the old streets 22. Jan. 1776. by The. Galt. London.

U.S. NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

NAVAL DOCUMENTS OF
The American Revolution

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

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

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

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The U.S. Navy Department*

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SECRETARY OF THE NAVY JOHN H. CHAFEE

And an Introduction by

REAR ADMIRAL ERNEST McNEILL ELLER, U.S.N. (Ret.)

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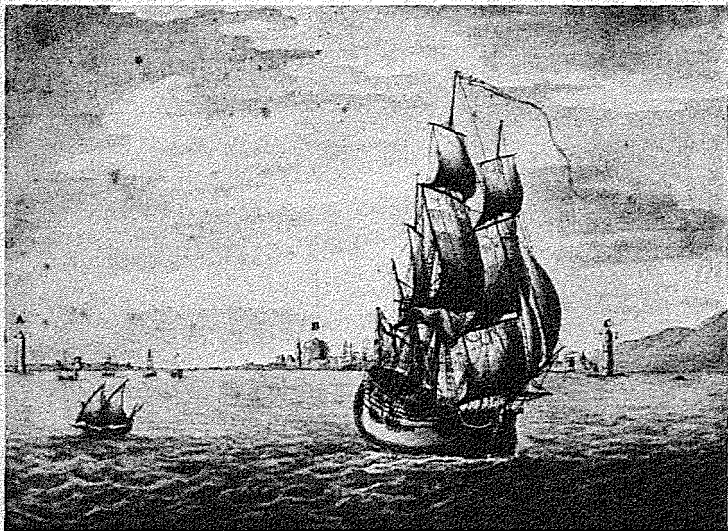
L. H. Butterfield
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*I believe that the time is near when the Americans
will be their own masters.*

Caron de Beaumarchais
1776

*Heaven seems now to offer us the glorious privilege
. . . of being the Guardians of the Rights of Man-
kind . . .*

Major Joseph Ward
1776



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



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

March 3, 1969

FOREWORD

On 13 October 1775 the Continental Congress authorized the first two ships of the Navy. From this small beginning we have seen the country's Navy grow into a most powerful force for the security of our nation. It has also continued, as it began, as a force for the defense of freedom — our own and that of our allies, who are united to us by the sea only if we keep strong on it.

In this valuable documentary series, through the words of participants and eye witnesses, we read of a small Continental Naval force which promptly challenged Britain's absolute control of the sea. Our first amphibious expedition landed in the Bahamas 3 March 1776, and captured gravely needed munitions, proving to the foe that the infant American Navy was a threat to be reckoned with.

Likewise we read in this volume how the tight siege by General Washington's army forced the British garrison out of Boston. Yet because the Royal Navy controlled the sea, the troops embarked in their transports and sailed away without loss under the guns of the Royal Navy. Where or when they would come over the horizon to strike again from the sea anywhere down the long coast, no one could predict with certainty. But with their powerful fleets it was clear they would strike again and soon. From the letters and other documents in these pages we can also sense the quickening of the Revolution and inexorable march toward the Declaration of Independence — and in time to the entry of France, Spain and Holland to turn the conflict into the fourth World War of the 18th century.

As our nation approaches the two hundredth anniversary of its birth, this series emphasizes once again the unchanging significance of seapower.

John H. Hayes

In Memoriam

On 31 October 1968, when this Volume was still in page proof, William Bell Clark left his typewriter, beloved manuscripts, and notes for the last time. He never awakened from that evening's sleep but instead quietly embarked upon the great voyage beyond earth's last horizon. His was a full and satisfying life of devoted work and marked achievement. Mr. Clark's unique knowledge of early naval history and his great industry will be sorely missed, and will be an inspiration to those of us who carry forward this monumental series.

Nothing but death shall stay me.
Julius Caesar, IV, 3.

INTRODUCTION

“No man is an island unto himself” in this age of satellite communication, jet aircraft and intercontinental missiles. Yet even in the 18th century, as the documents in this volume point up, the far reaching sea made the affairs of the small emerging American nation in some ways the affairs of all. The spark of liberty could not have survived in America without extensive aid from overseas. Among the many significant events in these nautical pages, none had greater impact than France’s secret policy to prolong the war through undercover aid that could come only by sea and would eventually involve her powerful fleets to bring victory.

It is interesting that at the outset Bourbon autocracy promoted American freedom—fanning the fires that would spread to France and destroy the monarchy. Surely Providence works in mysterious and unforeseen ways—as America experienced often during the Revolution and in the stirring years to come when this land of freedom has become a beacon of hope to all men.

The initial decision to include foreign documents relating to the war at sea seems more than ever justified as we get deeper into the years of conflict. They bring breadth of perspective, significance and deeper meaning. At the same time the growing sea of documents has vastly increased our task of selection. It has taken four broad-beamed volumes to reach to the first months of the second year of the Revolution. Documents printed in the volumes contain the principal, but by no means all the large holdings collected in the Naval History Division for this period. Through drastic editorial review, extracting or eliminating material, and footnote references, we have been able to extend the time span of Volume 4 over that covered in Volume 3. We will hold this course of selection even more closely in subsequent volumes.

The wholehearted support of libraries, historical societies, museums, archives, other depositories, and private collectors and researchers in the United States and abroad continues to make this work a reality. Unpublished Crown copyright material in the Public Record Office is reproduced by permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

We were able to get this great editorial project underway a decade ago because of the knowledge and dedication of William Bell Clark. In his heart was an abiding love for the American Revolution as affected by naval events. In his mind he had stored information from a lifetime of research and reading. In his library he had tens of thousands of pages of transcripts

relating to the Revolution. Therefore, when he quietly sailed on into vaster seas we suffered a grievous loss indeed in a splendid American, an esteemed friend, and an editor whose knowledge can not be fully replaced by any man alive. We will carry on this series but will not cease to think of him and miss him.

Within the Naval History Division the key to this project's success and steady progress continues to be the intelligent know-how, intense interest, and hard work of Dr. William James Morgan and his devoted crew in our Historical Research Section—Lieutenant Patrick A. Lyons, Mr. Robert I. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Scheffenacker, Mrs. Eleanor Roll, Yeoman First Class Joseph V. Eckert, Miss Anne Kenenski, and a talented part time worker in our vineyard, Mr. Martin Petersilia.

Lieutenant Raymond P. Schmidt and Chief Personnelman George K. McCuiston, on summer Naval Reserve duty with us, made significant contributions. Mr. W. Bart Greenwood, Navy Department Librarian, and Miss Mary Pickens did a fine job with the maps as did Mr. Charles R. Haberlein Jr., of the Curator's Branch, with other illustrations.

France's secret decisions that highlight the importance of the sea for the future of America represent only a small portion of the material in Volume 4 that points up this unchanging verity in history of the sea's mighty role. For example, on one day in 1776, 19 April, the first anniversary of the embattled patriots' stand at Lexington and Concord, we find these wide spread indications:

- a. Virginia newspaper reported that two British tenders sailed up the James River and captured a vessel "with about 200 barrels of flour on board."
- b. Pennsylvania decided to build an additional floating battery to cover the water approaches to Philadelphia.
- c. New York directed her sloop *Montgomery* to hasten to sea to "act against the enemies of the United Colonies."
- d. Massachusetts named "five armed Vessels now building"—*Independence, Rising Empire, Republic, Freedom, and Tyrannicide*.
- e. Halifax, Nova Scotia. Vice Admiral Shuldham wrote an urgent dispatch to the Admiralty. H.M.S. *Glasgow* had arrived much "shattered" having "off Rhode Island fallen in with and been attack'd by several Armed Vessels of the Rebels."
- f. London. Admiralty Secretary Philip Stephens had no way of knowing that Boston was recently evacuated as he addressed an order to Shuldham. He urged extreme vigilance in protecting homeward-bound West Indies trade, and that British Captains "take or destroy any Rebell Cruizers they may happen to meet with."

Throughout the volume these, and many other documents, as President Kennedy wrote in the Foreword to Volume 1, "make amply clear the critical role played by sea power in the achievement of American independence."

EDITOR'S PREFACE

Several of the most significant events of the war for independence appear in the pages of this, the fourth volume of *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*. Foremost are the resolves of the Continental Congress establishing a definite naval policy. Operations of all war vessels, whether Continental, those under General Washington, or those of the Colonies, had been limited to protection of ports and coastal waters, and capture of British ships of war or any vessel carrying troops, munitions, supplies or provisions to the enemy. But, in March 1776 Congress authorized commissioning of privateers (letters of marque and reprisal) and allowed unrestricted capture of any vessel of any description carrying the English flag. In early April Congress implemented this action through specific instructions to its commanders on land and sea, and to each of the thirteen colonies.

Second in importance, and following along a month later, was George III's proclamation banning all commerce with his rebellious colonies under the Prohibitory Act. This, also, provided for unrestricted warfare against his disobedient subjects in North America.

Thirdly is the "Considerations on the Affair of the English Colonies in America," by the Count de Vergennes. In a document intended primarily for the eyes of his Spanish counterpart, the French Foreign Minister set forth the aims of the two Courts—prolong the war for at least a year by continuing surreptitious aid to the British colonies in America; assure Great Britain at the same time that they ardently desired peace; and make no treaty with the Americans until the latter had declared independence and had demonstrated ability to maintain it. "Because a year gained," wrote Vergennes, "for measures of vigour and foresight, may, in many respects, change the aspect of affairs."

Resolves and pronouncements, however, are but a small, though consequential part of this volume. The first Continental Fleet made a successful amphibious assault on New Providence, in the Bahamas. Commodore Hopkins' ships carried off the island governor, cannon, and stores, but a bungle denied the American raiders any sizeable quantity of the garrison's gunpowder. All this is described in letters and other documents, along with accounts of the inexperienced Fleets' rather ignominious encounter with H.M.S. *Glasgow*.

Two more vessels were added to the Continental Navy in this same period: ship *Reprisal* and brig *Lexington*. Early cruises of the latter are related, including the sharp engagement with and capture of H.M. Sloop *Edward*: "We shattered her in a terrible manner as you will see." Likewise, these pages reveal the building progress of some of the thirteen frigates authorized earlier by Congress, as well as the expansion of the navies of six of the colonies—Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina.

The British side of the picture during the months covered in this volume is amply depicted. Letters and ships' journals tell of frustration in the attempt to recover all of the rice ships in Savannah harbor; of the futile effort to ascend the Cape Fear River and join force with the Scotch Tories already defeated at Moore's Creek bridge; of the storms that delayed the arrival of the naval and military expedition against the Southern colonies; of the evacuation of Boston and sailing of the British army to Halifax; and of the lone success, relief of Quebec and rout of the bedraggled American besiegers.

It was during this period that Congress sent Silas Deane as its first envoy to France. Deane went armed with contracts for the military stores it was hoped he could obtain from the French court, or profit-minded French merchants. His instructions and his difficulties in getting clear of the American coast are set forth in considerable detail. At the same time, is described how Richard Lord Howe was cajoled by the King to take command of the British fleet. Howe was the third admiral to attempt the impossible task of stopping the flow of powder and arms from Europe and the West Indies to the American fighting forces.

Twice the enemy probed the defenses of American ports. One was an abortive raid by a sloop-of-war into upper Chesapeake Bay, and the other an engagement in the Delaware River between two British frigates and Pennsylvania row galleys. The first day of this inconclusive battle brings Volume 4 to a close.

The editorial policy followed in this documentary series is detailed in Volumes 1 and 2. The editor wishes to repeat his sincere appreciation to the individuals and depositories whose cooperation has made possible the completeness of these hefty volumes, and to the zeal of those listed in Admiral Eller's introductions in this and preceding volumes, for supplying the "bookmaking and infinite labors to make the series as accurate and useful as possible."

William Bell Clark

DEPOSITORY LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS¹

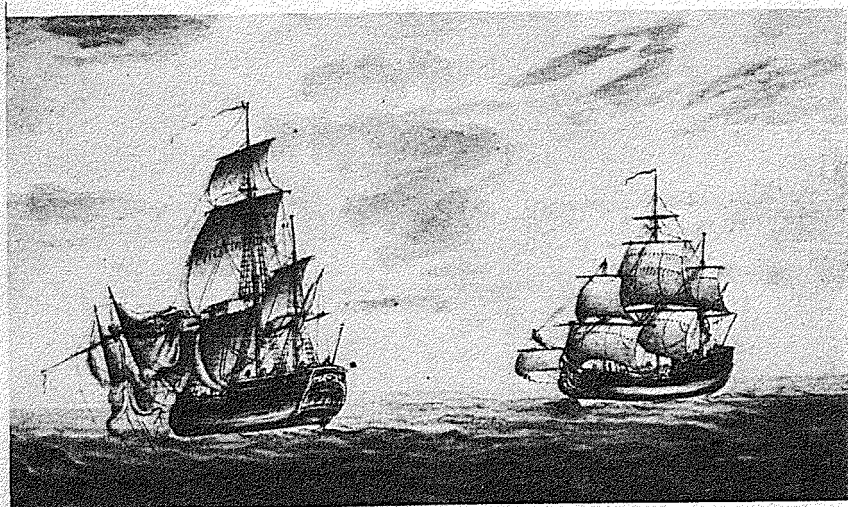
AAS	American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts
AHN	Archivo Histórico Nacional, Madrid
AMAE	Archives Du Ministère Des Affaires Étrangères, Paris
AN	Archives Nationales, Paris
APL	Service historique de la Marine Archives du Port de Lorient, Lorient, France
APS	American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia
Bda. Arch.	Bermuda Archives, Hamilton, Bermuda
BHS	Beverly Historical Society, Beverly, Massachusetts
BM	British Museum, London
BPL	Boston Public Library, Boston
ChHS	Chicago Historical Society, Chicago
CL	William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
ConnHS	Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford
ConnSL	Connecticut State Library, Hartford
CUL	Columbia University Library, New York
CWM	College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia
DAC	Dominion (Public) Archives of Canada, Ottawa
DARL	Daughters of the American Revolution Library, Washington, D.C.
DCL	Dartmouth College Library, Hanover, New Hampshire
DLAR	David Library of the American Revolution, Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania
DUL	Duke University Library, Durham, North Carolina
EI	Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts
FDRL	Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York
HCL	Haverford College Library, Haverford, Pennsylvania
HH	Hempstead House, New London, Connecticut
HL	Hayes Library, Edenton, North Carolina
HSD	Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington
HSP	Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
HU	Harvard University Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts

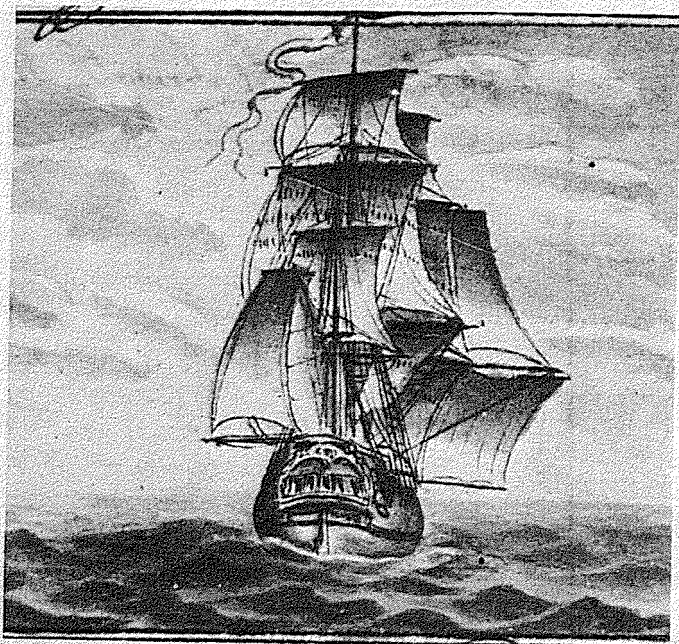
1. The list includes depositories from which manuscripts have been used in this and previous volumes. Our collection includes materials from a number of other depositories which will appear in later volumes. The Descriptive List of Illustrations includes additional sources from which graphic material has been used in Volume 4.

HUL	Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California
JCBL	John Carter Brown Library, Providence, Rhode Island
LC	Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
MarbHS	Marblehead Historical Society, Marblehead, Massachusetts
Mass. Arch.	Massachusetts Archives, Boston
MassHS	Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston
MCL	Marietta College Library, Marietta, Ohio
Md. Arch.	Maryland Archives (Hall of Records), Annapolis
MdHS	Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore
MeHS	Maine Historical Society, Portland
MHA	Marine Historical Association, Mystic, Connecticut
MNHP	Morristown National Historical Park, Morristown, New Jersey
Mor. Arch.	Moravian Archives, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
NA	National Archives, Washington, D.C.
NCDAH	North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh
NHA	Nantucket Historical Association, Nantucket, Massachusetts
NHCHS	New Haven Colony Historical Society, New Haven, Connecticut
NHHS	New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord
NHS	Newport Historical Society, Newport, Rhode Island
NLCHS	New London County Historical Society, New London, Connecticut
NMM	National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England
N.S. Arch.	Nova Scotia Archives, Halifax
NYHS	New-York Historical Society, New York
NYPL	New York Public Library, New York
NYSL	New York State Library, Albany
Pa. Arch.	Pennsylvania Archives, Harrisburg
PM	Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts
PML	Pierpont Morgan Library, New York
PRO	Public Record Office, London
PS	Pilgrim Society, Plymouth, Massachusetts
PUL	Princeton University Library, Princeton, New Jersey
R.I. Arch.	Rhode Island Archives, Providence
RIHS	Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence
SCHS	South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston
SI	Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
UNCL	University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
USNAM	US Naval Academy Museum, Annapolis, Maryland

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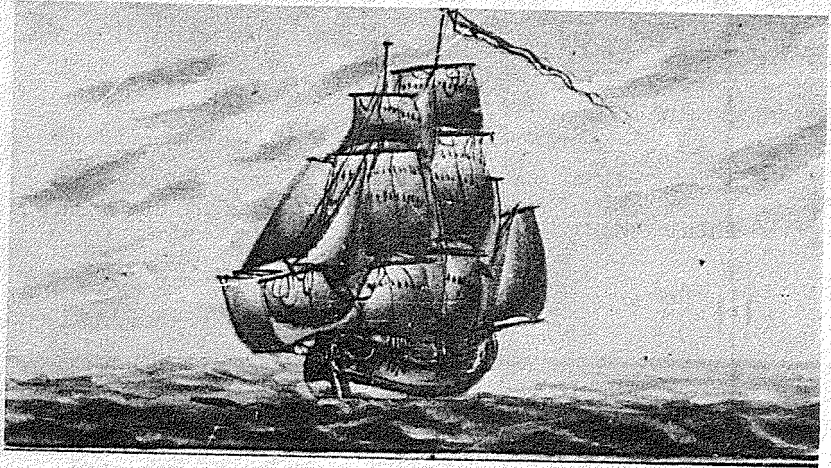
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William Salt Library, Stafford, England
Yale University Library, New Haven, Connecticut





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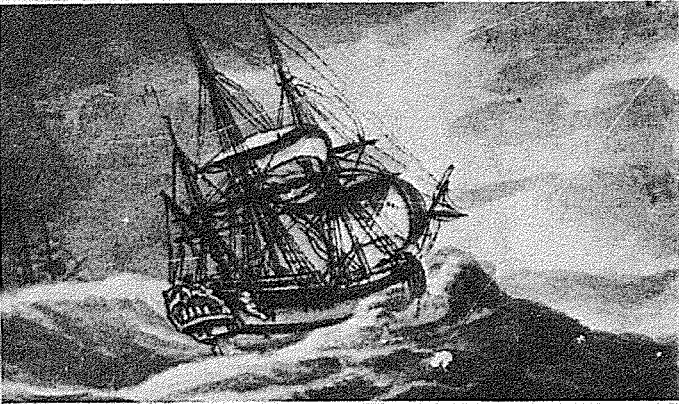
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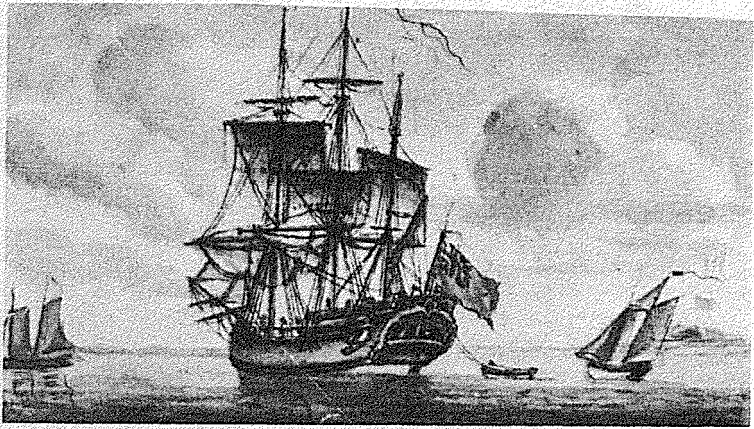
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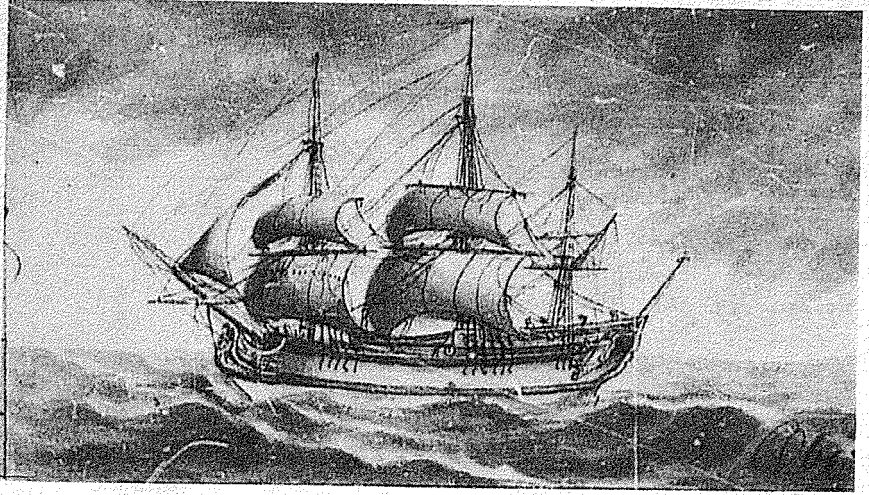
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AMERICAN THEATRE

From February 19, 1776, to April 17, 1776



AMERICAN THEATRE

From February 19, 1776, to April 17, 1776

SUMMARY

The British still held Boston, but their tenure promised to come to an early end with the arrival of cannon dragged across in mid-winter from Ticonderoga. General Howe and Admiral Shulldham were sitting uneasily under the threat of the rapidly growing Continental Army, which surrounded the closely beleaguered town, save for the single opening to the sea. Finally using the mobility which naval control assured, the British evacuated Boston on March 17 and sailed for Halifax.

In New York, Sir Henry Clinton and Captain Hyde Parker, Jr. viewed with misgivings the sudden arrival of General Charles Lee with several thousand men from Connecticut. Then Clinton departed southward; Lee withdrew, and the Tory-minded citizens breathed with relief.

In Canada, a bleak winter, an inadequate army, lack of heavy cannon, insufficient provisions and a wounded commander had stagnated the siege of Quebec. The senior general officer, David Wooster, after the death of Richard Montgomery, had remained in Montreal despite requests from Benedict Arnold to take over before Quebec.

The Continental fleet under Esek Hopkins had sailed from the Capes of the Delaware and launched a successful amphibious assault on New Providence in the Bahamas where cannon and a large quantity of stores were seized. In Congress, one of the principal subjects in agitation was that of legalizing privateering. Memorials and communications from individuals pressing for letters of marque and reprisal had been received, but no conclusions reached.

Meanwhile, from most of the thirteen embattled colonies, Provincial Congresses, Committees of Safety and private citizens dispatched unarmed vessels, with local produce for exchange in the foreign West Indies for cargoes of much needed gunpowder and other war material.

Another colonial governor had joined his brethren in flight from his office. Sir James Wright, of Georgia, had been stripped of all authority, and had fled to the protection of British naval vessels. A small British naval squadron would shortly wrest eight merchant ships laden with rice from

the Savannah River, but fail to save others from being burned by the provincials.

In South Carolina, defenses were being strengthened in anticipation of the threatened arrival of a strong expeditionary force from Britain. Off the North Carolina coast, General Clinton had arrived from New York, and awaited the coming of the long-promised and long-delayed army. Its failure to appear in time caused the disastrous defeat of Highlanders and Regulars at Moore's Creek Bridge.

Lord Dunmore fumed in futile arrogance in the ashes that once were Norfolk, and Robert Eden sat precariously in the governor's chair at Annapolis. Only Maryland to this point tolerated a Royal Governor.

19 Feb. 1776

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

Sir

Montreal Feby 19th 1776.

The paymaster has arrived but has brought no hard Cash with him, we can buy no provisions or Wood with the Continental Currency, yet they must be had and that before the Middle of March (after that Time there will [be] no passing up and down this River for three or four Weeks) or perhaps the Expedition may fail for Want of Supplies – Flour may be purchased for 9 Livres per Ct – we ought to purchase a Quantity of Beef also – What we have will now soon be gone – I understand there is a Quantity at Tyconderoga – I think it very necessary that it should be pushed over the Lake immediately – I need say nothing more than inform you, that there is not one thousand left of the Money which you sent us, and that will be gone in a very few Days – I hope our Friends will not suffer the Enterprize to fall thro' for Want of it – I am told there is a Mr Brazier a Gunner at Crown point, who may be doubtless spared from there and will be much wanted at Quebec – I shall be obliged to you, if you will be good enough to inform me whether there are not any twelve or twenty four pound Shot, or 8 Inch Shells at Ticonderoga or Crown point if there is we shall be very glad to have them sent us; they will be much wanted. We have at St John's a 24 lb and several 12 lb Cannon and an 8 Inch Howitzer – It will not be worth while to take them to Quebec unless we have Shot & Shells for them I am in Haste [&c.]

Dav^d Wooster

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 17, NA.

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA ¹

Monday, Feb. 19th, – Very cold. The captain of the *Senegal* has searched the brig *Liberty* and does not find anything contraband, but will not release her till he hears from the Commodore at Halifax ²

1. Harold A. Innis, ed., *The Diary of Simeon Perkins, 1766–1780* (Toronto, 1948–1961), I, 112. Hereafter cited as Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary*.

2. The journal of H. M. Sloop *Senegal* records on February 13 and 15, 1776: "Examining the Brigg." See also *Perkins' Diary*, February 1, 1776, Volume 3, 1107.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP ¹

Febry 1776 Pidgeon Hill [Cape Ann] NW 3 or 4 Leags
 Mondy 19 at 10 AM spoke with Chace a Schooner from St Domingo
 bound to Boston ² sent a Petty Officer & 3 Men on board
 her & took out the Master & five Men

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

2. The schooner was the *Tartar*, Benjamin Warren, master, and William Prosser, owner. She was not bound to Boston, but to Halifax and Newfoundland, with a cargo of sugar, coffee, cocoa and molasses. The seizure probably occurred because the Boston garrison needed food, or her destination was suspected to be a rebel port, despite her papers. Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

SALEM COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Committee of Safety and Correspondence

Salem February 19th 1776 –

May it please your Honors

The Committee of Safety and Correspondence of this Town beg leave to represent to your Honours, that about the 24th [*sic* 29th] day of January last the Sloop *Rainbow* Lemuel Perkins Master loaded with Wood was taken by one of our Privateers commanded by Capt [Samuel] Tucker, upon a suspicion that she was bound to Boston, and carryed into Cape ann; upon her Arrival there the Master produced a Certificate in his favour from the Committee of Safety of Newcastle upon which and his solemn declaration that he was bound for Salem he and his Vessel were released and suffered to proceed on his Voyage, that soon after his departure from Cape ann he was taken (as he says) by a British Man of War and carryed into Boston where his Cargo of Wood was Sold, which done he was proceeding with his Vessell to the eastern Shore but meeting with contrary winds he put into this Harbour and came to Anchor under cover of the Guns of the Fort, upon the Committee having information thereof, they apprehended it to be their duty to make inquiry into the affair,² in the course of which they found Capt Perkins's conduct to have been attended with such circumstances as to make them think it necessary to detain his Vessell and to send him to the Committee of the Honorable Board to be proceeded with as they shall in their wisdom think proper. The Committee have likewise directed Capt Benjamin Ward to wait upon your Honors who is one of their members and who is fully acquaint[e]d with all the circumstances relative to this matter that have come to the knowledge of this Committ[ee.] To him therefore the Committee beg leave to refer your Honors for a more particular account of this Affair.

By order of the Committee

John Pickering jun., Chairman P. T.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 252–53.

2. The committee report of its investigation, undated, is the next entry.

REPORT OF SALEM COMMITTEE UPON THE SLOOP *Rainbow* ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee &c

It appeared that the sloop *Mermaid* [*sic* *Rainbow*] commanded by

Lemuel Perkins sailed from Damascott[a] on the [blank] of Jany last having A certificate from the Comtee at that place which expressed his being bound to Newbury Port & Salem – that his lading consisted of about 45 Cords of wood about 10 Bushels of Potatoes 2 Busshels of Turnips a quantity of Spruce (for beer) he had on board also a peice of Vension a quarter of Veal & a Goose –

That in his passage from Damascotta [Damariscotta] he touched at Falmouth that on the 29th Jany in the morning he was seen by one of our privateers about half way from Cape Ann to Boston light House and nearly in that direction the wind being N [blank] or nearly so, that the Privateers put hands on board his Sloop and sent him to Cape Ann – That he Perkins was examined by one of the Committee of that place & supposed to be bound to Salem, and it does not appear that any person there thought to the contrary at that time – That he tarried at Cape Ann [blank] Days waiting for a wind suitable to carry him to Salem that on [blank] Instant in the evening A Vessell bound to Salem Benja Gale commander sailed from Cape Ann for Salem & that before he sailed he told Capt Perkins he would go thro' the most Northern passage (with which he Gale was acquainted) & that Perkins might follow him & by those means avoid the Man of War which lay off Marblehead That Capt Perkins left cape Ann about Half an hour after Capt Gale the wind being then about N W b N – That Capt Gale after having sail'd about one [blank] of his distance found the wind to head him put about & return'd to Cape Ann – That he, Gale, spoke with Perkins and told him the wind was too much ahead to proceed (Perkins says he could not unders[t]and what Gale said) That Gale went back to Cape Ann And that Perkins kept on westward & his Vessel was next morning seen by or Near the Man of War off Marblehead and soon after to proceed to Boston.

That on Saturday last [February 17] said Vessell came into this Harbour and there Anchored after having stood as far to the Eastward as Cape Ann, that As the Vessel passed the Fort at the entrance of the Harbour she was hailed by the G[ua]rds & proper steps taken to prevent her going out again till examined – that soon after her being at Anchor she was boarded by a boat from this place & taken possession of – that this Committee have desired the commanding officer of the G[ua]rds Stationed here to take charge of Said Vessel &c which he has done That the above Boat was commanded by the Capt of a privateer which is now at Cape Ann

The Account [that] Perkins & his Men (being 3 in all) give of their going to Boston is as follows – That on their passage from Cape Ann to Salem they were boarded by A Boat from the aforesaid Man of War² and carried to her & that the next day An Officer & 5 hands were put on board who carried them to Boston that their Wood &c was taken out of their Vessell and disposed of by the Men-of-Wars Men. And the Master Perkins says that on his promising to go to the Eastward and get a load of Wood & to bring the same to Boston his Vessell was given him & three Dollars a Cord for his Wood to enable him to procure another load & a promise to Perkins

that he should have the whole of what that load should sell for That passes from Genl [William] Howe & Admiral Shuldham ³ to enable him to pass the Castle & Ships of War – That he left Boston thereupon & arrived in this Harbour as is before mentioned

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 255–56½.

2. H.M.S. *Fowey* took the *Rainbow* February 3, 1776.

3. Shuldham's pass was dated February 15, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Monday, February 19, 1776

Samuel Holten, Esq; brought down a Letter from the Hon. James Otis, Esq;² directed to the Hon. Council, informing them that on Saturday last, a French Vessel ran on shore on the South Side of the Cape, with upwards of an Hundred Hogsheads of Molasses and other small Articles; that she had a French Master; and one Pinkham, of Nantucket, an English Master; that their Papers were all in French; that there was on Board said Vessel one Monsieur Le'Baron, a Gentleman who took Passage on Board said Vessel, with a Design to go to Philadelphia, who appeared to be much of a Gentleman, and says he was in the King of Prussia's Service more than Twenty Years,³ and who says that the French and English Masters talked of going into Boston; that the Goods were taken into Custody by Major Mallett [Hallett], and others, who desire the Directions of the Court

Read, and committed to Major [Joseph] Hawley, Col. [Nathaniel] Freeman, Capt. Batchelder, and Mr. [Moses] David, with such as the honourable Board may join. ⁴

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

2. Otis' letter of February 15, 1776, Volume 3, 1302.

3. Frederick Wilhelm, Baron de Woedtke.

4. The Council, on February 19, concurred with the House, and appointed Benjamin Lincoln, Joseph Palmer and Moses Gill to the committee.

JOSEPH PALMER TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Watertown, Febr'y 19th 1776.

Yesterday a Gent arrived here, said to be a Prussian Knight, from France to the W Indies, thence bound to Phia, but brot on upon the back of the Cape, from thence hither, & now at head Quarters, has many Letters for Dr [Benjamin] Franklin, a Packet for the President of the Congress, & another for the Secretary of do 'Tis supposed that the Vessel was bound into Boston, 'tho he took passage for Phia 'Tis likely you will know more about it before you receive this. –

. . . I've heard more about this Stranger Monsr La Baron &c &c &c,² He is a native of Dantzick [Danzig], has been many years in the K of Prussia's Service, is one of the Knights of Malta, has 2 Letters for Dr F, one for Mr Secretary [Charles] Thomson, & many others; he is a Gentleman & a Politician; & says, that all Europe wish our Prosperity; & that the Ho[use] of Bourbon, in particular wish the Colonies to declare for independency, so that they may have nothing to fear from the English. The Baron took passage at the Mole, in a French Vessel bound to Phia, as he understood it; but

I suppose she was bound for Nantuckett; & we are credibly informed, that there are 6 or 7 more soon expected: There not being English Vessels to take off their Melasses, they send it in their own Bottoms. This Vessel was loaded with Melasses, & 1 hhd Sugar; she got upon the Shoales within Sight of Nantuckett, lost both Anchors & Cables, & great part of her Sails, & then drifted on upon the back of Chatham; both Vessel & Cargo will be saved, as 'tis supposed.³

I dont particularly recollect what I wrote to you in my last; but since that time, conversation has much turn'd upon Independency; & after having considered the matter as fully as oppo admitted, I am Satisfied in my mind, that this Colony wou'd rejoice most heartily in a Declaration by Congs in favr of it; & it is clear in my mind, that, upon such a Declar[ation], Trade ought to be regulated so that we may be our own Carriers; this will encourage Ship-building, be a nursery for Sea-men, & will prevent Foreigners obtaining any great knowledge of our Coasts & Harbours; & if possible, & I think 'tis possible, let us not enter into any Treaty offensive & defencesive with any European Power, so that we may avoid being involved in their Wars. I depend upon it, that [if] we declare for independency, F[rance] & S[pain] will soon attack G[reat] B[ritain], but they will not do it 'till the break between her & the Colonies is incurable. In the mean time we shall grow in Military Strength & Knowledge; & once the Enemy are dislodged from Boston, & we can obtain a Sufficient Stock of Powder & other Military Stores, there will be very little danger of their ever possessing it again; for it can't be long before our own Manufacturers will furnish all necessary Stores in the Military way; & inspired by our cause, we shall very soon equal, if not exceed Our Enemies in Military Knowledge. — . . . The enemy have burnt 6 or 7 Houses on Dorchester Neck, & stolen two or 3 of the Guards.

1. Adams Papers, MassHS. Materials drawn from the Adams Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society are copyrighted and are printed by special permission of the Society.
2. Baron de Woedtke.
3. The arrival of the Baron stirred up much speculation in the camp. An example is a comment by Colonel Jedediah Huntington to Governor Jonathan Trumbull, on February 19 relative to saving people and cargo from the French brig: "among them is a Gentlemen who says he is a Prussian Officer and is lately from France appears to be well-acquainted with the History of our Times - says the French Papers are full of the American Affairs and that every Success of ours gives them Joy -" Trumbull Papers, ConnSL.

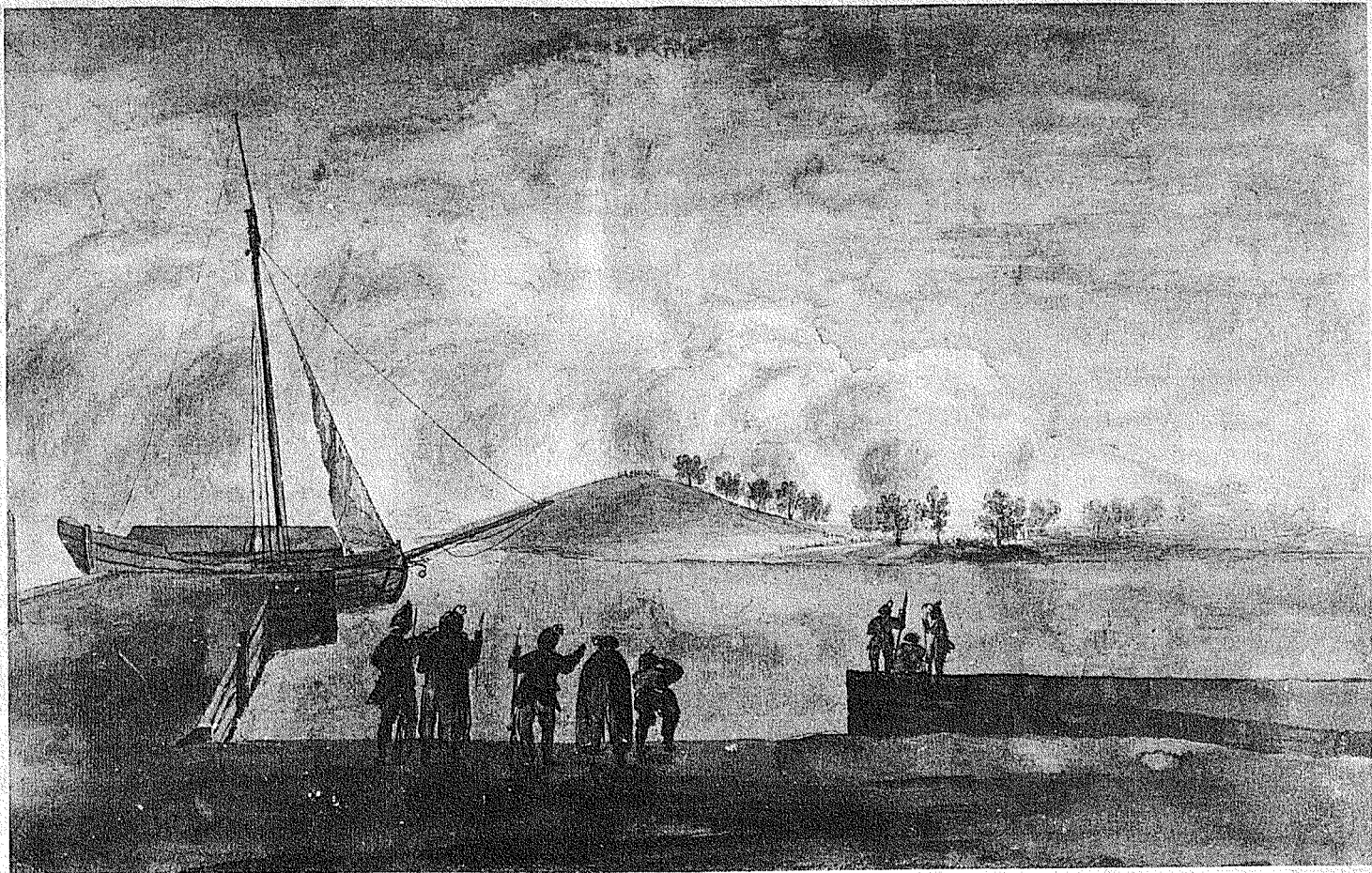
JOSIAH QUINCY TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Braintree February 19th 1776

May it please your Excellency,

Since the sudden and unexpected burning of the Houses upon Dorchester Neck, I have been repeatedly and earnestly solicited, by my distressed Friends and Neighbours, to make an humble Representation to your Excellency, that, our Habitations are equally exposed to be destroyed by our Enemies, whenever their Malice shall stimulate them to make us feel the Effects, of the unrelenting Vengeance of the "royal Brute of England." Could your Excellency have spared Time to make us happy in a Visit, and taken a View



Burning of the houses on Dorchester Neck.

of this Part of our Harbour, you would have been immediately sensible, of the Ease with which an Excursion may be made from the Castle, either upon Squantum Neck, or the Main; where, before a sufficient Force could be collected to repel them, our Enemies might rob us of our Provision, burn our Houses, murder or captivate the Inhabitants, who could not escape, and retreat again to the Castle in less than an Hour, as it is not distant more than a League. Your Excellency would also have seen, two line of Battle Ships, one Frigate, and about 15 large Transports, which have been, above six Weeks past, in Nantasket Road; besides, two or a Dozen arm'd Cruisers, wch are constantly going out in Pursuit of our Privateers, or coming in with their Captures, or expected Transports under their Convoy.

If our Army should take Post upon Dorchester Neck, have we not Reason to apprehend, the Shores will be attacked, from a Spirit of Revenge? Certainly, sir, a Fleet can easily spare, and have Boats enough to transport four or five hundred Men, who may, and when the inevitable Impulses of Hunger, or Thirst for Blood, inspires them with sufficient Courage, I fear will, land and ravage along Shore for Miles; any Force we have, at present, to oppose them notwithstanding.

1. Washington Papers, LC. Quincy was an outstanding lawyer and an American Revolutionary patriot.

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

[Providence] Feby 19th 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment

Messrs Joseph D. Russell & Nicholas Cooke Junr having returned last evening from Philadelphia, made their appearance this evening to report their doings to the Committee, they have brot the sixty thousand Dollars in Cash sent for by this Committee, they have also brought the draughts of the two Ships which we were desired to Build for the Continental Service, & on Examining the same we find it impossible to follow the Draughts sent us without retarding the Work at Least one Month, on Considering the whole matter it is Voted that Messrs Brown & Tolman proceed to finish the Bottoms of the Ships according to their present Moulds and that they finish the upper works nearly according to the Directions sent us by Stephen Hopkins Esqr Tumbling the sides Home Two feet on each si[de.]

Whereas Nicholas Brown Esqr was heretofore Chosen Treasurer to this Committee & he making sundry excuses which rendered it Inconvenient for him to execute the said Trust the matter was determined by Lott when it fell on Mr John I Clarke to execute the said Trust and Messrs Russell & Cooke Junr are hereby Order'd to pay the Money to the said Mr Clarke. —

Voted. That the sum of Fifty seven pounds Nine shillings and Eight pence Lawful Money be paid to Nicholas Cooke Junr & Jos. D. Russell for their Expences to Philadelphia on the Business of this Committee.

Voted. That Mr John Brown write to Mr Hezekiah Sabin of New Ha-

ven and request him to purchase Two Hundred Barrells of Flour, for this Committee & that Mr John I. Clarke the Treasurer pay to Mr Hezekiah Sabin Junr who will soon be in this Town the Sum of Four thousand six hundred Dollars to purchase Beef, Poark, Beans & Flour & that he purchase the above articles on the best terms he can.

Voted. That this Committee approve of the order on Stephen Hopkins Esqr in favour of Nicholas Brown Esqr & Jos Brown for three Thousand Dollars, Dated the 17th of this Instant. ²

Reckoning 29/

Meeting adjourned to Wednesday evening –

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

2. This order, dated merely "Providence Feby. 1776," is in the Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1776

Newport, February 19.

Last Wednesday [February 14] an armed schooner from Boston, arrived in this harbour, and immediately proceeded up the Bay to Capt. [James] Wallace, who lay near Hope; the next day the whole ministerial fleet moved to the upper part of Prudence, where, on Friday, they landed a number of men, who attacked and took a WINDMILL, on which they hoisted a flag by way of triumph, and then burnt the mill and 4 or 5 other buildings. – Prudence had been evacuated some days before, and all the live stock carried off, but 'tis feared they found a considerable quantity of potatoes, which had been left behind in cellars and holes, on account of the severity of the weather. All the fleet came down to this harbour on Saturday evening.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Lunae, A.M.

Feb. 19th, 1776.

Colonel [Alexander] McDougall informed the Congress that Major Genl [Charles] Lee had ordered Capt. Silleck [Simeon Sellick], in an armed vessel, of Connecticut, down here with provisions; that the said vessel is without gunpowder, and that Genl. Lee requests that a 100 weight of gunpowder may be delivered to Capt. Silleck for the use of said vessel.

Thereupon an order was given for his use in the words following, to wit:

At the request of Major-Genl. Lee, communicated by Col. McDougall,

Ordered, That Mr. Norwood, Commissary of Stores for this Colony, deliver to Capt. Silleck 100 weight of gunpowder, for the use of an armed tender (belonging to the Colony of Connecticut,) under his command.

1. *Journals of the Provincial Congress, Provincial Convention, Committee of Safety and Council of Safety of the State of New-York, 1775-1776-1777* (Albany, 1842), I, 310. Hereafter cited as *New York Provincial Congress*.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1776

New-York, February 19.

We hear from Elizabeth-Town, in New-Jersey, that on Monday the 12th inst. Intelligence arrived in that Town about 11 o'Clock at Night, that the Man of War, Transports and Tender, which fell down the Day before from the Harbour of New-York to the Watering Place, with 200 Marines on board, intended to commit Depredations on Staten Island, and furnish themselves with live-stock; General [William] Livingston ordered 300 of the Militia to march forthwith to prevent the intended Robbery; and having dispatched the necessary Orders, and a Party to reconnoitre the South Side of the Island, and to procure all possible Intelligence of the Motions of the Enemy, marched himself about three in the Morning. The several Detachments met at Ward's, in Sight of the Light-House, and were there joined by a Company of Light-Horse, under the Command of Captain Blanchard, but learning that the Fleet had left the Hook the Day before, the greater Part of the Troops, still on their March were ordered back, and a proper Number directed to guard the Coast, under the Command of Col. Thomas (lest the Departure of the Enemy might prove a Feint) to give constant Notice of their Return.¹

His Majesty's ship the *Phoenix* of 40 Guns, Capt. [Hyde] Parker [Jr.], sailed for Sandy-Hook last Saturday Morning; and about 2 o'Clock the same Day Capt. Vandepot [George Vandeput], in the *Asia*, of 64 Guns, got under sail, in Company with the Ship *Dutchess of Gordon*, a ship loaded with salt, and two sloops (the three latter seized by the men of war) but it being half flood, the *Asia* got aground off Whitehall, and did not float till near High-Water. She now lies in our Bay, with the *Dutchess* and her Prizes.

1. This alarm was occasioned by the departure of General Henry Clinton in the *Mercury* and the transports under convoy.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

New York Feb'y the 19th 1776

The Ships of War which were here have been frighten'd away – the *Asia* lies between Nutters and Bedloes Island – the *Dutchess of Gordon* with his Excellency Governor Tryon is under her stern – the *Phoenix* is station'd a league below the Narrows – the *Mercury* and General Clinton must inevitably fall into the hands of our Fleet, unless They are fast asleep – We have taken strong hold of Hell Gate – so that the passage betwixt Long Island and the Continent is absolutely blockd up to the Enemy –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

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

February 1776

Moor'd in Graves End Bay²

Monday 19th

AM Clear'd Hawse and Exercized Small Arms. Read the Articles of War &ca to the Ships Company.

Modt Breezes & Clear. PM fir'd Several Shott at Vessels going up to Town and Brought them too.³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.
2. The *Phoenix* had left the East River on February 17, and dropped down through the Narrows, reaching Gravesend the same afternoon.
3. The journal does not record that one of these vessels, the *York*, David Collins, master, in ballast, was seized as a prize, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484. The journal does record, however, on February 26, "Sailed hence the *York* Sloop," probably for Boston.

CONTRACT OF SILAS DEANE AND OTHERS WITH THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF
THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

Be it remembered that it is agreed by and between John Alsop, Francis Lewis and Philip Livingston of the City of New York – Merchants and Silas Deane of the Colony of Connecticut, merchant – and Robert Morris of the City of Philadelphia, merchant, of the one part, and Samuel Ward, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas McKean, Joseph Hewes, Josiah Bartlett and Robert Alexander Esqrs, members of the Committee of Secresy appointed by the Hon. Continental Congress of the Thirteen United States of North America, of the other part as follows – to wit.

That the sum of 200,000 Dollars, continental money now advanced and paid by the said Committee of Secresy to the said John Alsop, Francis Lewis, Philip Livingston, Silas Deane and Robert Morris, shall be laid out by them in the produce of these Colonies and shipped on board proper vessels, to be by them chartered for that purpose, to some proper port or ports in Europe (Great Britain and the British Isles excepted) and there disposed of on the best terms. And the neat proceeds of such cargoes laid out in such goods, wares or merchandise as the said Committee of Secresy shall direct and shipped for the said United Colonies to be landed in some convenient harbor or place within the same and notice thereof given as soon as conveniently may be to the said Committee of Secresy.

For which the said John Alsop, Francis Lewis, Philip Livingston, Silas Deane and Robert Morris shall be allowed five per. ct. for purchasing the cargo here; and also to such of said contractors as shall go personally to Europe to execute and superintend this business – exclusive of the charges of selling the produce and manufactures of the Colonies, to be exported as aforesaid, and for shipping the remittances, besides the duties, a clear commission of five per. ct. on the original cost of such remittances in Europe, the said United Colonies running the whole risk of the said adventure, being for their benefit and advantage, and also insuring such vessels against all British seizures and capture.

Witness our hand this 19th day of February in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and seventy six, at Philadelphia –

Witness, John Legg.
John Alsop for self and
Philip Livingston

Samuel Ward
Benjamin Franklin
Thomas McKean

Francis Lewis
Robert Morris
Silas Deane

Joseph Hewes
Josiah Bartlett
Robert Alexander.

1. "The Deane Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1886*, I, 117-18. Deane was Congressional envoy to Paris.

JOSIAH BARTLETT TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia Feby 19th 1776

Dear Sir Yours of the first Inst is now before me, and would inform you, that the Marine Committee look on you as fully authorised, to Build the Ship to be Built in New hampshire and finish her fit for the Sea; if any thing is wanted that you Cannot procure, they Expect you will Give them timely notice: The Draught is Sent forward & you will no Doubt receive it before this Comes to hand; I Enquired Concerning the length and Bigness of Cables & weight of anchors, but the Committee has not Determined on it: Govr [Stephen] Hopkins Says he told their Contractor that the Cables must be fifteen Inches, & 120 fathoms Long at least, and had Sent them the Dementions of the *Pallas* frigate as a rule for the masts & yards of the 32 Gun Ships; However the Committee advised to apply to the Comissioners for Building the Ships in this City, to know their Determination on those articles which as Soon as I can procure I will Send you.

The Marine Committee have given me an order in your favor, for twenty Thousand Dollars, which I was to have Sent by a man who is to take some money for the Ships to be built in Massachusetts, But as you inform me, you have Drawn one and are likely to Draw more orders here, I Believe I Shall not Send the whole by that oppertunity.

In Yours of the 29th ulto you informed me that Col Willm Whipple was to Set out for this place the then next week, and in Consequence I now look out Sharp for him, & hope he will be here this week, as I am Extremely anxious not only for his Assistance but to be informed of what nature the Difficulties are which you say have u[n]accountably turned up in regard of the Civil Government of the Colony, what you have hinted, has Given me vast uneasiness and Could wish you had mentioned the particular Difficulties, for I am greatly at a loss to Guess at them: . . .

General Lee is ordered for Canada & Schuyler to New York, Col Dickenson [Philemon Dickinson] was Countermanded Just as he was on the march, hearing that Clinton had Sailed. The Common opinion here is, that Comissioners are Coming from England to treat with the Congress, I think it not unlikely, but fear no good will accrue to the Colonies from that measure, if no hurt I shall be glad: Dr [Benjamin] Franklin, Mr Chace [Samuel Chase] & one Caryl of Maryland ² are going as Deputies from the Congress to Canada. As to an agent being appointed in the Several Colonies, I Believe it will be a useful Expedient for the Continent, But as yet nothing is Done about it in any of the Colonies when any thing of that Kind is Done by the Congress in any of the Colonies I will take Care that the same be Done for us, and make no Doubt you will be appointed, But think it not proper to

move it till I See a proper time and things ripe for it. at this time I am Sure it would answer no good end.³

1. Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis. Letter continued February 21, 1776. Bartlett and Langdon were New Hampshire delegates in the Continental Congress.
2. Charles Carroll of Carrollton.
3. Continental agents to handle imports, exports and prize matters.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE¹

At a Meeting of the Committee Monday 19 Feby 1776

Permission is granted to Capt Jesse Harding of the Schooner *Jenny* to load with Flour for Falmouth in New Engl^d also to the Brig *Rogers* address to Capt Geo Woolsey to load with Produce on the Publick Account –

Application being made by Mr Solomon Allen for Liberty to load Flour in the Sloop *Sarah* Zephaniah Sheperdson Master, agreeable to a Certificate from Governour [Nicholas] Cooke of Rhode Island, which he produced to the Committee, the Permission therein specified was granted –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

RECEIPTS RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence*¹

[Baltimore]

Recd Feby 19. 1776 of Capt James Nicholson on Accot of Ship *Defence* Twelve Shillings for James Bennet for 2 days Work on the Board at the Rigging—

£ 12/.

Jean Bennet

Recd Feby 19. 1776 of Capt. James Nicholson on Accot Ship *Defence* Nineteen pounds Eighteen Shillings & Six pence for the Work of Seven Carpenters thirty five Days & Seventeen days Work on the Barge—

£ 19.18.6

Joseph Caverly

1. Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, MdHS. A small representative group from the many receipts relating to the *Defence* has been selected for inclusion in this Volume.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Monday 19th February, 1776.

A Letter to the comm'ee of Northampton county, requesting them to employ at the public Expense one light, swift sailing vessel, to ply on and off the capes, and give Intelligence to the Philad'a Fleet of the strength of the British navy now here, and to continue the same 10 or 12 days.

1. *Journal of the Committee of Safety of Virginia From February 7, 1776, to July 5, 1776, Calendar of Virginia State Papers* (Richmond, 1890), VIII, 89, 90. Hereafter cited as *Virginia State Papers*.

JOHN PAGE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE¹

Dear Sir

Wmsburg Feby the 19th 1776

I am extremely obliged to you for your kind Concern for my Health – If you were alarmed at the Report of the Arrival of the *Roebuck*

you have much more Reason to be so now when you are told of the Arrival of another Ship of War with a Transport – Col. [Patrick] Henry had certain Information of this Yesterday – they arrived in Hampton Road on Saturday, & we are still ignorant who they are or what Force they bring – & what is worse Sir, we have not a Force sufficient to oppose them if they have not brought a single Soldier – for the 5 Men of War now here are able to land 6 or 700 Sailors & Marines exclusive of the Tories & Negros Ld Dunmore can furnish – & we have not 300 Men at Hampton – not 100 at York, nor 300 in this City – & the Country People & Militia are not only without Arms, but are lulled into a Stupid Security by the Tales which flatter them with Peace –

I moved on the arrival of the *Roebuck* that the Neighbouring Militias should be ordered to hold themselves in Readiness to march at an Hours Notice – that such Companies of Regulars as were compleated should be ordered to this Place, & that all of them should repair with the utmost Expedition to their Rendesvous but the Committee thought these Things quite unnecessary & only gave a Common Order appointing Places of Rendesvous, & allotting Regiments & Officers, which indeed ought to have been done long ago – I moved too, with the like Success, that the Sum of 40 Pounds should be paid to — Bucktrout for his Ingenuity in constructing & to defray the Expence of erecting a Powder Mill & to enable him to prosecute his Plan of working up the Salt petre which may be collected in the neighbouring Counties, with his Hand Powder Mill now at work in this City – The President, altho' I told the Committee I would engage to make 100 lb of Powder pr Day with it & endeavoured to shew the Necessity of encouraging such a Work, declared that in his Opinion it was a Bauble & 5 Members were of Opinion that it was not worth the Reward I proposed. I was ashamed for the Committee & very much hurt to find that my Recommendation of a Machine which I understood perfectly & had seen tried, & of a Man whose Ingenuity I had before produced Proofs by shewing Powder of his Making & proving its Excellence by actual Experiments, had not the least Weight of this Com: – This Mill Sir alone well attended might supply a great Part of our Country with Powder – I shall do all I can to encourage the Man to go on with his Work. I think private Subscriptions til the Convention meets may enable him to be Very serviceable – The Com: indeed on finding that many People in Town entertain an high Opinion of this Mill, begin to appear willing to give some kind of encouragement to it – I have scribbled with great haste in a cro[w]d so I hope you will excuse my Scrawl

I think it absolutely necessary to follow your Advice respecting our Philada Fleet – I am Much pleased with your sending the Express – I am called to the Committee, where they are to consider a Letter from Ld D – I will let you know by my next Opportunity the Result of our Deliberation I am yrs

John Page

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU,
H.M.S. *Mercury* ¹

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esqr Captn &ca

You are hereby required and directed to carry into execution such part of Vice Admiral Graves order of the 12th of January to Captain [Alexander] Graeme (a copy of which you will herewith receive) that is not already executed; and also to observe and follow all those general orders and Instructions which you received from Admiral Graves, whilst Captain of His Majesty's Sloop the *Kingsfisher*.

Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* off Norfolk in Virginia the 19th Febr'y 1776

A S Hamond

1. Hamond Papers, Orders issued, UVL.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Monday, February 19, 1776.

Ordered, That letters be forthwith written, by different conveyances, to the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, acquainting them with the present situation of affairs in this colony, and the recent alarming intelligence we have received from Georgia, of the hostile armament collecting at Cockspur.

1. *Extracts from the Journals of the Provincial Congress of South-Carolina. Held at Charleston, February 1st, 1776* (Charleston, 1776), 44-49. Hereafter cited as *Provincial Congress of South Carolina* (copy in Rare Book Division, LC). The *Extracts* were published in 1960 by the South Carolina Archives Department under the editorship of William Edwin Hemphill.

GOVERNOR SIR JAMES WRIGHT TO JAMES EDWARD POWELL ¹

[Extract] *Scarborough* at Cockspur, Feb. 19th, 1776

Sir: Yesterday I received yours enclosing a letter from the Congress to the gentlemen of the Council in answer to what I wrote them, and desired might be communicated to the Congress and people in general. This letter I cannot consider as an answer to mine, as they have not taken any notice of the most serious part, with respect to themselves and the Province; but if they will not be their own friends, the Province will blame them and not me, who thro' friendship put it in their power to be happy. . . . I am, with perfect esteem, Sir [&c.]

J. Wright. ²

1. Allen D. Candler, comp., *The Revolutionary Records of the State of Georgia* (Atlanta, 1908), I, 106-07. Hereafter cited as Candler, comp., *Georgia Records*. Sir James Wright was governor of Georgia. Powell was president of the Georgia Provincial Congress.

2. *Ibid.*, Powell delivered this letter and Captain Barkley's (next entry) to the Georgia Council of Safety on February 21.

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., TO GOVERNOR SIR JAMES WRIGHT ¹

Sir: *Scarborough* [at Cockspur] Feb. 19, 1776.

Having represented to your Excellency upon my arrival here, that I was very desirous of having a free intercourse between his Majesty's ships under my command and the Town of Savannah, and desiring at the same time, I might be supplied with provisions, and other necessaries, by paying the market price for the same, which I had great reason to expect in any part of his Majesty's dominions.

I beg leave to acquaint your Excellency that I have received a letter from Savannah signed by Archibald Bulloch, a copy of which I herewith enclose you, and the manner of intercourse mentioned therein between the Town and King's ships, I can by no means accept of.

I beg your Excellency will make the Town acquainted therewith.

I have the honour to be [&c.]

And. Barclay.

1. Candler, comp., *Georgia Records*, I, 107.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH ¹

February 1776

River Savanah Georgia

[Monday] 19

Long boat watering

first part fresh breezes middle & latter with drizzling rain at 2 P M came in a Sloop tender from Cape Feare, which brought Intelligence of Waldrons pilot boat being taken which was Employ'd in the Rebell Service at Charles Town ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

2. This was the pilot boat *Hawke*, Captain Joseph Vesey, which had taken Captain Robert Cochran to Philadelphia in his search for recruits for the South Carolina navy. On the return voyage, with Christopher Gadsden as a passenger, the *Hawke* had been run ashore on the North Carolina coast, where crew and passengers made their escape. The pilot boat was hauled off by the enemy.

20 Feb.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE ¹

Feb 1776

Remarks &c at Quebec 1776

Tuesday 20

am Men from each Company of the Navy Battallion hauling up the *Lizards* Boats was held a Garrison Court Martial on the Drummer of the *Lizard* for breach of Trust

Fresh Breezes with Snow at 7 pm the Alarm was given for a Body of Men being seen advanceing to the Walls between Fort St Louis and Cape Diamond the different Companies of the Navy Battallion got under Arms but found Every thing quiet returnd back in an hour the Rebels burnt most of the Remaining Houses in St Johns

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

RICHARD BULKELEY TO JAMES LAW¹

Sir.

Secys Office Halifax 20th Feby:1776

I have receiv'd your letter with the Estimate for repairing the Barracks at Cumberland which I have communicated to the Governour & General.

We have certain intelligence that the Rebels have miscarried before Quebec, and that their General has been kill'd General [Charles] Lee has been detach'd to the Southward with 3000 Men, & their Army near Boston is now on the Defensive.

I am surpris'd at the folly of those people in your County, who have shewn such a Forward disposition to favor the Cause of Rebellion. The Governour expects that the King's faithfull Subjects will shew themselves firm on this occasion, and will not suffer themselves to be terrified by the insolence & threats of these people, and further that they will exert themselves to apprehend all such persons, as shall be guilty of any Acts contrary to Law & their duty as Subjects favouring the designs of Rebellion, so as that they may be brought to Justice.

I am &c
Rich^d Bulkeley

James Law Esqr Cumberland.

1. Council Letter Book, 235, N.S.Arch. Bulkeley was secretary of the Nova Scotia Council.

DEPOSITION OF JEREMIAH WARDWELL¹

The Deposition of Jeremiah Wardwel of majerbigwaduce being of Lawfull age testifies and Says that I the deponant did on or about the 12th day of September in the year 1775 Sale from Said majerbigwaduce in the Sloop *Trythena* Laden the Cordwood for piscataqua in order to procure Stoores and upon our Returne on the 30th day of the same month was taken by a man of war (viz) the *Livle*² and finely Lost Vessel and Effects the Vessel was when taken about 7 years old had 2 Cable and anchers Secont Sute of Sales about halfe worne Verey good standing Rigin had on bord that belonged to my fathe[r] – daniel wordwel about Sixty Dollers worth of Stors there was Leather Cash and Nails on bord said vessel when taken about thirty three dollers worth that belonged to the Inhabetants of said majerbigwaduce Said Vessel is burdened 63 tuns

Jeremiah Wardwell

Colony Massachusetts Bay Feby 20th 1776

Jeremiah Wardwell made solemn Oath to the truth of the above Before John Taylor

Justice Peace thro the Colony.

1. James Phinney Baxter, ed., *Documentary History of the State of Maine* (Portland, 1910), XIV, 335. Hereafter cited as Baxter, ed., *History of Maine*.

2. H.M.S. *Lively*, Captain Thomas Bishop. Her log for September 30, 1775, makes no mention of any prize being taken. The *Lively* at that time had under convoy a number of vessels wooding in the mouth of the Penobscot.

STEPHEN HOOPER TO COATES & REYNELL, PHILADELPHIA ¹Esteem'd Friends }
Reynell & Coates }

Newburyport Feby 20th 1776

Since my last of the 13th Instant, I have received your Favour of the 6th Instant & duly Observe your Uneasiness, at my Limitation of the Price of the Purchase of the *Daltons* Cargoe, however I hope its will prove no Disadvantage in the End, as its highly probable to me that the *Dalton*, will proceed to Europe, in which Case the Purchase you would have made, must have lain on hand, as the Plan I am about to pursue in the *Dalton*, requires the best of Flour, & in Small siz'd Cask, which hope 'ere this, you have been allowed to purchase, as I confess I shall be rather disappointed, if she is to proceed home, – the price of Exchange is agreeable, & hope 'ere this you have embraced the Opp [ortunit]y of selling it at 75 p Ct – I am sorry to find you cannot obtain Surrinam Molasses on my Terms as I wanted it much but the Difference of price, with the Addition of a Commission of 5 p Cent will not Answer, therefore would have you Ship me, as much as you can of [William] Willcombs Cargoe, by the two Oppys mention'd in my former Letters, & by as many others as you can find, tho' should the *Dalton* return, she will bring the most of it after Coffin & Lunt have taken 20 Hh'ds each – which they agreed to – I observe you had rec'd Wm Fowles Draft on Melcher Keener, & that you had forwarded the same for payment, & hope your Next will Inform of its Event – I am much obliged for your kind Advice relative to the Arrival of Capt [Thomas] Mason, with Articles so Assentially necessary for our safety & Defence, however I hope with you the Unhappy Unnatural War, may be speedily finished, without any more loss of Blood – I have duly advised our Friend [William] Wyer the Paragraph in your Letter, & I expect he will be with you soon after Rect of this Letter, as he has Advice of the Arrival of his Schooner, which he intends freighting to this Place. – & I expect to have 20 Hhds Molasses Ship'd on Board her – I have also agreed with him in case the *Dalton* proceeds to Europe, & Capt [Eleazer] Johnson declines going in her, for him to take the Command, & proceed the Voyage, – I am fully of your oppinion, that the Speculation of my Friends the Tracys, in directing the Whartons to ship so much Molases will have an immediate Effect on the Markett, & I doubt not it will rise 2/, p Gallon, & should that be the case & the *Dalton* proceeds forward to Europe, would have you dispose of Willcombs Cargoe, except 80 Hhds which I hope to obtain Oppy for to this Port – I have the pleasure to advise you of the safe Arrival of Enoch Coffin, in Seven days from Reedy Island; he has deliver'd the Bran in good order, & the Tobacco, also, for which am obliged, & I hope my next will furnish Advice of [Benjamin] Hill Arrival, which will compleat the Arrival of our Little Fleet, which Sail'd in the Early part of Winter – since my last (the Privateer mention'd to you in my former Letters) fix'tt out of this Place, has returned here, with a fine new Snow of 180 Tons from White Haven, Laden with Coals, Oatmeal & a Small Quantity of Porter, she had been 16 Weeks on her Passage, wh[en] she was Taken ² – We

are in daily expectation, from the Preparations mak[ing] at Cambridge, of an Attack upon Boston, which must cause much Bloodshed on both Sides – the Necessity of this Step, I submit to abler Politicians, but surely it does not forebode a Reconciliation, wch appears to me most Salutary, for both Sides – Please to inform Capt Johnson if he is with you, that his Family is well, & that I intend writing him p Capt Wyer, who setts off[f] in a Day or Two – I am your Esteem'd friend

[P. S.] I shall not have Occasion for any more Tobacco –

1. Feinstone Collection, DLAR.

2. The ship *Jenny*, William Wood, master, taken by the Massachusetts privateer brig *Yankee Hero*, Thomas Thomas, commander.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, February 20, 1776.

The Secretary came into the House and said,

Mr. Speaker, I am directed by a Major Part of the Hon. Council to inform this House, that they have consented to the enacting of the following Bills, *viz.*

An Act for encouraging the fixing out of Armed Vessels, to defend the Sea-Coasts of America, and for erecting a Court to try and condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the same.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

COLONY BOND FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS BRIG *Yankee Hero* ¹

1776 *Yankee Hero*, Armed Vessel. Tons; 120: Guns, 14: Man, 40.
Feb. 20 Commander; James Tracy.

Bond: Colony, £1000.

Bonders: James Tracy, Jonathan Jackson, Nathaniel Tracy and John Tracy, merchants of Newburyport; Joseph Lee, merchant of Marblehead.

Owners: Not stated.

Witnesses: Enoch Titcomb, 3d, William Ames

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 7, 341. An abstract taken from the bond.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Albany Feby 20: 1776

It never entered into my Thoughts to build Gondola's on Lake Champlain, as I well knew that they could not without great Danger If at all, be got into the St Lawrence. Altho' we have very good Ship Carpenters here, Yet none acquainted with the Construction of Gallies. It will therefore be proper to send a few Good Hands from Pennsylvania, as none are to be had in Canada, these ought to be sent immediately. Altho' no Pitch, Tar or Oakham can be sent on until Hudson's River opens, For these Articles I shall apply to the New York Convention. –

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 544–50, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New York] Die Martis, 10 HO. A.M.

Feby. 20th, 1776.

A letter from Major-Genl. Lee of this day was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

New-York, 20th Feb. 1776.

Sir – I am just informed that the *Asia* and *Phoenix* have seized several provision vessels from the Jerseys. I must submit it to the Congress whether the compact is not to be considered as broke, and whether it is not our duty to withhold all further supplies. For my own part, the measure of suffering ourselves to be plundered, and at the same time feeding our plunderers, appears a degree of lowness of spirit which reflects dishonour and must encourage the enemy still to take greater liberties.

I am, sir [&c.]

Charles Lee.

To Col. Woodhull, Prest. of Provincial Congress.

A draft of an answer to Major-Genl. Lee, was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Provincial Congress, New-York, Feb. 20th, 1776

Sir – Your favor of this morning has been considered by Congress, and they are of opinion that it is totally impossible to prevent the *Asia* and *Phoenix* from supplying themselves with provisions. They have received information that the seizing of the vessels from the Jerseys is occasioned by the supplies from the agents in town being stopped, and are apprehensive, if it be continued, that the town will be reduced to the utmost distress. While the navigation of Hudson's river is obstructed by the ice, our principal dependence for corn, provisions, fuel and hay, is from Connecticut and the Jerseys; an embargo prevents the supplies from the one, and if we provoke the captains of the ships of war, by way of retaliation to prevent them from the other, the inhabitants will not only be destitute, but our commissary will be incapacitated from procuring the necessary supplies for the army now in town. You will please to consider that the ships of war have it in their power to seize all the provisions that they may find afloat, by which means they will have an opportunity of supplying the enemy at Boston.

By order.

Major Genl. Lee.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the president and transmitted.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 312.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, February 20, 1776

The Congress took into consideration the report of the Committee on the ways and means of procuring cannon:

Resolved, That two hundred and fifty twelve pounders, sixty nine pounders, and sixty-two four pounders, be purchased for the use of these colonies:

That the Committee appointed on the ways and means of procuring cannon, be empowered to purchase or contract for making the same:

That a new member be chosen and added to the committee:

The member chosen, Mr. William Livingston.

The Congress being informed that a quantity of powder, belonging to the United Colonies, was arrived at [New] Brunswick, in New Jersey.

Resolved, That Mr. [Francis] Lewis, Mr. [John] Alsop, and Mr. P[hilip] Livingston, be directed to forward the said powder, under a guard, with all possible expedition, to General Washington, for the use of the army under his command.

1. Worthington C. Ford, *et al.*, eds., *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789* (Washington, 1904-1937), IV, 161-63. Hereafter cited as Ford, ed., *JCC*.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday 20 [February]. [Samuel] Chase drew a Form, which I altered, for disposing of the Ship *Blue Mountain Valley* and her Cargo, no Judge of the Admiralty being yet appointed in New Jersey, this Matter was debated & the Necessity of taking the whole Government from the Kings Substitutes² was descanted upon and postponed -

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC. Smith was a New Jersey delegate in the Continental Congress.

2. Colonial Admiralty Courts.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 20th Feb'y, 1776.

Resolved, That Mr. Sam'l Morris, jun'r, waite on Mr. Wm. Richards, Capt. [Nathaniel] Falconer, & Capt. [Thomas] Reed, and inform them they are (with any other person they may fix on) appointed a Committee to fix proper signals in the River and Bay of Delaware, to give the most speedy intelligence of any Enemy Ships that may arrive at or within the Capes of Delaware.

That the said Committee appoint James Maul with his Boat, to such station as they may think will best answer the purpose of Intelligence.

Resolved, That Commodore [Andrew] Caldwell immediately call together all the officers of the Provincial Armed Boats, fully consult them, & make such arrangement of officers to the different Boats most agreeable to

each other, and to the service in general, and to make a report to this Board of said arrangement, as also of what repairs &ca, are wanting to the respective Boats.

Resolved, That Mr. [John] Nixon, Mr. Owen Biddle & Mr. [Daniel] Roberedeau, employ Wm. Robinson & Benj'n Worrel, as Master Workmen, to erect Barracks on Liberty Island for five hundred Men, agreeable to a plot to be delivered them, who are to employ a sufficient number of Carpenters under them to effect the said work in as short a time as possible.

Resolved, That Jacob Myers be appointed Armourer to the armed Boats and Vessels, and to be employed at Fort Island.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records* (Philadelphia and Harrisburg, 1851-1852), X, 489, 490. Hereafter cited as *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*.

JOHN PAGE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE¹

Dear Sir –

Williamsburg, February 20th, 1776.

I have just received yours of the 15th instant, and have snatched a moment to write a few lines in answer to it. I approve much of your plan of publishing the hand-bill, and would, before this, have executed it, if my indisposition and Mrs. Page's illness, added to an incessant round of business, had not prevented me.

The method you mention for removing the spikes from cannon, is certainly good; but it is said the cannon at Norfolk are rendered useless, by being broken at their trunnions and buts. I will endeavour, sir, to prevail on our committee to send you regularly authentic accounts of every material occurrence here, and of the state of the enemy's strength. I wrote you yesterday an account of the arrival of another man of war, and a transport or two; this report has not been contradicted, nor have we yet heard from whence or what these ships are. Captain Hammond of the *Roebuck*, we are well assured, has behaved with great politeness and humanity to several of our people. Lord Dunmore had written a letter to Colonel [Richard] Corbin, in which he offers to go to England to negotiate peace; he professes the warmest attachment to this country, and says that he lays hold on the last sentence in the king's speech, to offer his services to procure a lasting, speedy, and honourable accomodation. No one, but Lord Dunmore, could have applied that sentence in the manner he has. I will send you a copy of the letter by the post. Colonel Corbin laid the letter before the committee of safety, and received a letter from the committee, which I will also send you. In it we told the colonel, that we were neither empowered nor inclined to intermeddle with the mode of negotiation; that we looked to the Congress for the management of this important matter; but added, we would lay his letter before the assembly, which is to meet on their adjournment, and that Lord Dunmore might manifest his good intentions by suspending hostilities. Colonel Corbin set out this morning to Hampton, with orders to Colonel [William] Grayson to send him with a flag of truce to Lord Dunmore. We gave him to understand, that his lordship should deliver up the slaves now with him immediately. The old gentle-

man went off in great hopes of procuring a month's truce at least, and seemed determined to give Captain Hammond a true statement of Lord Dunmore's conduct. Since writing my letter of yesterday, the committee have ordered down the saltpetre which had been sent to Petersburg, to be worked up by Buckstrout. I hope from this that they will at length encourage him, and enable him to carry on the manufacturing of gunpowder to a considerable extent. The report of the burning of Portsmouth was entirely without foundation. I am, dear sir [&c.]

John Page.

P.S. I think you had better attend the Assembly. You will be more wanted here than at the Congress.

J.P.

To Richard Henry Lee, Esq. of Chantilly.

1. Richard H. Lee, *Memoir of the Life of Richard Henry Lee and his Correspondence* (Philadelphia, 1825), II, 199, 200. Hereafter cited as Lee, *Lee Memoir*.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME,
H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher*¹

By Andw Snape Hamond Esqr &ca

In consequence of a letter from Captain George [*sic* James] Montagu of this date acquainting me of his being appointed by Admiral Graves to command his Majs Ship the *Mercury*, and beging I will be pleased to give an order to discharge the Men named in the Margin from his Ms Sloop the *Kingsfisher* into her, You are hereby required and directed to Discharge them into the *Mercury* accordingly, taking care to comply with late Act of Parliament.

Given under my hand on board his Majs Ship the *Roebuck*
off Norfolk in Virginia the 20th Feby 1776

1. Hamond Papers, Orders issued, UVL.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, APRIL 13 TO TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1776

Norfolk, February 20.

In my last I acquainted you with the destruction of the greatest part of Norfolk by the Shirtmen, on the 1st of January; they continued plundering and destroying until the 6th inst. when, at four o'clock in the morning, a signal was made, every house from Mr. Farmer's plantation, tan-works, wind-mills, church &c. were set on fire, and so quick you could not tell which began first. The people are in great distress; they are driving them all up to the back country; and they intend serving all Norfolk county, Princess Ann, and the lower part of Nancymond in the same manner.

The Shirtmen remain at Kemp's Great Bridge, and Suffolk, and stop all provisions coming to the shipping. If troops do not soon arrive, this part of the country will be in a most dreadful situation. Capt. Chesholm and family have lived in a tent in the woods since New Year's Day. My wife and children stay most of their time with him, but I have never been so far from

the river. Thank God we are all healthy, and have plenty of provisions at present, and are in great hopes of soon having forces to drive those savages into their lurking holes. ¹

1. The letter was addressed "to a Merchant in Liverpool, by the *Friendship*, arrived at Glasgow."

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Tuesday, Feb. 20th, 1776.

Ordered, That the commanders of the ship *Prosper* and sloop *Defence* to give all necessary assistance by boats and men to Capt. Edward Blake, in order to sink an old sloop as speedily and effectually as possible, in the Marsh channel.

Please to deliver to Capt. Blake, for the use of the navy, ten barrels of flour in your hands belonging to the public. If you have no more than 13 or 14 barrels remaining, you are desired to deliver the whole to Capt Blake.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

To Aaron Loock, esq., Charles-Town.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 263, 264.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

Feb'y '76

Moored in Savannah River Georgia. —

Monday 19th AM made the *Tamers* Signal for the Captain, Got the Sloop alongside. Empd in hoisting the water in: Capt'n Barkley, & Major's [John] Maitland, & [James] Grant went up the River to Reconoitre the Town —

Do Wr

PM Empd Clearing the Sloop & stowing the water away.

Tuesday 20th AM Anchd here the *Falcon's* Tender from Cape Fear; Empd as occasion, the Captain & Major's returned.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

DEPOSITION OF THREE BRITISH ARMY SURGEONS ¹

Antigua.

Be it known unto all Men That on this present Tuesday the twentieth Day of February in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and seventy six Before me John Wilkins Notary Public by Lawful Authority duly admitted and sworn residing in Antigua, Personally came and appeared Christopher Kelly, William Armitage, and Robert Welford Surgeons Persons worthy of good Credit, who being all duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, severally depose and say — That on Wednesday the twenty fifth Day of October last past they sailed, from the Downs by Virtue of an Order from Government, in the Ship *Fanny* Daniel Sinclair Master which said Ship was laden with Porter, Coals, Hospital Stores and sundry other Articles, and bound to Boston for the use of his Majesty's Garrison there. —

That on Sunday the seventh day of January following they discovered land, which they were told was about five Leagues distance to the North West. — That towards noon the following Day it grew calm and a fog came on which continued an hour or thereabouts, and between three and four o'Clock the same afternoon they saw plainly a Building of a Pyramidal form at a considerable distance which they took to be a Light House, and the Captain's Orders being very strict as they understood, they for a great part of the Night kept sailing in two Hours then wore Ship and sailed out again for the same space of time in hopes of meeting with a Man of War or getting a Pilot on board, but could not meet with either. — That on the next Day being the ninth in the Morning the Wind shifted and blew very fresh, and towards noon it became so violent that for the preservation of the Ship and Cargo and their own lives they endeavoured to get out of the Bay as soon as possible which they did in the Evening when it blew a perfect Storm and continued so for some time. — That being under the apprehension of not having sufficient Water to serve them to any of the West India Islands should the Captain be again frustrated in his Attempt to get into Port, and being also at that time actually limited to an allowance of no more than a quart of Water per Day and obliged to catch all the Rain Water they could as it fell from the Clouds, they bore away, and arrived in Basseterre Road, St Christopher's on Monday the fifth day of February following. —

And the said Christopher Kelly and William Armitage speaking for themselves depose and say that on the Day following in the forenoon happening to be at the Tavern commonly known by the name of Stro[torn] Tavern in the Town of Basseterre in the said Island of Saint Christopher's they met with Captain Sinclair, who informed them that he intended to Sail that afternoon for Jamaica, where he meant to dispose of the Cargo he had on board and said he should be answerable to Government for his Conduct in that respect, that in consequence of such his resolution these Deponents must leave his Ship; or else proceed to Jamaica with him where he had no objection to putting them on shore; But farther advised them to go to Antigua where they would meet with a Passage to Boston for a small consideration and might probably go much sooner from thence than from any other place. —

And the said, Robert Welford speaking for himself deposeth and saith that in consequence of the information he received from the before mentioned Deponent Christopher Kelly of the sudden intended departure of Captain Sinclair to Jamaica, he went directly to the Tavern where he met with the said Captain Sinclair, and taking him to one end of the room expressed his Surprize at what he had heard, and asked him if he was really determined not to go to Boston. To which he answered he had formed that resolution and had acquainted the Gentlemen with it, meaning the said Christopher Kelly and William Armitage, and that he should proceed immediately to Jamaica, Whereupon this Deponent then demanded of him what they were to do there, and how they were to be conveyed from thence to Boston; When he replied that our best way was to [hire] a Vessel in St



The YANKEY'S Return from CAMP.

FATHER and I went down to camp,
 Along with Captain Gooding,
 There we see the men and boys,
 As thick as hasty-pudding.

Chorus. Yankey doodle keep it up,
 Yankey doodle, dandy,
 Mind the music and the step,
 And with the girls be handy.

And there we see a thousand men,
 As rich as 'Squire David;
 And what they wanted every day,
 I wish it could be saved.

Yankey doodle, &c.
 The 'lasses they eat every day,
 Would keep an house a winter:
 They have as much that I'll be bound
 They eat it when they're a mind to.

Yankey doodle, &c.
 And there we see a swamping gun,
 Large as a log of maple,
 Upon a ducid little cart,
 A load for father's cattle.

Yankey doodle, &c.
 And every time they shoot it off,
 It takes a horn of powder—
 It makes a noise like father's gun,
 Only a nation louder.

Yankey doodle, &c.
 I went as nigh to one myself,
 As 'Siah's underpinning;
 And father went as nigh again,
 I tho't the deuce was in him.

Yankey doodle, &c.
 Cousin Simon grew so gold,
 I tho't he would have cock'd it:
 It scar'd me so, I shrink'd it off,
 And hung by father's pocket.

Yankey doodle, &c.
 And Captain Davis had a cue,
 He stuck his hand on't.

And stuck a crooked stabbing iron
 Upon the little end on't.

Yankey doodle, &c.
 and there I see a pumpkin shell
 As big as mother's bason,
 and ev'ry time they touch'd it off,
 They scamper'd like the nation.

Yankey doodle, &c.
 I see a little barrel too,
 The heads were made of leather,
 They knock'd upon't with little clubs,
 and call'd the folks together.

Yankey doodle, &c.
 and there was Captain Washington,
 and gentlefolks about him,
 They say he's grown so tarna' proud,
 He will not ride without 'em.

Yankey doodle, &c.
 He got him on his meeting clothes,
 Upon a flapping stallion,
 He set the world along in rows,
 In hundreds and in millions.

Yankey doodle, &c.
 The flaming ribbons in their hats,
 They look'd so taring fine, ah,
 I wanted peckily to get,
 To give to my Jemimah,

Yankey doodle, &c.
 I see another snarl of men
 A digging graves, they told me,
 So tarna' long, so tarna' deep,
 They 'tended they should hold me.

Yankey doodle, &c.
 It scar'd me so, I back'd it off,
 Nor stop'd, as I remember,
 Nor turn'd about 'till I got home,
 Lock'd up in mother's chamber.

Yankey doodle, &c.

Christopher's to convey us to Antigua where in all probability a passage might be got at a trifling expence; that if we pleased he would take us to Jamaica, but as he was determined not to go to Boston, it would be much out of our way, as in that place he should finally set us ashore, that if he took us to Jamaica we should certainly be a fortnight or three Weeks bearing up from thence to Antigua, and concluded by adding that he should be obliged to us if we would go aboard and pack up our Baggage.

And these Deponents further deposing say that they accordingly did pack up their Baggage and got it ashore, and also say that the said Captain Sinclair sailed from thence the evening of the same Day. —

That on Thursday the eighth of the said Month of February they hired a Sloop to bring them to Antigua where they arrived on Saturday the Tenth and on the Day following the Deponent Robert Welford waited upon Vice-Admiral [James] Young Commanding his Majesty's Squadron in these Seas and informed him of the above Circumstances. —

All which Matters and Things being solemnly sworn to by the said Christopher Kelly, William Armitage, and Robert Welford, I the said Notary, Do hereby Certify and make manifest the same. —

In Testimony of the Truth whereof the said Deponents have hereunto respectively set their Hands; And in Faith and Testimony whereof I, the said Notary have hereunto set my Hand and affixed my Notarial Seal at Antigua aforesaid, the Day and Year first aforesaid. —

C Kelly
William Armitage
Rob^t Welford

John Wilkins.
Notary Public.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. *Ibid.*, Vice Admiral Young sent copies of the deposition to Vice Admiral Gayton and Sir Basil Keith, governor of Jamaica.

21 Feb.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Cambridge] Feby 21st

When I began this Letter I proposed to have sent it by Express, but recollecting that all my late Letters have been as expressive of my Want of Arms as I could paint them, and that Mr. [William] Hooper was to set off in a Day or two, I thought it unnecessary to run the Continent to the Expence of an Express merely to repeat what I had so often done before, when I am certain that Congress knowing our Necessities will delay no Time, than can possibly be avoided in supplying them.

My Duty is offered to Congress, and with great Respect and Esteem
[&c.]

G^o Washington

P.S. Hearing of the Arrival of a small Parcel of Powder in Connecticut, I have been able to obtain 3000 Weight of it, which is in Addition to the 60 Barrels before mentioned.

1. John Hancock Papers, III, 160, LC. Continuation of letter of February 18.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT ¹

Febry 1776 At Single Anchor in Cape Cod Harbour
 Tuesday 20th at 2 P M weigh'd and came to Sail empd running out
 of Cape Cod Harbr
 Wednesday 21st ½ past 6 A M saw a Sail to the NWt gave Chace, at 7
 observed Do to be one of our Cruizers. at 9 observed a
 Boat to Leeward, fir'd a Shot & brought her too, which
 proved to be People who had made their escape from
 Plymouth Goal, ½ past made Sail for Nantasket Road, at
 11 past by His Majesty's Ship *Fowey*, at 12 Anchord with
 the small Bower in 6 fatham Water, found riding here
 H M Ship *Renown* & several Transports.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

CERTIFICATE OF CAPTAIN JOHN WATERMAN ¹

Nantucket Febry 21. 1776 -

These may Certify that the Schooner *Bonaventure* John Waterman Master
 is bound to Philadelphia in order to Purchase Three hundred barrels of
 Flour one hundred barrels of Bread Thirty Barrels of Pork Two Cask of
 Rice Ten Boxes of Chocolat Fifteen hundred Bushels of Indian Corn, & Ten
 hogshheads Bran all which are wanted for the Internal Uses of the Inhabitants
 of this Island —

Josiah Barker	} Select Men
Shubael Barnard	
Stephen Paddock	
Stephen Hussey	
Richd Mitchel	
Batchr Hussey	

These may Certify that the above named Josiah Barker, Shubal Barnard,
 Batchr Hussey, Richard Mitchel Jr Stephen Hussey, & Stephen Paddock Per-
 sonally appeared before me & Solemnly affirmed that the provisions Specified
 in the above Estimate is wanted for the Internal use of the Inhabitants of
 this Island —

Ebenezer Calef Justice a Peace

1. James Otis Papers, CUL.

"MANIFEST OF SLOOP *Dianna's* CARGO RUFUS POTTER MASR" ¹

1776			
Febry 21	40 lb Peruvian Bark	a 30/	£ 60.. —
	30 lb Rhubarb	"	45.. —
	20 Fire Arms	60/	30.. —
	2020 lb Coffee		
	387 lb Cocoa		
	100 lb Black Pepper		
	3 ps Linen		

2 ps Sheeting		
10 dozen Linen Handkfs		
30 quarter Anchors Brandy		
15 Rhms Writg Paper		
200 lb German Steel	3/	30.. —
4500 Needles & 1000 Gun Flints		2..8 —
2800 Gun Powder		840.. —
150 Cartridges fill'd		3.. —
		<hr/>
		£ 1010..8 —

I certify the above to be a true Manifest of the Sloop *Dianna's* Cargo This 21st day of Feby 1776

Rufus Potter

1. Maritime Papers, Manifests, Import Cargos, R. I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL
FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND¹

[Providence] Feby 21st 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment —

Voted. That the sum of Two hundred Ninety two pounds twelve shillings & six pence one farthing L My be paid Messrs Brown & Power out of the Committee's Treasury. —

Voted. That Messrs Jos & Wm Russells Acct amounting to One Hundred & eleven pounds eleven shillings & six pence Lawful Money be paid out of the Committee's Treasury. —

Agreed with Nathl Greene & Comy for the Anchors for the small Ship @ 8d P lb as P Agreement on file. —

Voted. That the Sum of Seven hundred Sixty four pounds four shillings & eight pence L My being the Ballance of John Brown's Acct be paid him out of the Committee's Treasury

Reckoning 33/

Meeting adjourned to Fryday Evening

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New York] Die Mercurii 10 HO. A.M.

Feb. 21st, 1776.

Mr. [Jacobus] Van Zandt suggested to the Congress that it is absolutely necessary that Andrew Elliott, Esqr., collector of this Colony, have permission to go on board of His Excellency's ship as occasion may require, in order to let the trading vessels of this Colony be despatched, the Governor having refused to sign any papers from the custom-house unless the collector is present.

Ordered, That Andw. Elliot, Esqr. collector of the port of New-York, be, and he is hereby permitted to go on board of His Excellency Govr.

Tryon's ship, at any time at his pleasure, until the further pleasure of this Congress or of the Committee of Safety.

It being suggested to the Congress that His Excellency Govr. Tryon is indisposed and that Dr. Middleton is his physician.

Ordered, That Dr. Middleton be permitted to go on board of the ship in which His Excellency resides, at any time until the further order of this Congress or the Committee of Safety.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 314-15.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT¹

February 1776 Moor'd off Bedlow's Island
 Wednesdy 21 AM sent a Midshipman & 10 Men on board the *Sally* a
 Mercht Ship laden with Salt to go to Boston with
 Musquets, Cartouch Boxes, Cutlasses & 20 days Provisions

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW JERSEY PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New Brunswick] Wednesday, February 21, 1776.

A letter from the Right Honourable William Earl of Stirling was received and read, and is in the words following:

New York, 20th February 1776.

Sir: - As the *Asia* man-of-war, with her attendants, have now taken their station in the bay below this city, and the *Phoenix* between the Narrows and Sandyhook, and do take every provision vessel coming from New Jersey; it is become highly proper to prevent any provisions or produce of any kind being shipped from New Jersey to this or any other place whatsoever, while those ships continue in a situation which will enable them to make seizures of them. I have, therefore, General Lee's directions to request, that the Congress of New Jersey will give immediate directions to prevent any provisions or other produce being shipped or sent off from any part of East New Jersey, that can possibly fall into the hands of the enemy.

I am, sir [&c.]

Stirling.

The President of the Congress of the
 Province of New Jersey, at New Brunswick.

The Congress, sensible of the expediency of the above request, do *Resolve*, That provisions and all other kinds of produce of this Colony, be immediately prevented from being sent to New York, or other parts, whereby they must pass New York bay, or the bay between Sandy-hook and Perth Amboy, or Staten Island: And all owners and masters of vessels of every kind, are prohibited from sending any provisions or produce from any part of this Province as aforesaid, until permitted by this Congress.

All County and Township Committees in the Eastern Division of this Province, are hereby directed to be vigilant and active in carrying this resolve into effect.²

1. *Minutes of the Provincial Congress and the Council of Safety of the State of New Jersey* (Trenton, 1879), 378, 380-81. Hereafter cited as *New Jersey Provincial Congress*.
2. *Ibid.*, 392, on February 28 the Provincial Congress being "fully satisfied, that the reason for making such prohibition no longer subsists," repealed the resolution.

JOSIAH BARTLETT TO JOHN LANGDON¹

[Philadelphia] Feby 21st [1776]

last Evening the Secret Committee met, Signed the Contract &c which I shall Enclose to you, they have likewise Drawn an order for the money, which order I have taken and have given my Receipt that I have Recd it for you, but how to Conduct the affair I know not, whether the treasurers, if I should Desire it, will be willing to Deliver me the money as I have no order from you to Receive it I know not and if I Should Receive it without order, and Send it Down & any mishap befall it, I may bring my Self into Difficulty, without any prospect of advantage, How or when I shall have a Safe opportunity to send Down So large a sum as 30,000 Dollars I know not; the man that Mr [John] Hancock Expected is not Come and when he Does I am uncertain whither he will be willing to take Charge of it, I Could wish you had given some more particular orders about the money as I am puzeled how to Conduct for the best. I shall write you again in a few Days. . . .

I Believe it is Certain the British parliament, has ordered all american vessels to be Seized, as you will See by the publick papers, two of the outward bound vessels fitted out by the Secret Committee, for the purpose of necessaries, are taken and Carried into the west Indies, the master of one has got back.² In short we have nothing to Expect from Brittain, but war & Bloodshed, notwithstanding the pretence of sending Comissioners here to treat.

I am this Day informed that a petition to the Congress, is Signing fast by the Inhabitants of this City, for Leave to fit out privateers, and make reprisals on all Brittish vessels, to indemnify them for the Losses they have Sustained by the Depredations of Brittish men of war.³ Indeed it seems very hard that Brittain is Seizing all american vessels and the americans are not permitted to return the Compliment the late measures has I think (Sub rosa) much altered the minds of the people here and in the C[ongre]ss too. Give my Compliments to all Enquiring friends, & believe me [&c.]

Josiah Bartlett

P S by the latest account it seems the parliament has altered their measure of treating, and the Comisrs are to treat with Each Colony Seperate, which will Certainly, and unfailingly, Destroy the whole, for I am Sure no Colony will, at this time, treat Seperately; I think I may venture to Engage for New hampshire.

J: B:

The Invoice of the goods you are to procure with your Contract and the weight of anchors &c I shall send in my next

1. Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis. Continuation of letter of February 19.
2. The brig *Greyhound*, Walter Stevens, master, and the ship *Peggy*, Samuel Davison, master.
3. This petition was submitted to Congress on March 1, 1776.

Pennsylvania Gazette, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1776

Philadelphia, February 21.

The *Antigua Gazette* of Jan. 17 contains the following list of vessels taken and carried into St. Christophers.

Brig *Union*, Alexander Boyd, master, from South Carolina, brought in here by his Majesty's ship *Argo*, William Garnier, Esq; commander, the 18th day of December, 1775; condemned the 2d of January, 1776.

The sloop *Constance*, [John] Dantey, master, from St. Eustatius, brought in here by his Majesty's sloop *Lynx*, Alexander Scott, Esq; commander, 20th December, 1775, condemned the 2d of January 1776.

A Brig from Surrinam bound to America loaden with molasses, taken by his Majesty's sloop *Lynx*, Alexander Scott, Esq; commander, and carried up to Antigua.

Sloop *Charming Polly*, Thomas Truxton master, from New York, brought in here by his Majesty's ship *Argo*, William Garnier, Esq; commander, the 2d of January, 1776.

Sloop *Thomas*, Henry Keel master, from St. Eustatius, brought in here by his Majesty's ship *Argo*, William Garnier, Esq; commander, 4th January, 1776.

JAMES PARKER TO CHARLES STEWART¹

[Extract]

off Norfolk, 21 Feb. 1776.

What was left of Norfolk is now totally destroyed by the Rebels and the inhabitants of that and Princess Anne County ordered away from their plantations. We are informed Sir Peter Parker is on his way out, is to have the command here and convoys out a number of troops their appearance here will soon alter the face of affairs.

Genl. Clinton called at N. York. It seems Gen. Lee was dispatched to the South when they knew Gen. Clinton departure. Lee had got to New York and is expected here. Washington has sent expresses to inform that a number of ships had left Boston and it was expected they were coming South. I believe it is so because last night old Coll. Colvin was brought on board this ship, there were some Rebel officers with him in a flag or truce boat from Hampton. Capt. Hammond stop'd them on board the *Roebuck* and sent to his Lo[s]p. It seems they have a letter from the Committee of Safety offering to lay down their arms if all the acts of Parliament are repealed that have been made since 1763. If this is all it is doing nothing.

1. "Letters from Virginia, 1774-1781," *The Magazine of History* (New York, 1905), III, 211. Stewart, former Surveyor General of Customs in North America, had retired to Edinburgh; Parker, a merchant, was his Virginia correspondent.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Wednesday, Feb. 21st, 1776.

Capt. [Edward] Blake attended, and informed the Council of the depth of water on the bar of Hog Island creek.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 265.

22 Feb.

JOHN LANGDON TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gent – Portsmo, Feby 22d, 1776.

I've just enroled near one hundred of men in the ship yard,² have order'd every man to attend the muster at an appointed day with a good fire arm, powder and ball, some of which are already completely equipp'd; but as there is no powder to be had only what is in publick stores, would submit it to the consideration of the Honble Committee, whether it would not [be] best to order that those men who are not supplied already be furnished by the publick, when occasion requires, or if tho't best for each to appear with one half pound powder in his horn, for which a receipt to be taken, and if its not Return'd or made use of against the enemy, to pay double of the value at this time, which I will stop out of their wages, which I think will effectually prevent wast, and put those who have no powder upon the same footing with those who have bro't their own amunition.

I think I may with safety, serve the Colony in this matter, and not the least interfere with the Continental business. Should be glad to have some answer from the Honble Committee relative to this matter, as I've order'd every man to be ready for musterg at such a day, and should be glad to have every man furnished. I am with great Respect [&c.]

Jn^o Langdon

In case of failure they are to be Dismist the yard.

1. Nathaniel Bouton, et al., eds., *Provincial Papers: Documents and Records Relating to the Province of New Hampshire . . .* (Concord, 1867-), VIII, 73-74. Hereafter cited as Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*.
2. The Continental frigate to be built in New Hampshire was under Langdon's supervision.

BILL OF ARCHIBALD SELMAN FOR HIRE OF ARMED SCHOONER *Franklin* ¹

Abstract of pay due to Archd Selmon for Hire of the Armd Schooner *Franklin* Capt John Selmon Comander in the Service of the United Colonies

From the 5th Octor 1775 to the 31 Decer following is	}	£ 51..0..0
Two Months & Twenty five days — @ 6/ L Money p Month p Ton being 60 Tons		
Also ¾ of a month in Augt 1775 @ 18 L p Mh		13.10...
		£ 64.10...

Beverly 22d Feby 1776 Reced the Above
in full of William Bartlett

Archibald Selman

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 273, LC.

ESTIMATE OF LOSS SUSTAINED BY JOHN BRADFORD IN A CARGO SEIZED BY
A BRITISH CRUIZER ¹

Account of 82 Casks of White SpermaCeti Oil & He[a]d matter ship
for Account of John Bradford & Co at Barnstable, on Board the Brig
Industry John Mcfarland master in August last and Consign'd to Messrs
Henry & Thos Bromfield mercht in London, which Brig was Clear'd at
Plimouth, & on her passage to London, was meet by one of the Cruisers
Said to belong to the King,² by her Compell'd back to Boston & their both
Brig and Cargo Condemn'd & Sold.

65 Cask White Sperm Oil con[tainin]g 3989 Gall	
@ £ 40 p Tun	£ 633..3..5¾
17 ditto head matter 1012 gall. a 53.6.8 p Tun	214..3..7
	<hr/>
	£ 847..7..0¾

Dated at Andover 22nd Feby 1776

Jn^o Bradford

[Endorsed] Essex ss Andover Feby 23. 1776 The Capn John Bradford
above nam'd Appear'd & made Oath to the Truth of the above Accot by him
Subscrib'd

Before me Samuel Phillips Just Paice

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 424.

2. The *Industry* was captured by H.M. Schooner *Halifax* and condemned and sold in Boston,
Graves's Prize List, December 31, 1775, II 36-38, BM.

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

Capt. Manly has refitted his schooner, and will sail in a day or
two.² The *Fo[we]y* man of war, lately stationed off Marblehead, Salem,
Beverly, &c. returned to Boston on Monday. It is said that four smaller ves-
sels are to be sent in her stead, to block up those ports.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, March 11, 1776.

2. Washington's armed schooner *Hancock*, driven ashore in North River, Scituate, Massachusetts.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8 TO THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 22, 1776

Cambridge, February 22.

We hear the sloop *Grampus*, John Brakett [Bracket], master, loaded
with bread and flour, bound from Baltimore to Cape Cod, on Tuesday last
[February 15] fell in with, and was taken by a number of armed vessels
(part of the British navy) off the Race Point; they took out of the sloop the
master, mate and all hands except one, and put in their place one midship-
man and three seamen, and directed them to sail for Boston. — The morn-

ing following they struck on Cohasset rocks; the people took their boats and went ashore. – The inhabitants of Cohasset went on board the sloop, took out part of the cargo, and have got off the vessel. The men are on their way to head-quarters. At the same time the above armed vessels took a large schooner from Baltimore, and have sent her into Boston.¹

We just hear, that the *Yankey Hero*, of 14 guns, Capt. [Thomas] Thomas, belonging to Newbury-port, took and sent in there last Friday [February 16] a Bark of about 300 Tons, laden with Coal, Pork and Flour, which was designed for the use of the Ministerial Butchers in Boston.²

1. The *Grampus* and the schooner *Peggy*, John Lothrop, master, both from Baltimore bound to Barnstable, were taken off Cape Cod by H.M. Schooner *Tryal*. According to Shuldham's prize list of April 24, 1776, the *Grampus* was "Castaway," and the *Peggy* reached Boston, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
2. The brigantine *Sally*, Alexander Wilson, master.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus*¹

Feb'y 1776

Tuesday 20th

In Nantasket road Boston

at 9 AM weigh'd and came too sail in Company the *Hope* and *Tryall*, with 2 fishing Schooners, at 11 a signal was made at the Light House for an Attackt in the offing, saw 2: sail in the N Et Quar gave Chace to them, and sett Steering sails, at Noon Boston Light House bore WSWt 3 or 4 Leags Still in Chace;

Modt and fair Wr

in Chace to the N Et at 2[P.M.] Down Steering sails, at 4 Do Wr at 5 spoke his Majs Ship *Lively* wth a Brigg & a Schooner in Compy at 8 TKd ship.

Wednesday 21st

[1 A.M.] spoke the *Hope* Brigg

Do Wr at 6 wore ship, at 1/2 past Joynd Compy the *Tryall* Schooner, at 7 wore and stood in for Marblehead;

8 [A.M.] Modt & Clear Wr saw a Large ship Standing towards Boston, 5 sail in sight, at 10 came too off Bakers Island Marblehead wth the Best Br in 9 fathm water veer'd 1/3d of a Cable, Do anchor'd here the *Tryall* Schooner at Noon the Master & Pilott Sounding

Modt Wr saw a Ship in the Offing; at 1 PM anchor'd here his Majestys ship *Fowey*,

Thursday 22d

at 9 AM weighd and came too sail, and run near Catt Island, at 10: came too with the Bt Bower in 9 fathm water, veard a way and moor'd a Cable each way, the Sml Br in 8 fathm water, Catt Island S1/2E Marblehead Town WSWt Smiths Island ENE and Beaverlay Church NW1/2Wt a bout one mile from Catt Island, Bent the Sheet Cable, Do putt the Sml Bower under all, it being much rub'd, Bent Another small Bower.

First and Middle parts fresh Breezes with thick Wear
and some snow, Latter Modt and fair
P M Struck the Topgt Masts,

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1884.

WILLIAM WATSON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Plymouth 22 Feby 1776.

I am desired by Mess[r]s [James] Hall & Grindell [Jonathan Grendal] the former Masters of the two ships bro't into this port by Comodore Manly,² to introduce them to your Excely by a Letter & to acquaint your Excellency that they have a desire to go to Virginia where they have friends & where one of them has a Brother –

The crews of the two ships are now on board them & insist on continuing on board, as they have no home, no money, & no business offer, that suits them, – they abso[lutely] refuse entering into our service. your Excellency will please to direct what shall be done with them –

I wod take this oppertunity to acquaint your Excy that on board the ships are sundry articles which may be very serviceable in fitting out the men of war now building, memo of which I have inclosed –

The *Harrison* Capt. Dyer [Charles Dyar] returned last night from her second unsuccessfull cruize. our enemies are very vigilant, and in good weather, are seen every day from this shore – I am [&c.]

Wll^m Watson

1. MNHP. Watson was Continental agent at Plymouth.

2. *The Happy Return* and *Norfolk*.

WILLIAM VERNON TO JOSIAH HEWES, PHILADELPHIA ¹

[Extract]

Newport, February 22, 1776,

Sir:

. . . You will not be surprized, when I tell you, that last Sunday, [James] Wallace, the Infernal Pirate, sent the Bomb Brig'te and Three Arm'd Cutters into the Harbour, and after stripping the Brig'te *Venus*, which lay aground just within the Lime Rocks, of Sails, Colles, Anchors, Cordage and Yard, Topmasts, in one word everything, and then set Fire to her, which burnt to the water's edge – this was a fine Vessel of about 170 tons – Good God, where is our American Navy? I am, Dear Sir [&c.]

Wm. Vernon.

1. *Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society*, VII, 303.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

N. York Feby the 22d 1776

. . . I was much disappointed, Sir, in not being join'd by a Battalion from Philadelphia as I was taught to expect – I did not apply for them merely with a view of opposing Mr[Henry] Clinton with the Troops He shou'd bring with him – I had sufficient and more than sufficient force to

cope with him—but it was agreed in the Conference held with the three Gentlemen who were here as a Committee from the Congress that it would be necessary to retrench a Camp in Long Island capacious enough to contain at least three thousand Men, and altho it was thought impracticable to fortify the Sea side of the Town against Shipping it was allowd and determin'd to be expedient to throw up divers works in the City and it's environs, in order to prevent the Enemy's getting possession of it—to accomplish these works, Sir, not a small number of hands are requisite our present numbers are so far from being adequate to the business that They are scarcely sufficient to mark out the works and at the same time do the necessary Garrison duty—As to the Minute Men, no account ought to [be] made of them—had I been as much acquainted with them when they were summon'd as I am at present, I shou'd have exerted Myself to prevent their coming—the expence of these Gentry is most intolerable—They have upon an average about two Men to one Officer but the expence of their subsistance is not all—the loss of Powder to the Public is dreadful—

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 158, I, 25–28, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New York] Die Jovis, HO. A.M.

Feby 22nd, 1776.

John Hastier, mate of the ship *Sally*, whereof Capt. Badgley [John Bagley] was late master,² has requested permission to go on board of the said ship *Sally* to obtain his clothing, bedding and other necessaries from on board, (as she is to proceed to Boston.)

Ordered, That the said John Hastier be permitted to go on board of the ship *Sally* for the purposes aforesaid.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 317.

2. The *Sally* was seized by H.M.S. *Phoenix* on February 3, while approaching New York with a cargo of salt from Alicante.

“PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE SENDING S. DE[ANE] TO FRANCE”¹

In Committee of Secret Correspondence

[Philadelphia] Feby 22nd 1776

Agreed

That proceed immediately for France as an Agent of the Congress to transact such business and negotiate such matters as may be committed to him by Congress or their Committee.

Agreed

That the Brig *Rachel* Captain Clay chartered by R. Morris for the Continental Service be employed to carry to France and proceed in ballast for Bordeaux.

1. Henry Laurens Papers, SCHS.

LETTER FROM VIRGINIA ¹

Feb. 22

On the 4th day of January last, about sunset, a party of armed men from the rebel army, stationed in the town of Norfolk, went to Gosport, where they broke open all the warehouses and plundered them, and that night set fire to all the buildings on the place, and burnt them to the ground; the destruction of that place is a very heavy loss to Mr. Andrew Sprowle, a firm friend to government, who is the sole proprietor; the warehouses were very valuable; besides these, and all his dwelling-houses, there was in his store many heavy and bulky goods of considerable value, so that his loss cannot be less than many thousand pounds sterling; he has also had two houses burnt in Norfolk.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 16 to April 18, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU ¹

February 1776 At [Single Anchor] in Hampton Road
 Thursday 22 AM Weighed & Came to Sail At 6 Anchored in Hamp-
 ton Road found Riding here His Majesty's Ship *Mercury*
 and Two Sail of Transports.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

2. This was James Montagu's last entry in the journal. On that day he took command of the *Mercury* and Captain Alexander Graeme of that ship transferred to the *Kingsfisher*. One of his first acts in the *Mercury*, after reading his commission, was to send an "Officer and 6 Men on board the *Sandwich Tender*." PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

HENRY LAURENS TO CAPTAIN SIMON TUFTS ¹

In the Council of Safety,
 [Charleston] Thursday, Feb. 22d, 1776.

Sir - Information is given to us, that a brigantine and a sloop now appear upon the coast. We have therefore ordered Capt. [Thomas] Smith, in the pilot boat *Hibernia*, immediately to reconnoitre and bring in those vessels if practicable - possibly they may be cruizers. You are to get the schooner *Defence* as speedily as possible under sail, and to proceed, according to circumstances, to attack and seize either or both those vessels, and conduct them within this bar, or to some other safe harbour, if practicable; or retreat and cover the pilot boat, if in your apprehension the enemy is too formidable for your power, which must be left to your fortitude and discretion. If more men than are now on board the *Defence* are necessary, give us immediate notice, and how many; but let no time be lost.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 266, 267. Laurens was president of the South Carolina Council of Safety.

HENRY LAURENS TO NOBLE WIMBERLY JONES AND OTHERS ¹Charles-Town, So. Carolina,
Feb. 22d, 1776.

Gentlemen – We received your favor of the 5th inst. by Mr. Barnley, and having duly considered the contents, and had reference to your articles of agreement with that gentleman, we find that we are prohibited by a resolution of the Continental Congress from suffering exportation of produce from this colony, except to some other of the united colonies or to part of the same colony, unless such exportation to be on public account or in return for the means of defence actually imported. We beg leave to refer you to the particular resolution by which we apprehend we are restricted, dated the — ; a copy of which we here inclose.²

We have, under that resolution, made several contracts. Our orders and conditions are:

The cargo to be purchased on the best terms for, and to be paid for by the public, to be sold at some foreign market, the nett proceeds to be laid out in gunpowder, saltpetre, good muskets, with bayonets fixed; in failure of these, wool and cotton cards, coarse foreign cloths, blankets, coarse linens, sail cloth, Russia canvas, writing and printing paper, nails. of all sorts, spades, good musket locks, pins, needles, whip and hand-saw, gunsmiths and other files, tin plates. We always give special charges against purchasing slight muskets and fuzils.

If powder, saltpetre and muskets are purchased and imported, we allow 50 per cent. on the purchase, and insure the vessel out and home, at a reasonable computed value. This is to be in full satisfaction of freight, commission, and all other charges whatsoever, except such as are incidental to the bare loading and delivery, as wharfage and portorage, and unavoidable duties, if any, and so in proportion on the value, if only part of the proceeds are invested in those prime articles; if other articles are purchased, we allow 60 per cent on the purchase in lieu of freight and charges as aforesaid, but we do not insure the vessel.

It may possibly happen that none of those articles may be at market, and that the master of the vessel, or agent, may be reduced to a necessity of making returns in gold or silver; in such case, we allow a freight of £4 Barbadoes money per ton of 3000 lb. rice, together with commission on the invoice here and the sales abroad, and incidental petit charges and no more, not commissions or freight on the money, nor insure the vessel.

By this plan, the public may reap an advantage from the low price of commodities here, as they are to be entitled to the whole nett proceed of sale, on which an allowance of 50 per cent. will be very considerable to the owner of the vessel, considering he runs no risk of losing more than an expected profit. This security will induce him to purchase powder, &c., in preference to other goods, and the proposed commission on goods will lead

him to prefer a purchase of such to making his return in gold or silver, by which he can make at best but a common saving voyage; and we do not suffer those vessels to clear out at the Custom House.

We wish these hints may prove of any use to you. If you think proper to renew your engagement with Mr. Barnley, and will give orders to load his vessel with rice on public account, we will readily grant a permit. You may pay the persons from whom the rice will be purchased, or we will do so, and receive a reimbursement at some future time. It will afford us great satisfaction upon every occasion to promote the interest and safety of your colony, which are closely united with the welfare of this.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Noble Wimberly Jones, esq., and other gentlemen, appointed to contract for importation at Savannah.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 268-69.

2. The resolve of November 1, 1775, extending the regulations of the Continental Association to March 1, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[Charleston] Thursday, February 22, 1776.

The consideration of the report, on the number of forces necessary to be raised, and kept in pay, for the service of this colony, was resumed.

The whole of the said report being gone through, the Congress came to the following resolutions thereupon:

That, of the matrosses on the present establishment, the seamen in the colony navy, and the matrosses and seamen expected to arrive here, from the New-England colonies and other parts, in the whole upwards of nine hundred men, two hundred may, if found necessary, be established as marines on board the navy.

Resolved, That all the regular forces of this colony, both naval and military, shall, upon any emergency, and when the Congress or Council of Safety shall think proper, be liable, under either of their order and direction, to serve and act in any part of this, or of a neighbouring colony.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 43, 45, 46.

PIERRE BEGOZZAT TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE¹

Sir

St Pierre Mque 22 february 1776

this is to inform you that capt [Samuel] Soule is now loading with gun powder, he hath now two thousand, perhaps before eight days we will have ten thousand Completed, if I have not been obliged to provide four other vessels arrived before him, he should be gone with his demand. but we are obliged to Send them one after one.

many french vessels expected have gun powder on board, one Of them

got fifty thousand. it is a prospect to have in the next monts about eighty thousand – i have Send away about 20 thousand this months, some other gentlemen bought for the account of merchants in St Eustachia about the Same quantity – I am Sir &c

P. Begozzat

1. "Revolutionary Correspondence of Governor Nicholas Cooke," *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, New Series, XXXVI, 304. Hereafter cited as "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*. Cooke was governor of Rhode Island.

23 Feb.

MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Portsmouth] Fryday, 23d [February, 1776].

Received a Letter from Capt John Langdon, Requesting Some powder for his Carpenters;² In Answer to which we advised him that the quarter Master Should be order'd to deliver them ½ Each, out of the Public Stock, at the Time of Danger, to be by them Accounted for.

Ordered Major Gains to Apply to Major Hackett, Mr John Marshall, and Capt John Hill, to apprize the Damages the Gundelos & Boats have Sustained in the Service of the Colony.

At the Request of the Proprietors of the Schooner Privateer, Called the *Enterprize*, We have appointed Thoms Palmer, Commr in the Room of Capt Daniel Jackson Who has Resigned.

1. *Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society*, VII, 42.

2. Langdon was building one of the thirteen frigates ordered by the Continental Congress. She would subsequently be named *Raleigh*.

MESHECH WEARE TO JOHN LANGDON¹

Sir

Exeter Feb 23d 1776.

We have just rec'd your favor of the 22d inst, and with pleasure consider the arming your Carpenters,² as a fresh demonstration of your zeal and attachment to the cause of your country. The delivering out [of] the very small public store of powder we are possessed of, a half pound to each man not provided, we would cheerfully do, was it not that the Militia all round Portsmouth who have often applied for the same and professed themselves ready to move on an alarm at the least warning, have been denied, fearing our small Scanty magazine would be emptied in that way and perhaps wasted. We are sensible the danger of it's being misapplied is not so great with your Carpenters, in the way you mention, as with the Militia, but if as we have denied them, if we should now deliver some to the Carpenters, the country would be in an uproar and perhaps injure the cause. Therefore we have directed Major Gains, the Quarter Master, in case of an alarm and appearance of going into immediate action to deliver each of your Carpenters not supplied half a pound. And as the powder house is so nigh your

yard, we imagine there can be no great inconvenience, in omitting it now, and so escape the censure of the Militia.

In behalf of the Committee, I am [&c.]

Meshech Weare

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, I, 93, LC. Weare was president of the New Hampshire Council.
2. The carpenters were employed in building the Continental frigate.

STEPHEN HOOPER TO COATES & REYNELL, PHILADELPHIA¹

Esteem'd Friends

[Newburyport] 23d Feby 1776

The foregoing is duplicate of my Last Respects, p Post,² since which I remain without any of your esteem'd Favours, this I hope will be handed you in Safety, by our Friend Capt Wyer p whom I intended to have made you a considerable Remittance, but having good Advice, of the Prospect of Trade's being open'd, I have speculated in the Purchase of a small Brig, & am contracting for a Valuable Cargoe for her, in Expectation of that Matters soon taken Place, which is not even tho't of in this Town, – this Manuvere, will absorb a considerable Quantity of Cash, & as [Eleazer] Johnsons Arrival with you is yet uncertain, & his Rout should he arrive equally so, I shall only send you enclos'd five Hundred & Ten Dollars, wch hope will arrive Safe, & whatever may be wanting to compleat her Cargoe, must beg your Patience for, for a few Weeks to come, when you may depend on having the Ballce – I am not without Hopes, that Wyer will take on Board for me, 20 Hhds Molasses, if not I fear, I shall not be able to obtain freight for any more, in wch Case the Quantety of Molasses, you will have left on Hand, & the Price, no doubt will rise to above 2/, which will I hope nearly pay for the Brigs Cargoe should she proceed to Europe; but if not you may depend on the Ballce when you have Occasion for it; tho should the Brig proceed forward, I should be glad of a Ton of Nails Rods, one of Iron 6 Blls Flour, 6 of Pork, in every Vessell that will take it on Board I shall enclose a small Mem[orandu]m for my Sally, which should be glad might be complied with, & as I intend writing you again p Post & Wyer hurrying me, I shall only say that I am Yet Your Friend

Stephen Hooper

Mem[o] to be sent by 2 Oppy

1 dozn Bottled Mustard

1 dozn silk [Longee] Romall Handkerchiefs

if to be had, if not the next best sort –

24 lb Starch, & 6 Blls Crackers –

1. Feinstone Collection, DLAR.

2. Letter of February 20, 1776.

ELIAS HASKET DERBY TO CAPTAIN ALLEN HALLET¹

Capt Hallet

Salem [23] Feby 1776

The Schooner *Nancy*, of which you are the Present Master being in all respects ready to sail I do advise & order you to come to sail & make the best

of your way for St Nichola Mole & on your arival there you be well assured if Capt [Nathaniel] Silsbee is gone to Jamaica, if he is not gone you had best to tarry there a short Time to wait for him, or if Capt [Nathan] Nichols is there advise with him in what manner you had best to Proceed to git to him, if he should be gone down, if he is gone I think best either to leave your Schooner in the Mole & hire a Passage to Jamaica in any small Vessell down, or to go down the No side with your own Schooner & to be set ashore at Port-Antones & to let your Vessell put to see again & to meet you at some other harbour in ten days from that time or iny other way you like Better. If you go to Jamaica in any other Vessell take your Regestirs with you as I suppose Silsbee will Obtain a Clearance for you, Espetially at the Northside at Lucea, if you can get a Clearance at Jamaica it will be as well to Clear for Cape Besue in Nova-scotia, but I hope and trust you will meet Silsbee at the Mole & whether their or at Jamaica take his advice in all Matters relateing to the Voyage & if it turns out Rong I shall be satisfied, I suppose y[ou]r Dominica Regest[e]r & a Clearance from the Mole with goods Consign'd to any Merchant at any Part of Hallafax Goverment, might be safe but all the Papers must agree, if you should get taken 20 leags to the westward of your Port & had not made the land I suppose you safe & so think you had best to come but a small distance to the Eastward of Georges Bank & so over the Northshore, but if you meet thick Easterly weather when you are to the Northward of Georges Bank; think it best to run home bold to the land, & the first Harbour you get into if to the westward let me know of your arrival, if you obtain an English Clearance be sure you have not the least thing but what is Clear'd as Capt [David] Ingersoll lost his Vessell for haveing but 3 barrils Sugar more then he had in his Clearance, but I do not Much expect you will be able to get the Clearance, & as you hav[e] an Order on Silsbee for so much Money as you & he may think can be layd out to Advantage I would have you advise with him about it, as I have wrote him my mind fully on the affairs, if you go to Jamaica there will be great Enquirey for news from home, but do not be know[n] there by any of them. Your Schooner is Insured from Salem to the Mole & while there for ten pc but if she goes to Jamaica it is to be 5 pc more, so that the Insurance down will be not less than 100 Dollers, so that I had much Rather you should hire a Vessel if it costs as much or more, but take y[ou]r Regesters with you & be very Carefull of your Money in comming as a Passenger with straingers, & should think you had best take your own Crew or Part of them & keep all your affairs to yourself & for your Goverment I have sett the Price of Goods here

Sugar, if good	£25 to 30 p[er]C
Commen Wind[war]d Rum	35/. p[er] Gallon
Cocoa	£45
Cotton	28/. to 30/. p[er] lb
Molasses	20/. & will be more
Best Cordage	£27 & will be £30 —
Good Canvas	£40 p[er] Bolt & small duck in that Proportion

worsted stockings & Middleing Linen for shirting is at Present much wanted as is Pins Silk & Cotton Handkchfs & writeing Paper all which articles is worth at least 150 pc more than common & £150 – Sterling well layd out in such articles will leave more Proffitt than any west india Goods, but they must not come if you come with an English Clearance, & neither must any of them be taken from Jamaica as it would be in direct Violation of the [Continental] Assotiation which I do not mean to brake, if Nichols is at the Mold [Mole] & Silsbee gone down you may let him know what I have rote him meaning Silsbee – & see that your goods are the best of their kind – & acht with the advice of Silsbee & y[ou]r Own Judgment wich I doubt not will be with Care not having to ad[d] I Commit you to the Allmightys Protektion & I am Y[ou]r Frend –

[Endorsed] the above a true Ccopy of my Orders this Day Recivd –

[Signed] Allen Hallett

[Additional note by Derby]

1 ps good Cambrick

some Mens & Womens Cotten Stockens

5 or 6 Pieces of Midling Calaco fit for Children

a Quantity of Pins –

some Hankerchefs –

P S – if by any Misfortune Capt Silsbee should be lost – you must load the Schoonr with salt at Turks Island for Home & Clear Out – if You go to Jamaica & Can get 30 or 40 Bales Cotten You may take it in there but no thing else

[Second endorsement by Hallet] Recevd Salem 23 Feba 1776 of Elias Hasket Derby the sum of Fifty Joannes Equal to One Hundred and Twenty Pounds Lawful Money on board the Schooner *Nancy* my Self Master for a Voiage to the Mold [Mole] & Promice to be Accountabel therefor According to my Orders this Day Recevd

[Signed] Allen Hallett

1. Elias Hasket Derby Papers, vol. 10, 6, EI.

ELIAS HASKET DERBY TO NATHANIEL SILSBEE ¹

Salem [23] Feby 1776 ²

The above is Copy of what I wrote you by way of Cape-Ann ³ since which I have got leave to send Capt Hallet in the *Nancy* to let you know my mind about the times and what I think about your comming home & now I Cannot write Positively but still think it not safe for you to come home with the Vessell. I have given Capt Hallet an Order on you for so much Money as you & he shall think Can be layd out to good Advantage on my acc[oun]t say from five hundred to one Thousand sterling & I shall depend on your adviseing him in all matters relateing to it & of his comming to the Eastward in his way home he has no Clearance & therefore suppose it not safe to go to Jamaica for a Clearance but you will judge of that, I do not mean to load his Vessell too deep he has two Regeste[rs] & if you think it safe &

Best he may go down to Jamaica as from the Mole in Ballast belonging to Dominica, but I suppose he may be as safe with a Cargo of Molasses, Sugar, Cocoa, & Cotton from the Mole without any Clearance at all, Provided it is Consigned to some Merchant at Cape besue, & the French Clearance to agree with that as any Clearance at all the reason of my wanting his Papers so is I think if he is taken there he must be safe if he is leased to that Government, & if not taken if he meets an Easterly wind, as it will be the Right season of the year for it he will stand a good chance to get into some of our Harbours, on the North shore, & I am well asured if he dos well, & has a good Cargo of Goods, he will make not less than 100 pc[t] after Paying the Insurance & Charge which at Present is high, I have insured the Schooner out & while she lays at the Mole against all Risques at ten pct at Present I have not made any Insurance home, as I suppose I cannot at this time get it done under 25 pc & shall not make any at Present for by the last acc[oun]ts from England it sems they are tired of this unnatural War, but of that you can f[or]m a much better Judgment than we can here as it is but Seldom wee have accounts that can be depended on, if you have a good opportunity in 4 or 5 Vessel[ls] from the Mole to ship Goods so as to divide the Interest you may ship most or all your Stock home to me, but no Indigo, & then you may settle your affairs in Jamaica, if you think there is any danger of a French or Spanish War, if not I shall be very Easey about it, but be sure do nothing Contrary whereby I s[hould] have any Reason to be though[t] hard of, the Reason of my Make[ing] any mention of your Schooner Loading with Salt is the Committees in all ouer Towns are very exact, & the more so of such Vessells as there is the least suspition of ther haveing ever gone Rong, & they suppose your Vessell has & Partly for that Reason I am against her comeing, & if she does come think it best with Salt from Turks Island for Boston, & so into any Harbour near, Salt is now none at market & is worth 30/. 8[d] p [bag] or you may Charter the Schooner for any Voyage you like, Provided it is not to the Northward & if you & Capt Hallet Can ag[ree] you may take his Schooner & Come home & he to go in yours but the times at Present are such that I in my own mind Cannot determin, what will be for the best, & must therefore leave it wholly to you, not doubting but it will be Conduct[ed] with Care & should any thing turn out Rong, I have no doubt but I shall be satisfied with all your Conduct, as I have not the least doubt but all you do will be done for the best if you have a mind to send any Interest of your own home[in]the Schooner I have no objection, there is but very few art[icles] you can Purchase at the Mole but what will answer wel – gin, Brandy, & all such things are wanted here —

Should Capt Nichols be at the Mole, I would have you all adv[ise] together & determin what to do for the Best, what I have wrote I would have kept to yourself, & not to have it made the least mention of in Jamaica, in regard to the Private[e]ring, Espetially, I should have wrote Nichols but did suppose he must be away before the *Nancy* Could be there, I have Ordered Hallet to throw all the Papers Over in case he gets taken, & would

have you Order the same in what you write by him home, but I do not think of loosing her as the Schooner Sails very fast —

If so large a fleet should come on this Co[a]st in the Spring as is talked of I should think it best not to ship so much Interest to the Northward as I should otherways but it is now said that Commissioners are appointed to come over to accomodate the affairs, but I fear it. — Should you think of Tarrying in Jamaica with the schooner, I think it best to discharge all hands except your Mate who I suppose to be John Shannon & Mingo & to keep them with you least any thing should happen to you, I shall write you again if I have any oppertunity, as I have already under Cover to Dolbear by way of Philadelphia, you may if theirs is no Prospect of a Settlement & the Schooner cannot be sold, send her for Mules to Gibralter & so to Jamaica, or any other Island, not haveing any thing further to write at this time, I committ you to the Almighty's Protection, not doubting but we shall once more carry on Business at Salem in Peace & Safety

From y[ou]r Friend

Elias Hasket Derby

I have Rote you a long letter & hope you will fully know my Mind by it wich is for you to keep most of the Interest in Your hands till You think the Danger not so much as at this time — if You Can get 30 or 40 Bags of Cotten at Jamaica or any where Else Ship it by Hallet as it is not Conterary to Congress —

1. Elias Hasket Derby Papers, vol. 10, 5, EI.
2. The day of the month is estimated as the same day that Captain Hallet received his sailing orders.
3. Letter dated February 13, 1776.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ¹

Dear Sir

Head Quarters [Cambridge] 23 Febr'y 1776

This will be deliver'd to you by The Baron de Woedtkee,² who appears to be a Gentleman, & a Veteran, Charectors you will esteem him for he has with him other recommendations to your Notice, from some of your Paris acquaintances; if I had never fallen out with Royalty for any other reason, I should detest it, upon the poor Barons account, for the Tyrannical treatment he has received from The King Prussia: — may he enjoy in This Land of Freedom that Comfort which has been denied him in Germany; & may this Land continue to Embrace with her wonted Cordiality, every Oppress'd Subject from every other Quarter of The Globe —

Last Night our People surprised A Corporal, & Two Sentr's of the Enemys, & brought them this morning to head Quarters, they declare General Clinton took with Him when he Sailed from Boston a considerable Quantity of Artillery, & Artillery Men; besides The Detachment of The Troops; this convinces me that he design'd to take post at New York from whence, as I hinted to you in my last Letter, I am satisfied the Enemy meant to commence their Summer Operations: as The Baron goes by Providence, & that way to New York, I shall not write anything Further to day. a few days

will probably furnish matter for an Express, when you may expect to hear further From Dear Sir [&c.]

Horatio Gates

Mine & Mrs Gates's best respects wait Upon Mr & Mrs Bache & your Fire side

To Doctor Benjamin Franklin

Member of the Continental Congress Philadelphia

1. Franklin Papers, vol. 4, 81, APS.

2. Baron de Woedtke was appointed a Brigadier General by the Continental Congress, March 16, 1776. He died at New York July 28, 1776.

NATHAN GREAR, JR. TO NICHOLAS AND JOHN BROWN, PROVIDENCE
MERCHANTS¹

Gentn

Ply[m]o[uth] Feby 23d 1776

The brearer is Capt Joseph Higgins & one of the Gent I bought the Oyl off - As it will be a great service to him should take it as a great favr that you would help him to what Powder & other Warlike Stores he may want, as he is now about fitting out a Privateer - The service you can do in this matter will be great therefore need not urge the importance of it as you will be the best judges when Capt Higgins gives you the particular's of his intended Cruize - I understand Colo [Joseph] Nightingale has Powder. please to direct Capt Higgins a Little of your influence with him may be of Service to Higgins - About eighty Barrills of Oil & lead has arrivd Capt Higgins informs me that Siveral hundred Barrls more will be her[e] in a Day or two - shall forward it with all expedition - I have agreed with Capt Smith of Taunton to fre't it to Providence - Your Friend in behalf of my Father

Nathan Grear j[r]

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Hope*¹

Remarks on bd the *Hope* Fridy the 23d Feby 1776

- 7 [A.M.] the Monument Land of Plymouth SW 6 or 7 Lgs
 12 [P.M.] Tack'd Race Pt NBE 3 or 4 Leags Modt & Clear
 1 [P.M.] Fresh Breezes and Cloudy, at 1/2 Past Saw two Sail, Running out of Plymouth Harbr found them to a Sloop and Schooner Rebel Arm'd Vessels
 3 [P.M.] Engaged, them and Drove them into Plymouth fired a Number of Shot at Do Vessels Had Damedged by them, our Cross Jack yard one of the M. Shrouds & a Number of the running Rops Shot away,
 at 6 Bor away, it being little Wind & a Stronge tide again us
 at 8 Brought to off the Harb'rs mouth to wait for the Rebels to Come out at 1/2 Past 8 Saw a Small Sail to the Nd made Sail and Stood towards it found here to be a Smal Schooner, from Cohasset bound to Wilfleet Boarded hir and took hir in Tow²

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1823.

2. Similar to the prize taken on February 11, this vessel was sent up to Boston on February 25, but is not listed in any Shulddham prize list.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Sir,

Providence February 23d 1776

This Letter waits upon You by Mr Christopher Greene, One of the Company of Nathanael Greene & Company who have Permission from the Honorable Continental Congress to export the Produce of the Colonies in order to purchase Powder and other warlike Stores. As this Colony cannot furnish the necessary Cargoes they purpose to fit out their Vessels from the Colony of Connecticut; and as the Object they have in View is very important I beg the Favour of your Honor to give them all proper Encouragement & Assistance, which will also oblige, Sir [&c.]

P.S. I am informed by Mr. Greene that he was about contracting for some Beef and Pork in Connecticut which are Articles exceedingly wanted in this Colony; and which I desire you to permit him to import

1. Letters from the Governor, 1768-1777, vol. 2, R.I. Arch. Trumbull was governor of Connecticut.

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

[Providence] Feby 23d 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment -

Voted. That a Bill for Two Thousand Dollars be drawn on Stephen Hopkins Esqr in favour of Capt Caleb Gardner on his paying the Amount into the Hands of John I Clarke the Treasurer. -

Voted. That a Bill for Eight Hundred Dollars be drawn on Stephen Hopkins Esqr in favour of Peter T. Curtenius to purchase Barr Iron for the use of the Ships. -

N.B. The Committee have wrote to Mr. P.T. Curtenius to procure two Anchors 30 C Wt each for the Ships at 9d York My P lb

Reckonging [blank]

Meeting adjourned to monday evening -

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

MEMORIAL OF THE NEWPORT TOWN MEETING TO THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

Newport ss To the Honorable the General Assembly of the English Colony of Rhode Island to be holden at East Greenwich, on the last Monday in February 1776.

The Memorial, Remonstrance and Petition of the Freemen and Others, Inhabitants of the Town of Newport, in legal Meeting assembled, humbly sheweth,

That, as it is the distinguishing and unalienable Privilege of every English Subject, to Petition those, who are vested with the legislative Authority of Government, for that Protection, which from the Laws and the Constitution, he hath a clear and indisputable Right to expect and demand; We therefore presume, humbly, to exercise that Privilege, and are extremely concerned,

that the peculiar Circumstances of Difficulty and Distress, which we, your Memorialists, have had to encounter for Months past, reduce us to the Necessity of making such frequent Applications to your Honors.

As we wish and mean to make this Application as little tedious as possible, and unimbarressed with the enumeration of unnecessary Facts, we will lead your Honors Attention no further back, than your last Session, from which Period, notwithstanding your Honors generous Intention towards us, in permitting the Town Council to supply the Ships of War, in this Harbor, with fresh Provisions, for their own Consumption, designing thereby to purchase the Security of this Town, we have perceived, with the deepest Anxiety and Concern, the dark and alarming Train of Calamities to increase, with the gradual Approach of that Ruin, which Nothing but your Honors benign Intervention can ward off.

In every Application that we have made to your Honors, for Liberty to supply the Ships of War in this Harbor with Beef &c, we had not only in View the Preservation of the Town from immediate Destruction, but the additional Advantage of obtaining Permission for the free Passage of the Market, Wood and Ferry Boats, to and from this Town, and which was clearly your Honors Intentions, by the Tenor of your first Vote; but, notwithstanding Capt. Wallace had on his Part granted Passes for that Purpose, we, your Memorialists, were unexpectedly deprived of many and singular Benefits, which we are confident your Honors intended we shou'd enjoy, as we cou'd not obtain Permission for the free passing of the aforesaid Boats, until the Second Day of this Month. But, that your Honors may have a more comprehensive Knowledge of our Negotiations with General [William] West, we beg leave to refer you to the Letters which passed between him and the Town upon that Subject, and make no doubt, your Honors will pay them that Attention which their Importance demands.

Your Honors, in Order the more effectually to Guard against Supplies not warranted by Law, and to prevent Intelligence being carried to the Ships of War &c, detrimental to the Common Cause of America, passed an Act, and punished the Offence with Death: This we perfectly acquiesced in, and used every Precaution in our Power to prevent a violation of the Act. We knew the Ground we stood upon, and the Tenure by which we held our Lives: But the Hopes of Safety and Peace, however flattering then, were but of short Duration, for General West in his Letter of the 23d, of last Month expressly declared "that if any Vessel or Boat shou'd pass so near the Ships, as to be hailed, they shou'd be immediately taken up and dealt with as Persons giving Intelligence to the "Ministerial Fleet" – A few Days after this, we saw, with Concern, the Master of a small Boat, from North Kingstown, arrested by a File of Soldiers, carried to Middletown, and there detained for a Night by Military Force, without the Aid or Countenance of the Civil Authority: This unfortunate Man had conformed to the Law, and conscious of the Rectitude of his Intentions, he thought himself justifiable, in transporting the Necessaries of Life to this Town; but, unhappily, he violated Orders, which were never published, and found himself involved in

a supposed Crime. — Since this, we have also seen Proceedings of a similar Nature, which, if not discountenanced by your Honors, must prove Fatal to the Inhabitants; because, if those Persons, who supply this Town with the common Necessaries of Life, are subject to military Prosecutions, upon a mere Suspicion of their having departed from their Duty, it must effectually discourage all Intercourse with this Town from the Continent, which, from our being situated on an Island, hath already produced such a Scarcity of many of the most essential Articles that tend to render Life comfortable, especially Fuel, that Numbers of your Memorialists daily experience the most distressing Necessity. But with still greater Concern & Anxiety, we, your Memorialists have beheld a large Body of armed Men, march into this Town enter the Dwellings of some of the Inhabitants, contrary to the Rights of the Subject, as Established by Law, seize the Proprietors, and hold them during Pleasure, under military Duresse, out of the Body of the County: These Proceedings, may it please your Honors, are so destructive to our Civil Liberties, that we consider it, as our bounden Duty, publicly to remonstrate against them; For, shou'd we supinely bear, such alarming Encroachments, upon our sacred and invaluable Rights, we must inevitably forfeit that Character we are solicitous to sustain. — In this opinion we think ourselves fully supported by the Proceedings of the Honorable Continental Congress, who with a Dignity and Integrity that will procure them immortal Honor, have expressly declared, “That the Second great Right of the Subject is, that of Trial of Jury, which provides, that neither Life, Liberty nor Property can be taken from the Possessor, until Twelve of his unexceptionable Countrymen, and Ours, of his Vicinage, who from that Neighborhood may reasonably be supposed to be acquainted with his Character, and the Characters of the Witnesses upon a fair Trial, and in full Inquiry Face to Face, in open Court, before as many of the People as chuse to attend shall pass their Sentence upon Oath against him [’]. We entertain the highest Regard and Veneration for the Laws and Liberties of our Country, and therefore to your Honors, as our Guardians and Protectors, we make this solemn Appeal, humbling beseeching your Honors at this Time of Danger and Difficulty to give such Orders to the Commanding Officers of the Troops stationed here, as may free us, your Memorialists, from the Apprehensions of Martial Law.

We, your Memorialists, do not wish for any particular Benefits, which may prove injurious to the common Interest of America; but as the Destruction of this Town, in our Opinion, must give a Wound, to the united Efforts of the Colonies, for the Preservation of their inestimable Rights, we beg leave to suggest, that if the Army is permitted to enter the Town, it will bring on its immediate Ruin, without their having it in their Power to annoy the Ships of War, as we are accessible at every Part; A Calamity we sincerely deprecate, and which, we flatter ourselves, your Honors will give the necessary Instructions to prevent.

We cannot sufficiently express our Gratitude for the Attention your Honors have manifested towards this Town, and had we have realized those

Benefits and Advantages which your Honors undoubtedly intended we shou'd have enjoyed from the Truce with Capt Wallace, such Ruin and Devastation in Buildings and Fences wou'd not have taken Place, thro' the Want of Fuel, but unhappily, many of the Inhabitants have been compelled, thro' extreme Necessity to commit such Waste, as in any Situation, not so distressing, wou'd have been highly Criminal.

As Poverty and Distress, are the first Objects that present themselves in passing thro' the Streets of this once flourishing Metropolis; And as the very Being and Existence of the Town depends, principally, upon supplying the Ships Stationed in this Harbor with fresh Beef &c, Your Honors cannot but mingle your Anxiety with ours, and we trust, will go as far in relieving us as may appear consistent with the General Safety; We therefore, in behalf of ourselves, the Common Cause, and that of Humanity and Benevolence, most humbly Pray your Honors, that you wou'd be pleased to take the Premises into your serious Consideration, and Order, that this Town, for its immediate Preservation, be permitted to supply the Ships stationed here with fresh Beef &c, for their own immediate Consumption, under the Cognizance and Direction of the Town Council: And that the Commanding Officers of the Troops in this Colony, be Instructed, to permit the Ferry and Market Boats, with Provisions and Fuel for this Town, to pass and repass, without being subjected to unnecessary Restrictions and Conditions: And, as it may become highly Necessary in this Time of Difficulty and Danger, to have some Persons appointed to go onboard the Ships of War, that may from Time to Time be in this Harbor, your Memorialists also Pray, that your Honors would be pleased to authorize such Persons, Inhabitants of this Town, as in your Wisdom you may think suitable, to go onboard such Ships, upon any important urgent Occasion under the Direction of the Town-Council; And we, your Memorialists, as in Duty bound, shall ever Pray &c. —

Signed by Order and in Behalf of the Town Meeting this 23d Day of February 1776.

W^m Coddington Town Clerk

I. Letters to the Governor, 1776-1781, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[At a Meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety &c.]

[Lebanon] Friday, 23d February 1776.

Mr. Simon Davis is present, commissioned and authorized by Gov. Cook to go to the foreign West Indies for a cargo of powder, and liberty of taking a cargo from this Colony if he can obtain leave &c., and urges the necessity of the article and the probability of success &c.&c., and on being asked &c. this committee consent to and advise his Honor to permit him to purchase and ship 2000 lb. cheese, 2000 do. hog's lard, 60 barrels pork, and 30 barrels of beef, in this Colony, for the purpose aforesaid.

Took into consideration the affair of appointing captain and other officers for the brig *Defence* now lying at New Haven, and talked largely

upon it; and appointed Seth Harding to be Captain of said brig *Defence*, and concluded upon the others almost, but deferred till next day the appointment.

And appointed Jehiel Tinker Captain of the row-galley now building at East Haddam.

1. Charles J. Hoadly, ed., *Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut* . . . (Hartford, 1890), XV, 243, 244. Hereafter cited as Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Albany Feby 23d 1776.

. . . No Time is also to be lost in forwarding the Cannon and what Military Stores there are at Tyconderoga and Crown point; they will however be of little Service unless a considerable Quantity of powder is immediately sent: What is gone is very trifling.

On Board of the Vessels which were taken near Montreal on the 19th of November, 760 Barrels of pork and 675 of Flour were found – A Quantity sufficient of the first Article to have served 2000 Men to the 3d Instant of the other to the 22d Ult: – a considerable Quantity had been taken a Month before at Chamble; a large Quantity was at St John's; Bedels and Warner's Detachments had provisions bought for them; much has been bought since the Surrender of Montreal, hence a Waste or Embezzlement must have taken place – I can easily account for the Loss by only imputing it to the Inability of the Commissarys and the culpable Inattention of the Officers – I gave Orders last Year, which if they had been complied with would have prevented this Evil & Extra Expende in sending the Supplies – . . .

I am this Moment informed that some Nails are arrived from Canada, and a considerable Quantity are on the Way.

The Shipwrights to construct the Scows on Hudsons River are not yet arrived – These Vessels will be greatly wanted.

1. Papers CC (*Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler*), 153, II, 9–15, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 10 HO. A.M.

Feby. 23rd, 1776.

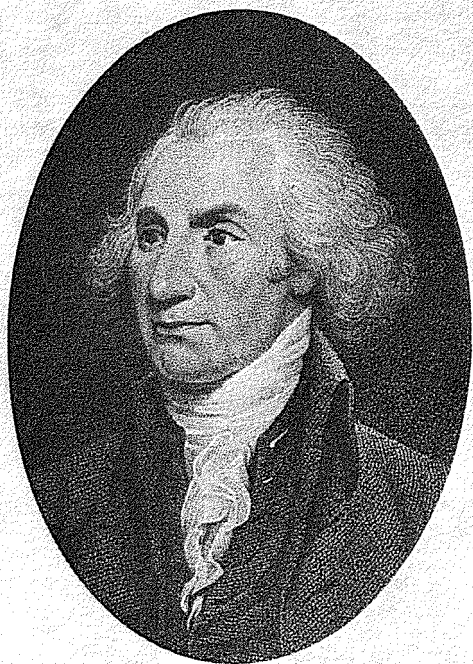
William Lowther, Esqr. informed part of this Congress that he has been informed that his sloop and cargo in custody of Capt. [Hyde] Parker [Jr.], will probably be sent to Boston; ² that if he could be permitted to go down to the *Phoenix*, it might be of use to his interest.

Ordered, That Wm. Lowther, Esqr. be permitted to go on board of His Majesty's ship *Phoenix*, and his own vessel, now under the command of Capt. Parker.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 320.

2. See Lowther to Joseph Hewes, March 16, 1776.

General Philip Schuyler.



Benjamin Franklin.



Governor Sir Guy Carleton.



JOURNAL OF THE NEW JERSEY PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New Brunswick] Friday, February 23, 1776.

This Congress resumed the consideration of a Court of Admiralty, and *Resolved*, That said court be instituted in this Province as soon as possible; and that Mr. [John] Carey and Mr. [Abraham] Clark be added to the Committee appointed to draught an ordinance for that purpose.

1. *New Jersey Provincial Congress*, 383-84.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Phildelphia] Friday, February 23, 1776

Resolved, That the letter of Christopher Leffingwell, dated 29 November, 1775, with sundry papers relating to the cargo of the Brig *Nancy*, be referred to a committee of three. ²

The members chosen, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [Samuel] Huntington, and Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be empowered for the purpose of Procuring arms and ammunition, to export produce of these colonies, equal to the amount of that by them exported in two vessels lately taken by the enemy.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 167-71.

2. Leffingwell's letter, from Norwich, Connecticut, was read in Congress December 12, 1775. It related to a cargo of molasses taken out of the brig *Nancy*, a Tory vessel seized by Captain Robert Niles in Stonington harbor. The *Nancy*, Captain Thomas Davis, was owned by Joshua Winslow of Boston.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday 23 Feb. [Samuel] Ward Chairman of the Secret Comee informed Congress that 2 of the Continental Vessels with Merchandize are taken by the British Men of war ² and desired to know Whether other Two shall be sent which was carried in the Affirmative after Debate -

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

2. The brig *Greyhound*, and the ship *Peggy*.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 23rd Feb'y, 1776.

Upon application of Capt. [Robert] Whyte for 45 pieces of Sail cloth, to make sails for the ship now building, By Order of the Board, Robert Towers was directed to deliver the following numbers, or as many of them as he has in his possession, Vizt.:

5	pieces	No. 1
5	do.	2
4	do.	3
11	do.	4 or 5
6	do.	6
14	do.	7.

Resolved, That Mr. Owen Biddle & Capt Robert Whyte, be a Committee to go to the Barracks, and Muster the Men belonging to the Armed Boats in the Service of this Province, and make Return of the same to this Board.

Resolved, That the following Notice be published in the different papers of this City, Viz't:

"A Muster Master is wanted to the Naval Armament belonging to this Province; any Associator disposed to serve the publick in this Office, is desired to make proposals to this Board, on or before the 5th day of March next." ²

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 493, 494.

2. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet*, February 26, 1776.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1776

Williamsburg, Feb. 23.

The *Mercury* frigate, capt. Graham [Alexander Graeme] (former [John] Macartney, who is gone to England) having general [Henry] Clinton and lord [Hugh] Percy on board, and two transports, with between 3 and 400 troops, chiefly light infantry of the 4th and 44th regiments, and a number of officers belonging to the 16th and 40th regiments, besides some engineers, are arrived in Hampton road, from Boston; since which they have been joined by the *Kingfisher*, and four or five tenders, who now lie off Hampton, and it is supposed are bound up Potowmack, or for North Carolina, where some disturbances have broke out among the people who lately styled themselves regulators.

Capt. Montague, we hear, is promoted to the command of the *Mercury* and capt Graham succeeds him in the *Kingfisher*.

Two brigs went up Norfolk river, accompanied by some tenders, a few days before the arrival of the *Mercury*.

It is said that troops with lord Dunmore, to the amount of 500, are intrenched at Portsmouth, and that a considerable number of our people are intrenching some little distance below them. The *Roebuck* is gone up to Norfolk, where the *Liverpool* and *Otter*, with the ships *Dunmore* and *William*, a number of tenders, and other craft, still remain.

A considerable quantity of gunpowder (5000 wt. it is said) with osnabrgs and other linen, is safely landed in North Carolina.

The ship *Rockingham* is now in Hampton road, with upwards of 60 passengers, bound for Glasgow.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME,
H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher* ¹

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esqr

Whereas Mr John Goodridge [Goodrich] has represented to me that a Slave of his named John King, is on board his Majesty's Sloop under your command.

You are hereby required and directed to disch[arg]e the said John King from his Majesty's Sloop the *Kingsfisher* accordingly.

Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship *Roebuck*
off Norfolk in Virginia the 23d Feby 1776

A S Hamond

1. Hamond Papers, Orders issued, UVL.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER
GRAEME, R.N.¹

Whereas I have received intelligence that there is at Rogues Harbour (a Port to the Southward of Cape Charles) a Bermudian Sloop, which lately brought Gunpowder into this Country, for the Supply of the Rebels, and is now Lading with Flour. You are hereby required and directed to take the *Roebuck's* Tender under your command, and proceed in his Majesty's Sloop under your command off that place, and if it appears that there is not sufficient depth of Water for the *Kingsfisher* to go into the harbour, you are to send the Tender, assisted by your Boats, and use your best endeavour to take or destroy the Said Sloop and any Vessel you shall find in the harbour. As soon as this service is effected (which is only intended and desired to be performed in case opportunity of fair weather should offer) you are most strictly enjoined to loss no time in proceeding to the mouth of the River Delaware, and use every Act and Stratagem in your power to obtain as many Pilots for that River as you possibly can, also as much information concerning the Fortifications and Machines which are placed to obstruct the Navigation to Philadelphia, as you may be able to Learn; and having to your utmost, executed this important Service, you are to Dispatch the Tender Back to Virginia, and give me an account of your proceedings. You are also to Seize and detain all American Vessels whatever and Send them to me for examination, likewise all other Vessels you may meet with who are attempting to carry on any commerce with America.

You are likewise to annoy the Rebels by every measure in your power, and to continue cruising at the Mouth of the Delaware, untill another Ship can be sent to relieve you, or untill you may be obliged by unavoidable necessity to quit that Station, when you are to return here and join me at this place.

Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck*
off Norfolk in Virginia the 23d Feby 1776

A S Hamond

1. Hamond Papers, Orders issued, UVL.

MINUTES OF THE NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF
SAFETY ¹

Friday the 23d Feby 1776.

Whereas a certain Robert Aitchison, a Midshipman on Board of the *Syren* Man of War commanded by Tobias Furneaux Esqr arrived in the Town of New Bern last Night from the Sloop called the *Peggy* commanded

by Capt Sacks, which said Sloop was on the ninth Day of February seized by the said Tobias Furneaux, who took from Board her three Men & the Mate, at Sea, at a Place called the Frying Pann, and the said Robert Aitchison being put on Board her with a Pilot & three Sailors from on Board the *Syren* with Directions to carry her to Capt Perry [Francis Parry] Commander of his Majestys Ship the *Cruizer* at Cape Fear, by contrary & hard Gales of Wind said Sloop suffered much in her Tackle, Sails & Furniture, and was forced, by Accident, into Oacacock Bar where the said Robert Aitchison was under the Necessity of giving up the Sloop & Cargoe then on Board consisting of Rum, Sugar, Molasses, Salt and Ginn to Capt Oacks, who employed a Pilot Boat with two Hands in which the said Aitchison and three Sailors, to witt, John Leech, Jacob Collins and Richard Dunniver came up to New Bern & surrendered themselves to this Committee.

Resolved that the said John Leech, Jacob Collins and Richard Dunniver be at Liberty, and that their Cloaths be return[ed] them. Resolved also that the said Thomas Aitchison be admitted upon his Parole of Honor to the Prison Rules, and in Case he exceeds the Bounds thereof, he is to be confined in close Goal and that all his Effects be returned him except his Papers and *Conteaux de Chasse*, and that Mrs Hatfield be allowed fourteen Shillings Proc. Money pr week for his Board and Diet, untill the Provincial Congress or Council shall otherwise determine, to whom the above Resolves are submitted.

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

COLONEL WILLIAM PURVIANCE TO THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL
CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

Wilmington 23rd Feby 1776

Gentlemen On the 9th Instant upon the Arrival of an Express that the Regulators and highlanders were in Arms with an intention to join Govr [Josiah] Martin. I had Notice from the Committee of Wilmington to have my regiment in readiness, and soon after, Orders from Col. [James] Moore to prepare for marching against the insurgents – My Zeal for the [illegible] common Cause in some measure surmounted every difficulty – I dispatched part of the [regiment] and Captain Youngs rangers, by Order of the Committee to [?] Horses Carts Boats &c for the service of the military, and during upwards of eighty hours of severe Service Night & day with the Ass[is]tance of the Regulars & minute men whilst they were here, happily effected every-thing necessary

The Two companies of minute men in this County, and somewhat above eighty others under the command of John Ashe, Esqr, and stiling themselves Volunteers, together with a considerable number of disaffected Persons, reduced the Number of fighting Men in my County so much, that it was thought necessary with the small Number that remained, that I should stay behind, to protect the Town & adjacent County from any insults that might be offered in the Absence of the Troops by the Ships of

War. unequal as I know myself, and as indeed I must necessarily be, to any military command, I cheerfully exerted myself to fill a department which of Course fell upon me and which there was not any other to undertake . . .

On Wednesday the 14th instant in the evening the committee rec'd repeated expresses from Brunswick that the *Cruizer* Sloop of War with a Tender had passed that Town, and was on her way up. We had then, in the general Confusion, no doubt but that the intention was to destroy Wilmington, unless we Should submit to ignominio[us] terms. This opinion had such an instantaneous effect upon the Inhabitants, who had a number of enemies among them, that they, as if by concert, immediately began to remove their Effects. The Town is now almost cleared of all kinds of Goods, and of the women & Children. Since that time I have been reinforced by Captain Clintons Company of minute Men from Duplin, a minute company from Onslow, and part of the Militia of this last County under the Command of Col. [William] Cray. I have also had between 50 & 60 Men under Major [Parker] Quince from Brunswick county, and with all those forces I have been almost constantly employed, in throwing up Breastworks on the principal Streets & Wharfs and the hills above & below the Town. these I shall soon have Completed, so as to prevent the landing of any men from the Ships – I am making the necessary preparations for fire rafts and shall be able to make use of what swivels are mounted, and of a number of blunderbusses. But I am now assured the Ships never will venture to Wilmington. They too much dread the rifle men to approach us. The *Cruizer* and her tender attempted to go up the North West River, on the West side of the great Island, opposite to Town, but found there was not sufficient Water all the Way, and th[ere]fore returned. It is thought the intention was to favor the [Re]gulators & the highland banditti, whom they expected in Triumph, and to protect the Provision Boats which would Consequently come from Cross Creek for their Army and Ships. after the *Cruizer* Had fallen down below the Island, her people went several times on Shore at Mr [John] Ancrums Plantation, Carried off his live Stock and vegetables, and attempted to seize his Negroes, who fled to the woods. They have even taken away a parcel of printed Books, Old Cloths &c & threatened to burn the house. I therefore thought it necessary to dispatch Major Quincè with his detachment to [pro]tect the inhabitants on the West Side of the River, & I found that the more necessary, as Col. Davis of Brunswick County informed me yesterday, that there were 50 men from the Ships at the fort, pillaging the Inhabitants. Captn Dupre with only 15 Men arrived at Mr Ancrums plantation just as the *Cruizer* Boat was coming ashore the third time – fired up on them, which was returned, and kept up about a minute, when the Sailors pushed off with precipitation. we certainly did some execution, tho' they carried off their Men. The *Cruizer* fired three Guns without effect. Since this the ship is gone down below the flats

On Wednesday last, I reced intelligence that a boats crew from [the] *Scorpion*, which is also below the flats, went ashore on the East [side] of the River, and killed some hogs steer &c – Captain Clinton's minute men are

gone down & I make no doubt but with prud[ence] they will be able to seize the next party that presumes to come on Shore, as they are to remain there three days. I have got in confinement several Tories and suspected Tories. Many of those still here had inrolled themselves with Col. Ashe, in order, as is believed, to skreen themselves from duty; but when the day of trial came they shrunk back – That Gentlemen went so far as to inlist an Open Enemy who had been disarmed by the Committee and even presumed to require his Arms – It was not however thot proper to comply with this preposterous requisition. on the Contrary the Committee disarmed every man who would not take the Test of the Congress in form of an Oath – The Neutrals as they call themselves, have been forced greatly against their inclinations to work at the breastworks

24th February

The Ships of War, which threatened us for sometime, are all fallen down to Brunswick. Their people have been so much harrassed on both Sides of the River by the Riflemen, that I immagin their station became uneasy; but I am inclined to believe they lost all hopes of the arrival of their friends, and probably might receive intelligence (notwithstanding all the precaution that was used) [tha]t their friends were so situated that it was scarcely possible for them [to come.] I have upwards of twenty Tories in Custody & expect a considerable number more to morrow. I have the honour to be [&c.]

W^m Purviance

1. Secretary of State Papers (Council of Safety, 1776), NCDAH.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Friday, February 23, 1776.

Resolved, That a Muster-master General be appointed for the naval and land forces of this colony, with power to appoint one deputy.

Ordered, That Col. [Christopher] Gadsden, Col. [William] Moultrie, Col. [Isaac] Motte, Col. [John Lewis] Gervais, and Dr. [David] Oliphant, be a Committee to ascertain and report the special duties of the said Muster-master General.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 62–64.

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON ¹

Scarborough Savannah River Georgia

23 Feby 1776 –

Dear Sir, I hope this will find you safe arrived at Cape Fear, which will give me great pleasure to hear. I had a very tedious passage here of thirty days having nothing but hard gales of Wind, most of the passage, The Transports parted with us in a very severe Gale the night after we left Boston – They arrived here a week after us,

We have found this province in the utmost confusion which we did not expect when we left Boston, which has frustrated us in our plan of getting a Supply of Provisions for Boston,

The Rebels to the amount of two or three hundred have taken possession of the Town of Savannah & have erected two Batteries of eighteen Pounders upon a Bluff Land forty feet high which a Ship passing or repassing to Town must go within Pistol Shot off, they have likewise sunk a Vessel in the narrowest part of the Channell, which prevents any Ship of Force going to the Town, there is fifteen Sail of Merchant Ships above the Town mostly loaded with Rice – If we could get possession of them, they would be a sufficient quantity to supply Boston or any other port where they may be wanted for the use of the Kings Troops

To come at these Ships we must get possession of the Town & destroy their batteries, but to effect that I am afraid we have not a sufficient force

But if it is found practicable we will attempt it, but to Insure success a greater force should be sent us,

I would sincerely recommend to your Judgment to send a small force here, In that case If it could be sent, I could promise to keep this post open, by which means a Constant Supply of Provisions could be sent to any part of the Continent without depending upon its being sent across the Atlantick

I will not enlarge upon this Subject as Sr James Wright has fully done it in his Dispatches to you

If we find it prudent to attack the Town with the small force we have, & succeed, & to evacuate it afterwards, it would involve the King's Service & Servants in greater difficultys than what they were upon our Arrival, you are Sensible the Orders Major Grant is under is to return Immediately to Boston

Sir James Wright is retired from the Town; he & his Family are now on board of the *Scarborough*

He can never think of returning there except he has a sufficient force to protect him, he thinks five hundred Men with two ships of War in the harbour, would keep possession of the Town, & most likely the whole Province.

I hope therefore upon the receipt of this you will be so good as to Dispatch something to us to let us know, whether any force may be expected, but these Circumstances I must intirely refer to your better Judgment.

And only wish I could Co'operate with you in any respect concerning the Distress'd State, of the Kings affairs in this Country

I am Dear sir [&c.]

And^w Barkley

In my passage here I took a Schooner from Salem, bound to South Carolina, with about Eight hundred pound Continental Money to purchase a Cargoe of Rice for the Rebel Army at Cambridge which I have got in my possession, I likewise took a Sloop off this Harbour, from StaCroix, having

onboard about Two tons & half of Gunpowder, with many other Articles for the use of the Rebels in the Southern Colonies ²

I herewith Inclose you a South Carolina & Georgia Newspaper. since I wrote the above we have an Account of a hundred men coming into town from Carolina; & some more expected as I am told.

AB

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, CL.

2. The schooner *Violenti*, Stephen Cleveland, master, and the sloop *St. John*, Gilbert Harrison, master. See journal of the *Scarborough*, February 4, 1776, Volume 3, 1141-42.

GOVERNOR GEORGE JAMES BRUERE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

No 26

Bermuda feby 23d 1776

My Lord Under the charge and care, of the Revd Mr Lyttleton, I send your Lordship several Dispatches; which I hope hath reach your Lordships hand, to Inform your Lordship that the People here, had Chosen Delegates (or Deputies,) and had Petitioned the Congress at Philadelphia.

And that some evil minded People, had prevented the Owner of a Vessel, to fulfill his engagement to me, to hire His Vessel, to inform General [Thomas] Gage, of the Robbery committed, on the powder Magazine, in the night of the 14th of August.

And the Attempt made to detain or stop a Sloop, I had engaged and hired to go to Boston, to carry the Intelligence of the loss of the Powder, and to forward letters, by way of Boston to your Lordship.

And on the 3d of September, the Master of another Sloop, I had engaged, with only three Negroes, got under Sail, and put to Sea, when about 16, or eighteen People, and two of them were Delegates, and three of them were assembly men, took a Boat and pursued the Sloop, and the wind being at that time light, it seems they got up with the Sloop, and four or five white men, got on board, and asked the Captain for letters, and upon his answering that He had not any (which was true, for my Negro had the letters) they beat and abused the Captain, but the Wind springing up pretty fresh, they got into their Boat, and returned into Harbour: and the Sloop made Sail, in obedience to a Signal by a fire I made from the Hill, and carried my Dispatches Safe to Boston. And did not wait for Mr Lyttleton, who was to have gone in the Sloop.

I have been in constant expectation, of having some Support, either by the arrival of Some Soldiers, or a Sloop of War but I am disappointed hitherto.

And as most of the Assembly Men were Delegates and Some of them, had acted in that audacious manner; to go in pursuit of the Vessel, that I had sent, with Government Dispatches, I have been obliged to adjourn the Assembly, from time, to time, as I thought, it would be very improper, to Suffer them, to Act in both Capacities, as assembly Men and deputies; especially as some of them had acted so audaciously. And having received, neither any Orders, or any Support, I Dissolved the General Assembly, on the

22 of february, and I have ordered writts to be Issued for a new Election of assembly men. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

George Ja^s Bruere

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 37/36. This letter, according to Bruere's later endorsement, was not sent until April 3, 1776, the Governor then writing: "I send this letter in a Bermuda Sloop Commanded by Capt Cox via Boston. I have received no Dispatches from your Lordship for near a twelve month past."

24 Feb.

BILL FOR FITTING OUT *Success* AND *Eagle* FOR POWDER VOYAGES
TO THE WEST INDIES ¹

Owners of the Schooner's *Success* & *Eagle* ² Dr
For sundry disbursements fitting Out &c. vizt

For the *Success* ³

	£	s	d
To Cash pd for 7½ Yds Canvis for Tarpawlings 3/.	1..	2..	6
To ditto pd Samuel Tripe for makg 2 do	..	3..	
To do pd Moses Noble for Reamg the Pumps	..	6..	
1 sett Boxes a 1/9. 8 Clappers 9d	..	7..	9
To pd Elisha Hill for stapling 4 pump Boxes 1/6.	..	6..	
1 pump Spear 6/. nailg 3 Boxes on Spears 3/.	..	9..	
1 pr [Quo]ins 5/. 4 long Pump Bolts 4/.	..	9..	
1 pr Flesh forks 2/3. 1 pr [Quo]ins. 5/.	..	7..	3
			£ s d
To Cash pd Joseph Simes for mendg Binnacle lights	..	3..	3..13..6

For the *Eagle*.

	£	s	d
To Cash pd Joshua Wentworth for a main Mast	3.11..		
To do pd Moses Noble for making do	1..		
pd do for Reaming the pumps 6/4	..	6..	
4 sett Pump Boxes 1/9. 8 Clappers 9d	..	13..	9
3 Phuddocks Staves 9d 1 hand pump 2/6.	..	3..	3
2 Wooden Bowls 2/. 1 Buckett 2/.	..	4..	
To Cash pd Elisha Hill for Altering 2 Withs for Main Mast	..	6..	
1 Hoop for ditto	..	5..	8
Stapling 2 pump Boxes 1/6	..	3..	6..6..8
putting 2 Staples in the Boxes	1..		
1 Pump Spear 6/8. nailing on 2 Boxes 2/.	8..	8	
2 Cann Hooks 5/. 1 Candlestick 9d	5..	9	
To Cash pd Walker & Jenkins Caulkers	1.14..	6	
To do for 9 Yds Canvas for Tarpawlings a 3/.	1..	7..	
To do pd Saml Tripe for making 3 ditto	..	5..	
To cash pd Riggers & hands taking out the Old Main Mast & putting in the New	..	18..	

To Cash pd Simon Furnald for 6 days Carpenters Work on board both Schooners. @ 3/6	}	1..1..
To Cash pd for 1c 2qr 8lb Cordg for Halliards Down Halls, Straps, Lanyards, Ratline & Spunijam a 5/4.		1..1..
		10..1.11
		<hr/> £20..2..1

Portsmouth 24th Feby 1776
Errors Excepted

Tho^s Thompson
Supply Clap

1. John Langdon Papers, HSP.
2. The *Success* was dispatched for St. Lucia under instructions of December 20, 1775, and the *Eagle* followed on January 12, 1776.
3. "Newburyport March 25 1776. Received of John Langdon Esqr seventy six pounds 10/ lawfull Money in full for the Use of the Schooner *Success* on a late Voyage to the West indies - Nat Tracy," John Langdon Papers, HSP.

NEWBURYPORT COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

The Committee of Safety Correspondence & Inspection of Newburyport beg Leave to acknowledge the Receipt last Evening, of a Resolve of the honble Genl Court passed the 8th of this present month, appointing them "with Capt Jeremiah Obrien, a Committee to prepare & in all Respects equip & man with fifty Men each including Officers, the Sloop *Machias Liberty*, & Schooner *Diligent* now lying at Newburyport &c"

The Committee with pleasure will undertake & perform all in their Power - & can engage to purchase the necessary Articles wanted, except Gunpowder - Of that essential Article, they with reluctance say, not a Cask can be procured here at any rate - The pressing demands of this Town have called for every Exertion in their power to raise Monies, notwithstanding the Town is greatly in debt, not being able to furnish enough to pay the necessary current Services - therefore to make it possible to comply wth the aforesd Resolve, the Committee humbly hope the honble Council will furnish them by the Bearer Capt Michael Hodge one of their Members, with as much Money as the present Occasion calls for - Which by a moderate Calculation for two Months Cruize only, with the fixing the Vessels will amount to five hundred pounds lawfull money - exclusive of the cost of Gunpowder (which is not to be had here) & of which Capt Obrien thinks there ought to be five hundred pounds weight beside one hundred & twenty pounds now on board - The Committee apprehend that the fifty Men for each Vessell or any considerable number of them cannot be found in this Town - owing to a large number being in the Continental Army, & to several Privateers out on Cruises - Capt Obrien says he can make up the Deficiency in the Eastward Harbour, if your Honours think it proper to let him depart hence without his full Complement - As Capt Obrien must probably collect his Men from thence, & his present Officers, whom he approves of may be most

agreeable to such Men, the Committee hopes the honble Council will excuse them from recommending said Officers for this Reason only, that they are entire Strangers to them –

P Order of the Committee Tristram Dalton Chairman PT
Newburyport Feby 24th 1776.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 299–301a.

MEMORANDUM OF A LETTER FROM ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO WILLIAM
WATSON ¹

William Watson

Cambridge 24th Feby 1776

Sir your favor to His Excellency of the 22d came to hand – inclosed is a pass for Capt. James Hall & Jonath. Grindel, to pass to Virginia, if they chuse to go before trial – recommended to his Care the articles that will be necessary for the Men of war & every thing else that is on board the prize

ordered the *Harrison* out of Commission, & that particular Care be taken of every article belonging to the Continent on board the owner received 156 dollars to be taken Notice of in Settling with him

the Crew are permitted to remain on board if not attended with risk, provided they Cannot get employ before trial is decided –²

[Robert H. Harrison]

1. Washington Papers, LC. Harrison was aide-de-camp to General Washington.

2. This refers to the crews of the prizes, *Happy Return* and *Norfolk*.

THOMAS CUSHING TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Dear sir

Watertown Feby 24, 1776

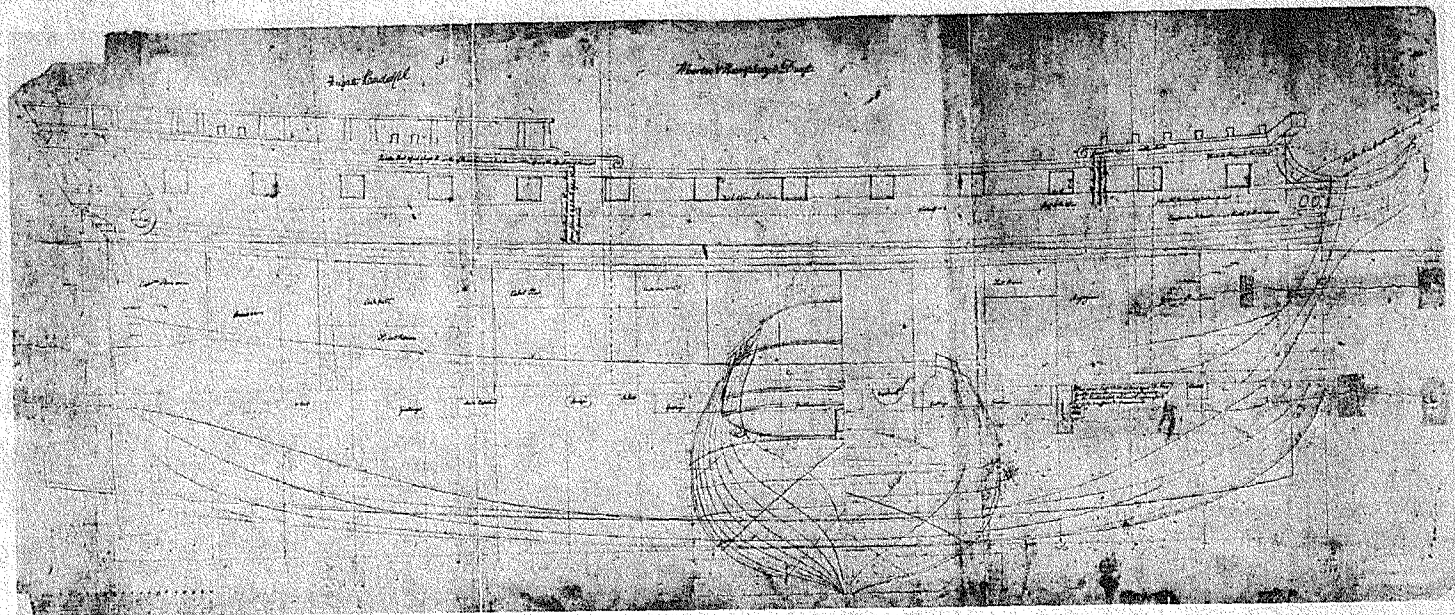
This will be handed you by Mr [Samuel] Osgood, since my last I have Completed the purchase of abt Forty Tons of Hemp Which I am to pay the Cash down for as soon [as] it arrives from Philadelphia, it will amount to Three Thousand Two hundred pounds L M. I shall have to pay the Builders immediately Two Thousand five hundred pounds lawfull Money, and shall be obliged immediately to pay also for one hundred peices of Duck which will amount to at least five hundred pounds LM also for a parcell of Iron I was oblig[e]d to purchase in order to proceed upon the Bussiness which will amount to Two hundred pounds, all these sums together will amount to Six Thousand four hundred pounds besides other Things, I shall be obliged immediately to pay for.² I hope Mr [John] Avery [Jr.] will bring to [more] than that amount, if he has not I Must request you will immeately forward a sufficiency by some other hand, by Mr Ossgo[od], if you please as he is [a] trusty hand or give me liberty to draw upon you for What I want for I find Nothing is to be done Without the cash down –

I have pay'd Mr Spriggs [fifty] dollars agreeable to your Desire – Eighty or A hundred men are now impatiently waiting for the plans or drafts Hope they will be here in a few days – as we cannot proceed without them –

Th^s Cushing

1. USNAM. Cushing was a Massachusetts delegate in the Continental Congress.

2. Materials for the two Continental frigates to be built in Massachusetts.



Draft of Continental Frigate Randolph.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE ¹

Sir,

Boston 24th February 1776.

Herewith I have the honor of transmitting to you, a Copy of a Letter from Mr Stephens Secretary to the Admiralty, to Vice Admiral Graves relative to the Provisions and Supplies sent out by Government for the Use of His Majesty's Forces in America, and as it appears by that Letter, that His Majesty's Naval Forces are entitled to an equal Proportion of the Cargoes of the Vessels in the annexed List,² as the Troops under your Excellency's Command, I think it my indispensable Duty to beg the favor you will please to give such directions as you may think proper for the distribution of those Supplies.³ I am with great respect and Esteem, &ca

M:Shuldham

Copy.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
2. For Stephens's letter to Graves, dated September 26, 1775, and the list of provision ships, dated September 23, 1775, see Volume 2, 735-36.
3. Howe's reply the following day expressed complete willingness to cooperate with Shuldham relative to Fleet supply, but he maintained firmly that the supplies had been sent out "for the Use and Comfort of the Army," suffering from "a Want of a Change of Diet." The Admiral, on February 26, answered Howe that he was "fully convinced and sensible of the humanity and impartiality of your disposition that nothing will ever be wanting in your power to supply the wants and Necessitys of His Majesty's Subjects of either Service." PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

GOVERNOR JOHN WENTWORTH TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Copy/

Boston, 24th February 1776. -

Sir, I beg leave to inclose herewith a Copy of the Letter, which I did myself the honor of mentioning to you lately to have written to Admiral Graves relative to the State of New Hampshire; - By several Accounts from that Province I learn that the People are making many Preparations and daily erecting Works of Strength on the different Islands at the Mouth of Piscataqua River, where a Body of Troops is kept to obstruct and prevent Access for the King's Ships that Way, the only navigable Inlet, into the Province; - That they had entirely subverted His Majesty's Authority and proceeded to establish and administer a new mode of Government of their own Formation, enforcing Obedience to their Measures by Violence and Outrage on the Persons and Properties of Individuals, who, if not acquiescing in Rebellion, are unavoidably exposed to destructive Resentments, being wholly destitute of any Protection or Defence, of which Circumstance the Rebels have also availed themselves in fitting out Armed Vessels from Portsmouth to commit Depredations on the Transports bound for Boston.

Permit me, Sir, to assure you of my utmost Attention and Readiness toward restoring the King's Authority in that Government, and Zeal to apply

every Effort and Means in my Power to give Facility to any Operations undertaken for that Purpose. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

J: Wentworth.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Wentworth was governor of New Hampshire.

2. *Ibid.*, Shuldham replied the next day stating that presently he could do nothing because of "the very small Force and bad Condition of the Ships now under my Command." The Admiral sent a copy of Wentworth's letter to Philip Stephens.

OWNERS' BOND FOR THE BRIGANTINE *Elizabeth* FOR A VOYAGE TO THE WEST INDIES¹

Know all Men by these Presents That we Benjamin Cushing John Brown and Nathaniel Jacobs all of Providence in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island, &c. Merchants are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esquire General Treasurer of said Colony in the Sum of One Thousand Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony: To which Payment well and truly to be made we bind Ourselves Our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals. Dated the Twenty fourth day of February in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas the said Benjamin Cushing, John Brown and Nathaniel Jacobs have equipped the Brigantine *Elizabeth* burthened about Ninety five Tons whereof Joseph Lippitt is Master and have Obtained Permission of the Honorable Nicholas Cooke Esquire Governor of the said Colony for him the said Joseph Lippitt to proceed with the said Brigg and her Cargo to any of the Foreign Islands in the West Indies to purchase Powder and other Military Stores &c.

Now therefore the Condition of the above Obligation is such That if the said Joseph Lippitt shall well and truly lay out the whole Proceeds of the Cargo on board the said Brigg in Gunpowder, Saltpetre Sulphur Duck or Arms and shall import the same into this or any other of the United Colonies in America the Danger of the Sea and of the Enemy only excepted; and also further excepting that in Case the said Joseph Lippitt shall not be able to invest the whole Proceeds of the Spermaceti Candles in the Articles abovementioned that then he shall be permitted to lay out and bring back the Remainder in Papers, Ozenbriggs, Ticklenburgh, German Steel, Lead, Flints, Cotton, Linnen or Woolen Cloths, Jesuits Bark or Rhubarb and shall also lodge a true Account or Manifest of his Cargo in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of said Brigg and further shall not during the said Voyage proceed or go to any of the English Islands in the West Indies or to any Port or Place contrary to the Continental Association the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by any Enemy always excepted then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.²

Sealed and Delivered
in the Presence of
Henry Gardner Simon Smith

Benj Cushing
Nath Jacobs
John Brown

1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch. Numerous bonds are found in this source but for space considerations, only a few have been selected for inclusion in this Volume.
2. *Ibid.*, five other bonds were issued on February 24 or the preceding day for the following vessels and voyages:
 - February 24. Lemuel Wyatt and George Gibbs, of Newport, for the sloop *Diamond*, 55 tons, Timothy Pearce, master, on a voyage to the foreign West India Islands for powder and arms.
 24. John Innes Clarke & Joseph Nightingale, of Providence, for the sloop *Dianna*, 20 tons, Jonathan Carpenter, master, on a voyage to New York in ballast.
 24. John Brown, of Providence, for the sloop *Warwick*, 53 tons, Moses Lippitt, master, on a voyage to Philadelphia in ballast.
 23. Caleb Gardner, of Newport, for the brigantine *Sally*, 110 tons, John Earl, master, on a voyage to Philadelphia in ballast.
 23. John Brown, of Providence, for the sloop *Lucinda*, 20 tons, Alexander Huling, master, on a voyage to Philadelphia in ballast.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1776

Providence, February 24.

Saturday Evening last the ministerial Fleet went down the Bay to Newport, and have since returned to Hope Island.

The same Day a Brig put off from Newport for New-London, having on board a Quantity of Salt, some Household Furniture, &c. the Hands being apprehensive that they should be taken and impressed by the ministerial Fleet, obliged the Captain to put back; but in returning the Vessel ran aground near the Entrance of the Harbour, where as she could not be defended, some Men from Head-Quarters went on board, and assisted in unbending her Sails, and saving some of the Furniture. — [James] Wallace discovered her next Morning, when the Bomb Brig and a Tender took Possession of her; a few Shot were exchanged between them and some of our People on Shore, but without doing any Execution. After taking the Salt, they set her on Fire, and she burnt to the Water's Edge.

Gunpowder.

This is a most intimate mixture of nitre, sulphur and charcoal: The proportions found best by many experiments are,

6 parts nitre.
2 — sulphur.
1 — charcoal.

The charcoal should be ground extremely fine by itself, and the sulphur well pounded, if flower of sulphur is not used. The nitre may be pounded with the others; when all are put together, the whole should be pounded seven or eight hours. During the pounding it is to be frequently moistened with water sprinkled on it, a little every half hour, so as to use in the whole pounding about 4 parts of water: The water is to evaporate by the beating

or pounding; there should be about 3000 strokes of the pestle in an hour; the compounds, when sufficiently pounded, to be dried in the sun.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[At a Meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety &c.]

[Lebanon] Saturday, 24 February

Had agreed to the officers hereafter appointed for the brig.

Appointed Ebenezer Bartram of Fairfield to be First Lieutenant, and James Hopkins, Middletown, to be Second Lieutenant, and Jno. McCleave Master of the brig *Defence*, according to the proposal last night.

A letter prepared and sent to Capt. [Seth] Harding informing of his appointment as captain of said brig, and also to Lieuts. Bartram and Hopkins as lieutenants, and also to Capt. McCleave informing his appointment as master of the same.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 245.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Sabbati, 10 HO. A.M.

Feby. 24th, 1776.

Saml. Franklin informed Congress that the ship *Sally* is to be sent to Boston in a few days, and requests permission from this Congress to send John Hastier in the said ship to Boston, in order to make application to the admiral for his discharge, and in the interim to take care of the said ship. Mr. Franklin further requests that the said John Hastier may be permitted to take with him for his subsistence, one barrel of salt provisions, one cask of bread, one barrel of flour, one quarter of fresh beef, a few gallons of rum or spirits, and a few pounds of chocolate, and that he, Mr. Franklin, be permitted to go on board of his Majesty's ship *Phoenix* to speak to Capt. [Hyde] Parker [Jr.] relative to the said ship *Sally*.

Ordered, That John Hastier be and he is hereby permitted to go on board of the ship *Sally*, belonging to Saml. Franklin, and lately seized by Capt. Parker; and further, that the said John Hastier be permitted to go passenger in the said ship to Boston, and take with him for his subsistence, the following stores, to wit: 1 barrel salt provisions, 1 cask of bread, 1 barrel of flour, 1 quarter of fresh beef, a few gallons of rum, and a few pounds of chocolate. And,

Ordered, That Saml. Franklin be permitted to go on board his Majesty's ship *Phoenix* to speak with Capt. Parker relative to the said ship.

An account of Bernard Romans for money claimed by him as due to him from this Congress, was read.

A resolve of Continental Congress was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Congress, February 13th, 1776.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Convention of New-York, to pay Mr. B. Romans up to the 9th day of this month.

Chs. Thomson, Secy.

The consideration thereof is deferred until B. Romans is called in and interrogated as to the reasons of his so long absence from the fortifications at different times. ²

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 321–22.

2. Bernard Romans was engineer for the fortifications built at Martelears Rock, on the Hudson.

AFFIDAVITS OF DAVID COLLINS AND NATHAN CULVER OF THE AMBOY
PASSAGE BOAT *York* ¹

City of New York ss.

David Collins Late Master of the Amboy Passage Boat called the *York*, and Nathan Culver one of the Hands belonging to the said Boat being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God depose & say That they sailed from Amboy aforesaid with the said Boat on Monday Last past [February 19] about Eleven of the Clock in the Forenoon having on board nothing but Passengers bound to this City, That about four of the Clock in the afternoon of the same day as They were nearly entering the Narrows a Gun was fired at them from his Majesty's ship *Phoenix*, Then at Anchor under Long Island Shore a Little below Demesse's reef; That the Deponents still kept on in hopes of getting Clear of the said Ship, But being pursued by one of the Barges which also kept firing at them and the wind being very Light They found it Impossible to Escape, That they then were as near Staten Island shore as it was possible for them to go and the Wind directly on Shore, and the Barge gaining upon them at a great rate and being under the Command of the *Phoenix's* Guns They were obliged to bring too and The Barge's Crew coming on Board carried The said Passage Boat along side of the *Phoenix*, and still have her in Possession, That These Deponents did every thing in their Power to Prevent the said Boat from being taken and should have been happy in Escaping and were not directly or Indirectly concerned in any Steps That occasioned the said Boat being taken and further say not.

David Collins Nathan Culver

Sworn this 24th day of February 1776 Before Me

P. Mathews

And the said David Collins further saith That on being carried on board said Ship of Warr, the *Phoenix*, Captain [Hyde] Parker [Jr.], who commands the said Ship told the Deponent That the only cause of his taking the said Passage Boat was because she had been Employed in taking the Store ship That was Lately carried to Elizabeth Town Point.

David Collins

Sworn this 24th day of Febry 1776 Before Me

P. Matthews ²

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, II, 424–26, NA.

2. Owner of the *York*, Michael Kearny of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, filed an affidavit in Philadelphia on March 9 that "said passage Boat was of the value of three hundred pounds current money of New-York." *Ibid.*

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 24th Feb'y, 1776.

[Resolved] That there be Six 18 pound Gun Carriages made for the use of the Battery at Fort Island,

That Capt. Procter [Thomas Procter] have the use of as many Firelocks as he may have occasion for, and a 6 pound Canon to exercise the Men under his Command, and that Robert Towers be directed to deliver the same.

That Commodore [Andrew] Caldwell & Capt. Procter fix upon proper Signals for the Fleet, Merchantmen & Battery, and that the same be communicated to the Pilots employed in Navigating Vessels through the Chevaux de Frize.

That Capt. Procter procure a Flagg Staff for the Fort, with a Flagg of the United Colonies.

That Robert Towers put up 50 Rounds of Cartridge, with different kinds of Shot, for each of the six 18 pound Canon on the Battery at Fort Island.

That Mr. Owen Biddle & Capt. [Robert] Whyte, order a Smith's Shop and Forge to be erected on Fort Island, and to furnish the same with proper Smith's tools.

Resolved, That Jeremiah Simmons, now a Lieut. on board one of the armed Boats, ² be appointed 1st Lieutenant in Capt. Procter's Company of Artillery.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 494.

2. Lieutenant of the galley *Warren*.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Cruizer*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY ¹

Febr [1776]	Moor'd off the Fort [Johnston, Cape Fear]
Saturday 10th	A M more Modr & fair Came in a Sloop from Jemica and a Ship from Saultitudas with salt and 3 punchons of rum detain'd for not having a Clearance for the Rum — Fresh breezes and Cloudy at 3 P M heard some guns fir'd in offing, at 4 Saw a Man of war and a brig without the bar slipt the small Bower and hove up beast [best bower] and came to sail at 5 anchor'd abreast of Bauld head in 4½ fath
Sunday 11th	At 6 A M weigh'd fir'd a gain [gun], and made the Sigl for all boats, run down as far as the fingers saw the ship & brig getting under way. hauld ower Wind & work'd up again at 8 Anchor'd abreast of Bauld-head in 5 faths Modr and Cloudy wear

- at 1 P M came in his Majesty's Sloop *Falcon*,
at 3 weigh'd and made sail up the harbour at 4 fell
calm came too to stop tide
- Monday 12th at 9 weigh'd & run up abreast the Fort and Anchord in 5
faths Came in a brig seiz'd by *Falcon* with Molasses.
Modr and hazey wear
5 P M Moor'd
- Tuesday 13th at Noon saw a large ship in the New Inlett she hoisted
a St Georges Ensign at her foretopmast head & fir'd a
gun the *Scorpion* Answerd it, sent a boat with a Pilot
out to her. –
- Wednesday 14th Mode and Cloudy wear at 2 A M came in a small
Schooner Seiz'd by the *Syren*, with oyle & Candles at
7 A M unmoor'd and came to sail up the river *Scorpion*
and Packett in Company. Came on board Govr Martin
at Noon Snows Point bore NW $\frac{1}{2}$ W the *Scorpion* got
aground
Light airs and Cloudy wear with rain
at 2 P M past Bru[n]swick at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 Anchor'd at the
flats in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ fath with the small Bour and Moor'd with
the stream anchor the ferry house East.
- Thursday 15th A M. empd filling water Received aboard 4 Qrs of beef
Weit. 370 lb.
Little Winds & fair weather
Empd watering came up the *Lady Wm* Schooner
- Friday 16th A M compleated our Water
Ditto wear
P M Came up and Anchor'd here his Majestys ship
Scorpion.
- Saturday 17th at 7 A M weigh'd and made sail up the river in company
with the *Lady Wm* at a 11 Anchord at the Enteranc[e]
of the NW River.
Fresh gales & squaly with Thunder & lightning,
at 4 More Mode and fair weigh'd and run into the
N W River and tow'd up about 3 miles And anchord
with the stream Anchor, at $\frac{1}{2}$ Ebb found the sloop
aground
- Sunday 18th at 6 she floated weigd and came to sail down the River
At 8 Anchord off the Enterance in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ fath with the
small Bower, the Enterance of the N W River N
- Monday 19th Fresh Gales & rain moord with the Stream Anchor &
Cable this 24 hours fired 5, 3 pounders for Private Sigls

- Tuesday 20th Mode and hazy Wear fired several guns as Private Sigls came up the Sloop *Dispatch* little winds & fair wear at 4 P M unmoord and weigh'd came to sail down the river At 7 Anchord abreast of old Town in 2 faths water, to stop tide.
- Wedness 21st A M foggy with rain at 8 fair wear weighd and came to sail down the river. at 11 Anchor'd below the flats in 2½ fathm water moord with the Stream Anchor & Cable.
Strong gales & squally wear
- Thursday 22d At 9 A M more Mode unmoor'd and hove short on the Stream Cable At 10 weigd Empd working down the River in Company with the *Lady Wm* Schooner. At Noon Negro Island bore S W about 1½ Mile Mode & Cloudy wear with Lightning.
at 3 P M Anchord abreast of Bru[n]swick in 4½ faths water the Church bearing WbN.
- Friday 23d Fresh breezes & Cloudy wear Came down and Anchord here his Maj's Sloop *Scorpion* and *Terriable* Tender
- Saturday 24th At 9 weigh'd and came to sail at 11 the wear being thick was Obliged to Anchor in 5 fathm hole in 3 fathm water, Snows Point NNW South Point of the Inlet EbN struck top Gallt Masts
Strong gales and rain
at 3 weigh'd and came to sail at ½ past 4 anchord abreast the Fort in 5 fathm water. And Moor'd the Fort SWbW the Point of oak Island S½E Sald his Majesty's Sloop *Falcon*.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

2. This journey up the Cape Fear River and venture into its northwest tributary represent the effort of Governor Martin and Captain Parry to effect a junction with the Highlanders and Regulators who were beaten and scattered at Moore's Creek Bridge February 27, 1776. See William Purviance letter of February 23 and 24 to North Carolina Provincial Congress.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[Charleston] Saturday, February 24, 1776.

The report of the Committee on the petition of Capt. [Henry] Aitkin and Mr. Russel [Nathaniel Russell], was taken under consideration; and the same being gone through:

Ordered, That the ship *Port Henderson*, be forthwith discharged, agreeable to the prayer of the petitioners.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 62-64.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Viper*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES¹

Feb'y 1776
Saturday 24

Samberara E S E 4 or 5 Leags
at 8 Saw a sail in the N W Hoisted out a boat and sent
on board & found her to be a brig *Tartar*² belonging to
salem from Georgia bound to Tartala laden with Lum-
ber Detained her and sent her to Antigua Convoy in
Company

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1039.

2. *Tartar*, Benjamin Dean, master, and Joseph White, Niles & Greenwood, owners, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

25 Feb. (Sunday)GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM¹

[Extract]

Copy

Halifax 25th February 1776. —

I thought it my Duty to give you the Earliest Notice, that proper steps might be taken to prevent, if possible a Descent on this Province, from that Quarter [Canada], which unless opposed, they might easily effect, if they [the Americans] are in possession of Quebec, they will thereby, have in their hands a Frigate, a Sloop of War, and the *Gaspee* Brig, and therefore will require a considerable Naval Force to oppose them: I apprehend they will not be able to leave Quebec, till the first of May unless there should be an early Spring, the Navigation of the Gulph is free about a fortnight before the River of Canada is open, and as the places of Descent must be either in the Bay of Verte, Tatamagouch, or Pictou Harbour, a Course of Shore about twenty Leagues. Ships Stationed between St John's Island, and that part of this Country, would effectually prevent it.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Legge was governor of Nova Scotia.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP¹

Feb'y 1776
Sundy 25

Cape Ann N B W 6 or 7 Leags
Light airs & Variable . . . at 4 AM wore at 8 Saw a
Sail gave Chace out 1st & 2d Reef Topsls at 11 Came
up with the Chace a Sloop from Grandterre bound to
Newbury² took her Men out & sent a Petty officer &
Men on board her Light Airs and Variable Spoke with
a Ship Laden with Porter & Coals bound to Boston at
4 P M came too in Nantasket Road with the Best
Bower in 7 fm Water Veered away to a Whole Cable

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

2. Sloop *Unity*, David Lunt, master, Jacob Boardman, owner, with molasses and coffee; sent into Boston, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

LORD STIRLING TO WILLIAM LIVINGSTON ¹

Dear Sir

New York Feby 25: 1776

The enclosed Affidavits were this day Delivered to me, ² by Mr Michael Kearney, who was proprietor of the Boat *York* of Amboy; which was impressed into the Continental Service; and made Use of in taking the Ship *Blue Mountain Vally*; and which Boat it seems is Seized and detained by Capt [Hyde] Parker [Jr.] as a prize, on the pretence of her having been employed on that Service. I have encouraged Mr Kearney to hope that the Congress will not Suffer his private property to be Injured on this Occasion and that his loss will be made up to him out of the proceeds of the Ship & Cargoe. I must beg the favour of you to lay his Case before Congress, and to Obtain their final Answer on this Matter, as soon as possible as his Attendance at philadelphia will tend to increase his damage. I am [&c.]

Stirling.

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, II, 420, NA. William Alexander, better known as Lord Stirling, became colonel of the 1st New Jersey Regiment on November 7, 1775. A staunch patriot, he subsequently played an important role in military operations of the Revolution. Livingston was a New Jersey delegate in the Continental Congress.
2. Affidavits of David Collins and Nathan Culver, February 24, 1776.

CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR., R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL
MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Copy

Sir, On the fifth of this Month Mr [Charles] Lee the Rebel General came into this City, with a large Body of Men said to Amount to Three Thousand, on the Eleventh they removed all the Guns upon the lower Batteries up to what is called the Liberty Pole near the Barracks, this it was impossible for His Majesty's Ships to prevent, the Battery being so situated, that I Should have been Obligated to place one Ship in the North River, which at that time was Absolutely impossible; from there being a Strong Wind at WNWt and a Flood Tide, which effectually prevented our moving out of the East River; besides very large fields of floating Ice that would have Subjected the Ships to the most extreme danger of being carried Adrift. Firing upon the Town was judged by the Governor, General Clinton and myself, too Severe a Measure, being Confident that the Majority of the Citizens, particularly those of Property are faithful to the King; neither was this Act of Violence, an Act of the City's, but of the Rebels who have invaded it, as appears by the Minute of the Committee for removing the Records. I must Sir, beg leave to remark, that I feel myself in a very difficult Situation to know how to Act, Convinced as I am of the Attachment to His Majesty of many Men of great Property in this Town, at the same time knowing that it is Garrisoned by Rebels. And they have even had the Audacity to place Centinels immediately before Me, which I could never Submit to, was I not

persuaded that my firing upon them would involve the City in ruins, which I must confess I cautiously Avoid, being determined if possible to make the Act of committing Hostilities theirs and not Mine, I should hope I am doing right, and that this lenity on my side, may not be Misconstrued, as a want of Zeal in carrying on the King's Service.

We have had a most severe Winter during which it has been with the greatest difficulty we have maintained our Stations, this has not been done without the Ships Sustaining some damage, the *Asia* making Sixteen or Twenty Inches of Water in Twelve Hours, the *Phoenix* does not make Water but her Bottom is a good deal cut with Ice. On the Eleventh we hauled off from the Wharfs to which we had been fast ever since the Twenty Ninth of December. Our fasts to the Shore were watched by the Citizens, to prevent their being Cut by Ill disposed persons, until the Arrival of Lee. We did not haul off without great apprehensions of Ice, but after the taking away the Guns, I thought it prudent to have the Ships in a Situation to Act; Until the thirteenth our Minds were much Agitated for fear of the Ice, having had many large Fields come in upon us, but fortunately of no Substance.

On the Sixteenth Mr Clark the Officer Commanding the Armed Tender came and reported he had seen a great number of Armed Rebels upon the Bluff Point of Staten Island and that he imagined they were Fortifying; Upon this information I thought it my Duty to throw every Obstruction in the way of such an Undertaking; I therefore sailed with His Majesty's Ship under my Command to the Narrows, and Anchored close off the Point of Staten Island, lay there four or five Hours, but could not, either from the Mast Head, or from the Deck, discover any ground to be broke, or that there was any appearance of such an Intention. A great number of Armed Rebels paraded about, but as I could not fire upon them with any certainty, I did not choose to accustom them to Cannon Shot, where there was so little probability of having any good effect,

At the same time I moved down with the *Phoenix*, I ordered Captain Vandeput to move into the North River, and place himself in such a Situation as to prevent the Rebels taking Post, upon either Governor's or Hangman's Island. I am now laying in the *Phoenix* off of the Narrows, where nothing can pass but must come within reach of my Guns, nor can any thing move upon the Heights but must be seen from the Mast Heads. Should any attempt be made to Fortify, I shall endeavour to retard it as much as possible, but cannot flatter myself with a Hope of being able to Stop such Proceedings effectually the Land being above the height of my Tops. In this Situation I also Command the View of the Hook, and can see a great way to Sea; am therefore ready to dispatch the Armed Tender with Pilots to any Ship or Vessel that may be coming in. The *Asia* Commands the most Material passage up to the Town, and I am persuaded the Rebels never will dare to take possession of either of those Islands while she is able to keep her Station, which nothing but Ice can drive her from.

Mr Lee much against the Inclination of the City, has cut off all supplies of Fresh Provisions; in return I have given Orders to Stop every necessary from going to it. It is reported and I have it from good Authority, that Lee means to Fortify the back part of the Town by Intrenchments, and to erect some Batteries upon the Heights to Obstruct the Passage of both Rivers; as yet nothing of that sort is begun, nor do I apprehend any Batteries he can erect will be of any great consequence while we are able to prevent his doing of it at the Two passes where the Ships now lye.

I was much hurt at the Rebels taking the Ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, One of those loaded with Coals, Porter &c for the Troops, but in that case was particularly unfortunate, having the day before she was taken, dispatched a Lieutenant and fifteen Men in a Pilot Boat to the Hook, upon the report of a Ship being off; The Master on that day had stood off to Sea, the Lieutenant therefore returned and reported that there was not any Vessel in sight; The day after the Ship stood in and was taken not without some Suspicions of Treachery on the Master's side. The Sloop that brings you these Dispatches was the Vessel Seized upon as the Owners say for the above purpose, but I thought it a proper step to Seize upon her, leaving it to you to determine how far they can justify such an Act of Piracy.

Governor Tryon's Letter of the 19th of January was of such an Alarming Nature, that I thought it my Duty to guard against the consequences if possible; I therefore Ordered the Cargo to be taken out of the *James* Schooner lately Seized, and Armed the said Schooner (having no small Vessel of the King's upon this Station) to enable her to be so placed as to give me the earliest Intelligence, should the Enemy attempt to Assemble the Vessels mentioned in the Letter; since the Hauling off the Ships from the Wharfs she has been of infinite Service as a Cruizer.

I am Sir, to Acknowledge the Receipt of your Orders by the *Mercury*, she Arrived here the third of this Month and Sailed the Eleventh, I completed her Provisions for three Months, during her stay the three Transports also Arrived and sailed with her.

On the Twentieth arrived the *Harriot* Transport from England bound to the Army with Coals, Porter &c she left England the Ninth of December; I propose as soon as she is refitted, pushing her, the Ship with Salt and the Sloop loaded with Naval Stores, ² on to Rhode Island, in hopes of their getting from thence a Convoy to Boston.

I have received a Letter from the Mayor of New York, dated the Twenty first Acquainting me that His Majesty's Ships are to be supplied as usual with Provisions; in consequence of which I have given orders to allow the Market Boats to pass to the City.

I am just now informed that the Rebels are pushing large Supplies of Flour &c from New York up Long Island Sound, this it is impossible for me to prevent; there is a Battery erected upon Long Island to defend the passage through Hell Gate, Another is began upon the Island of New York at a place called Benson's Bay, which will annoy any Vessels that may be coming hither through the Sound; as it is meant to defend the passage be-

tween Blackwell's Island and New York; It is also said Mr Lee's plan is to Fortify the Wharfs by raising Platforms in the Cellars, where he means to place Guns so as to be upon a height with the level of the River at high Water; but this will never Answer his purpose, as Ships of any size may come within Twenty Yards of the Wharfs.

On the 24th January, Died Mr George Clephan, Purser of His Majesty's Ship *Asia*; I appointed Mr John Saunders to be Acting in the Station until your Appointment shall take place.

In future I find by the Agent's Letter there is little probability of his being Able to Supply His Majesty's Ships with Rum, Pease, Beef or Pork; the first from it's not being allowed to be imported; the latter Articles from the Country People being terrified at the thoughts of being detected bringing them in.

I must Sir, beg leave to request you will be pleased to Order, by the first Man of War or Vessel that may come here, the stores for both Ships, according to the enclosed demands, the *Asia* being distressed for want of them, and the *Phoenix* in great want of many Articles,

We are much distressed for want of small Vessels, I should therefore hope Sir, you would be pleased to dispatch this Vessel to me Again; with such Orders as you may have for me. I have the Honor to be, Sir [&c.]

H. Parker

Phoenix off the Narrows
of Graves End Bay, New York
25th February 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. The ship *Sally*, John Bagley, master, Samuel Franklin, owner, from Alicante for New York with a cargo of salt; probably the unnamed sloop, Murray, master and owner, seized February 6 by the *Asia*, Shuldham's Prize Lists, April 24, and May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Mercury*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU ¹

February 1776
Sunday 25

At a Single Anchor in Hampton Road Virginia
Fresh breezes and Cloudy . . . Fir'd a Gun pr Signal for
a Pilot at 6 P M Fir'd a Gun and made the Signal
for Weighing, at 7 Weigh'd and Came to Sail in Com-
pany with the *Kitty* and *Glasgow Packet* Transports,
and his Majesty's Sloop *Kings fisher* ² at 9 Anchor'd
with the Best Bower, Veer'd $\frac{1}{4}$ of a Cable, Cape Henry
bearing E N E.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

2. *Ibid.*, the *Kingsfisher* parted company with the *Mercury* and her two transports on February 27.

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

Febuary 1776
Sundy 25

Cape Fear E S E about 3 Leags
at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 AM weighd and Came to Sail.
First part Modt. and Hazey middle and latter light Airs
and Hazey

P M working out of Cape Fear Harbr at 3 fird two Six pounders and Brot too the Brigg 2 *Friends*,²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.
2. Brig *Two Friends*, Dougal McGregor, master; McGregor and Robert Campbell, owners, from Philadelphia for Cape Fear, in ballast, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety
[Charleston] Monday [*sic* Sunday], Feb. 25th, 1776.

The Council issued orders for the following payments:

To Capt. [William Henry] Drayton, for the use of the ship <i>Prosper</i> , date 24th.	2000 00 0
To John Dorsius, for 8 pieces of cannon	423 06 8

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 269, 270.

26 Feb.

JOHN LANGDON TO JOSIAH BARTLETT ¹

Col: Bartlett.

Portsmo: Feby: 26. 1776.

Dear Sr Things are pretty much in the same Situation as they were, at my last writing you, – not one word about *independence*, am ready to think he's gone out of Town, and those gentlemen who kept him Company while in Town, seem rather ashamed of them Selves – Inclosed you have a Draught of our harbor, or rather, a sketch, by which you have a Tolerable view of the Channel, and the place where the Ship is built,² – after making what use of it you please, you may present it to my Friend Mr: Wharton,³ by which he may see what a safe Harbour he sends his flower to. – I have got no Draught of the Ship as yet. – but, we are going on with one of our own Drawing, by the Dimentions which I bro't down. pray Bring me down every Necessary from the Committee. do'nt Cramp my Genius, and the ship shall be Launched soon – my kind Regards to all, and Believe me to be with Respect – [&c.]

Jn^o Langdon.

Honl: Josiah Bartlett Esq:

Member of Congress Philadelphia

1. *New-England Historical and Genealogical Register* (Boston, 1876), XXX, 309–10.
2. The Continental frigate building in New Hampshire.
3. Either Thomas or Isaac Wharton, merchants of Philadelphia.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir

Cambridge Feby. 26th 1776

I had the honour of addressing you on the 18 and 21st Instt by Mr [William] Hooper since which nothing material has occurred.

We are making every necessary preparation for taking possession of Dorchester Heights as soon as possible, with a view of drawing the Enemy

out – How far our expectations may be answered, Time can only determine: But I should think, if any thing will Induce them to hazard an engagement, It will be our attempting to fortify these heights, as on that event's taking place, we shall be able to command a great part of the Town, and almost the whole harbour and to make them rather disagreeable than otherwise, provided we can get a sufficient supply of what we greatly want.

Within these three or four days I have received Sundry accounts from Boston of such movements there, such as taking the Mortars from Bunker Hill, the putting them with several pieces of Heavy Ordnance on board of Ship with a quanting of Bedding; the Ships are taking in Water; the baking a large quantity of Biscuit &c, as to Indicate an embarkation of the Troops from thence – A Mr Ides who came out Yesterday says that the Inhabitants of the Town generally believe that they are about to remove either to New York or Virginia, and that every Vessell in the Harbour on Tuesday last was taken up for Government service, and Two Months pay advanced them – Whether they really Intend to embark, or whether the whole is a feint, is impossible for me to tell. However I have thought it expedient to send an express to General Lee to Inform him of it, in order that he may not be taken by Surprize (If their destination should be against New York) and continued him on to you – If they do embark, I think the possessing themselves of that place and of the North River, is the Object they have in view, thereby securing the communication with Canada, and rendering the Intercourse between the Northern & Southern United Colonies exceedingly precarious and difficult. To prevent them from effecting their plan is a matter of the highest Importance, and will require a large & respectable army and the most vigilant & judicious exertions.

Since I wrote by Mr Hooper some small parcells of powder have arrived from Connecticut, which will give us a little assistance.

On Thursday night, a party of our men at Roxbury, made the Enemies Out Sentries consisting of a Corporal and two privates, prisoners without firing a Gun or giving the least Alarm.

I shall be as attentive to the Enemies motions as I can, and Obtain all the Intelligence in my power, and If I find 'em embark, shall in the most expeditious manner detach a part of the light Troops to New York and repair thither myself If circumstances shall require It – I shall be better able to judge what to do when the matter happens, at present I can only say, that I will do every thing that shall appear proper and necessary.

Your Letter of the 12 Instt by Colonel [John] Bull came to hand yesterday evening, and shall agreable to your recommendation pay proper notice to him – the supply of Cash came very seasonably, as our Treasury was just exhausted and nothing can be done here without It. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

P S This was Intended to have been sent by Express, but meeting with a private opportunity, the Express was countermanded.

ADVERTISEMENT OF LIBELS FILED IN THE ADMIRALTY COURT OF SUFFOLK,
MIDDLESEX AND ESSEX COUNTIES, MASSACHUSETTS ¹

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, Essex ss.

At a court erected to try and condemn all vessels that shall be found infesting the sea-coast of America and brought into the counties of Suffolk, Middlesex, or Essex, to be held at Ipswich, in the said county of Essex, on Monday the eighteenth day of March, 1776, at the hour of ten in the forenoon, will be tried the justice of the capture of the following vessels, viz. of a ship called the *Jenny*, burthen about four hundred tons, commanded by William Foster; Of a Ship called the *Concord*, burthen about three hundred tons commanded by James Laurie; and of a schooner called the *Two Sisters*, burthen about eighty tons, commanded by Robert Robbins.²

At the same court to be held at Ipswich aforesaid on Tuesday the nineteenth day of March, 1776, will be tried the justice of the capture of the following vessels, viz. Of a ship called the *Friends*, burthen about two hundred tons, commanded by Archibald Bowie: of a brigantine called the *Sukey*, burthen about ninety tons, commanded by Maddet Eng; ³ of a sloop called the *North Brit[ain]*, burthen about sixty tons, commanded by John Richie; ⁴ of a sloop called the *Sally*, burthen about seventy tons, laden with wine, commanded by Robert Basden, an officer of the *Niger* frigate, the said sloop having been first taken by the said *Niger* frigate from some of the inhabitants of the united colonies.⁵

At the same court to be held at Ipswich aforesaid on Wednesday the twentieth day of March, 1776, will be tried the justice of the capture of the following vessels, viz. Of a brigantine named the *Nancy*, burthen about two hundred and fifty tons, commanded by Robert Hunter; of a certain sloop burthen about eighty tons, commanded by one Smith, and having on board as cargo, turnips and Spanish milled dollars; of a brigantine named the *Little Hannah*, burthen about one hundred and forty tons, commanded by Robert Adams; of a sloop named the *Betsey*, burthen about sixty tons, commanded by one Ackinson.⁶

At the same court to be held at Ipswich aforesaid on Thursday the twenty first day of March, 1776, will be tried the justice of the capture of the following vessels, viz. of a sloop called the *Industry*; burthen about forty tons, commanded by Samuel Lane; of a sloop called the *Success*, burthen about fifty tons, commanded by John Hitch: of a schooner called the *Fisher*, burthen about fifty five tons, commanded by John Moody; and of a snow named the *James*, burthen about one hundred and eighty tons, commanded by William Littledale. — ⁷ All which vessels said to be improved in supplying the fleet and army employed against the united colonies, and taken and brought into the County of Essex aforesaid, together with their cargoes and appurtenances are libelled in the court aforesaid, and trials will be had thereon at the several times above appointed (unless the length of some trials should necessarily prevent the hearing of any causes on the days above assigned; in which case such causes will be tried as soon afterwards as may

be, and the whole in the order before mentioned). Of all which trials this notice is given, pursuant to the laws of the colony aforesaid, that the owners of the aforesaid vessels, or any persons concerned therein, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the same vessels, or any of them, with their cargoes and appurtenances should not be condemned.

Timothy Pickering, jun'r. (Judge of said Court.)

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, Essex ss.

A Ship named *The Henry and Esther*, burthen about 300 tons, & said to be improved in supplying, or otherwise used in the service of the fleet and army employed against the United Colonies, and taken and brought into the county of Essex together with her cargo and appurtenances, is libelled in the court erected to try and condemn all vessels that shall be found infesting the sea coast of America, and brought into the counties of Suffolk, Middlesex, or Essex: and a trial will be held thereon at the said court to be held at Ipswich, in said county of Essex on Thursday the 28th day of March, 1776, at the hour of ten in the forenoon. And this notice is given thereof, pursuant to the laws of the Colony aforesaid, that the owners of said vessel, and any persons concerned therein, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the said vessel and her cargo, and appurtenances, should not be condemned.⁸

Timothy Pickering, jun'r. (Judge of said Court)

1. *Boston Gazette*, February 26, 1776.
2. These three vessels were taken by John Manley, in the schooner *Lee*, in the fall of 1775. See next entry.
3. The *Friends* and *Sukey* were carried into Newburyport on January 15, 1776.
4. The *North Britain* was taken by a boat from Marblehead in November 1775.
5. The *Sally* was recaptured by Winborn Adams, in the schooner *Warren*, on Christmas Day, 1775.
6. These four vessels, including the ordnance brig *Nancy*, were taken by John Manley, in the schooner *Lee*, in December 1775.
7. The captors of the *Industry*, *Success* and *Fisher* have not been determined; the *James* probably was taken by the Massachusetts privateer *Boston Revenge*.
8. The *Henry and Esther* was taken by Captains Samuel Tucker and Daniel Waters in Washington's schooners *Franklin* and *Lee*, on February 1, 1776.

LIBEL AGAINST THE PRIZE SHIP *Concord*¹

Essex County. To Timothy Pickering junr Esqr Judge of the court of justice to take cognizance of & try the justice of any capture or captures of any vessel or vessels that may or shall be taken by any person or persons whomsoever & brought into either of the counties of Suffolk Essex or Middlesex

The Libel & complaint of Jonathan Glover & William Bartlet Esqrs Merchants Agents of the United Colonies to transact the business of the several armed vessels fitted out at the Continents expence, and the said Jonathan Glover as Agent of the Officers & Men belonging to the said armed Vessels against the Ship *Concord* – her Cargo & appurtenances. whereby they give this Court to understand & be informed That on the 2d day of Decr 1775 the ship aforesaid laden with dry goods West India Rum Wine, butter & sea-coal destined for the use of the British army & navy then & now in Bos-

ton, was with her said cargo & appurtenances, taken by the *Lee* schooner an armed vessel fitted out at the Continental charge, & commanded by Capt. John Manly, & brought into Beverly in the Colony of the Massachusetts-Bay –

Wherefore as the premisses are within the Jurisdiction of this honble Court Your complainants pray that such proceedings may be had that said ship Cargo & appurtenances [stated] as aforesaid may be adjudged forfeited & disposed of according to Law

1. Pickering Mss., vol. 5, 30, MassHS. The document is undated but probably precedes by a few days, the advertisement in the *Boston Gazette* of February 26, 1776.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Chatham Boston 26th February 1776.

I acquainted you in my last that on the 27th of January, a few days previous to the departure of Admiral Graves, who Sailed the 2d instant, I took upon me the Command of His Majesty's Squadron in North America, and finding upon enquiry a great Scarcity of Naval, as well as Ordnance Stores at this place, belonging to the King, and few or none of either to be purchased but at the most extravagant Prices, I thought it the first part of my Duty to dispatch a Transport under Convoy of an Armed Vessel to Halifax, to bring a Supply of both kinds of those Stores, on which Service they Sailed from hence the 11th Instant.

On the 13th Instant an Advice Boat belonging to General [William] Howe Arrived here from that Port, and brought me a Letter from Captain [Charles] Hudson of His Majesty's Ship *Orpheus* with the satisfactory Account of his Arrival there, tho' in a very shattered Condition, together with one from Capt [Hugh] Bromedge of the *Savage* Sloop (Copies of both which accompany this) and the latter informing me of the Seizure of Two Vessels laden with Naval Stores, which tho' perhaps legally cleared out in England, were certainly designed to Supply the Rebellious Inhabitants of the American Colonies, as the Owners and Claimants of both of them are reported here to be notorious and principal inflamers of the present unhappy Rebellion, as a confirmation of which I transmit to you, Sir, herewith a Copy of a Letter to me from General Howe on that Subject, and shall be glad to receive through You His Majesty's or their Lordships pleasure, with regard to these two Vessels, as well as to Thirty Six More, Seized and detained by Vice Admiral Graves's Orders and now lying in this Harbour under similar Circumstances, Application having been made to me lately, by the Agents, for my direction relating to them, Copy of whose Letter I send you herewith.

In a former Letter I took the liberty of recommending to their Lordships through You, that all Supplies to this Country might be sent in Armed Vessels, I mean such as our old Forty Gun Ships with only their upper Tier of Guns, for however Numerous our Cruizers may be, or however attentive our Officers to their Duty, it has been found impossible to prevent some of our Ordnance and other valuable Stores in small Vessels falling into the hands of the Rebels; and here I must take occasion to say that in the Course

of my Service I never found Officers perform their Duty with so much perseverance and Vigilance as Ours, on this important Service, indeed, the firmness with which they have resisted the rigour of this long and Severe Winter, in constantly keeping the Sea on their respective Stations, is unprecedented and incredible; at the same time I must beg leave to observe to you the very few Ships I am provided with to enable Me to Co-operate with the Army, Cruize off the Ports of the Rebels to prevent their receiving Supplies, or protect those destined to this place from falling into their hands, and as it must be the first and principal object of my Consideration I have not been able yet to comply with their Lordship's Order of the 10th October for sending a Vessel to Bermuda for the safety and defence of the Ordnance Stores belonging to His Majesty at that Island, but intend sending the *Nautilus* Sloop on that Service immediately on her Arrival from her Cruize. I am, Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Stephens was secretary of the British Admiralty.

WILLIAM WATSON TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL¹

Dear Sir

Plymouth 26 Feby 1776

I this evening recd yours of yesterday am much obligd for the matters of news you favour me with, I, with you, have a most despicable opinion of the N Yorkers, and cant at the same time feel any degree of commiseration for the more than most despicable Tories & Refugees at Boston – I cod wish that the scene of warr might be continued in these parts, where we are prepared for it, but, if it must be transfered to the southern Colonys, I doubt not, we shall vanquish our enemies, even there. – I shall deliver Major Soper the wine, & fish which you purchased last fall & will assist him in getting them transported to Cohasset. – I cant at present give you an answer relative to the Molass[es], as our Committee must be consulted, & as your young man goes out early tomorrow, I shall not be able to lay this matter before them & get an answer from them in season, howeve[r,] I doubt not, I can purchase it for you on good terms, but then you must risque it to [Coh]-asset

The 20 Tonns of petetoes wont be sold till after they are condemnd in the Admiralty, they will be sold at Vendue, and I will purchase them for you on the best terms I can, & I dont doubt on good terms, they must not be removed at present from the ships hold, by reason of the frost. – The 4: or 500 Quintals Fish offered you by Mr Lothr[op] are the same I proposed to you in my last, I can not at present answer you fully respecting them but if they are not engagd I will purchase them and will acquaint you with my proceedings very soon. –

Colo [James] Warren desires me to present his Compts to you & to tell you that he is very sick, & confined to his Chamber, he also desires you to acquaint His Excy General Washington with his indisposition. – the Colo is really sick, I am not a little anxious for him, th'o I cant help hoping that it is nothing more than a great cold such men can very illy be spared at such a day as this. – We had last fryday a very fair prospect from my parlour, of a

Sea Battle between the *Harrison*, the *Yankee* & Dawson the latter after 3 hours engageme[nt] was obligd to sheer off upon the [illegible], and was seen stopping the shott holes when he bore away, Capt [Corban] Barnes of the *Yankee* deserves the thanks of the public, who rescued the *Harrison* from destruction, which must have been the case, had not Barnes gone to his assistance² – I am Sir [&c.]

W^m Watson

1. Joseph Trumbull Papers, ConnHS. Trumbull was Commissary General, Continental Army.
2. This engagement, with the American vessels identified as only a sloop and a schooner, is described in the *Hope's* log for February 23, 1776. The *Hope's* commander was Lieutenant George Dawson, R.N. The sloop *Yankee*, was of 75 tons burden, and mounted 9 guns. The *Harrison* was Washington's schooner, commanded by Captain Charles Dyar.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL
FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND¹

[Providence] Feby 26. 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment –

Voted. That Forty eight Pieces of English Duck be purchased of Mr A. Lopez at the following prices 29 of No 1 a £6 – 5 of No 2 £5..17/, 9 of No 3. £5..14/. 5 of No 5. £5..8/

Voted. That the Sum of Two Hundred sixty two pounds six shillings & four pence three farthings, be paid Messrs Brown & Power out of the Committee's Treasury.

Voted. That the Sum of Five Hundred Forty four pounds seven shillings & five pence three farthings be paid Nicholas Brown out of the Committee's Treasury. –

Voted. That Joseph Nightingale be appointed to agree for a Vessel to go to New Haven to bring a Load of Provisions on the best Terms he can

Reckoning 20/

Meeting adjourned to Wednesday Evening

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

MAJOR ADAM COMSTOCK TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE¹

To the Honorable Nicholas Cook Esquire, Govourner Capt General, and Commander in Cheaf, in and over the English Colony of RhodIsland, and Providence Plantation in New England &c –

Sir I hereby acquaint your Honr That about the 15th Inst. hearing a Fireing of Cannon down the Bay, went instantly into N. Kingstown opiset where the Ships then lay, found the well disposed Inhabitance very uneasy, Thinking their Scituation very danjerous. Several respectable Persons there recommended that a Beacon be erected on an eminence in sd North Kings-town, to Alarm the Country ajacent, should the Enemy Attempt to Land. I gave orders to a Company of Soldiers there posted, and a Beacon was on the 16th erected – But in the Night following some evil Minded Person or Persons, willing to defeat the salutary purposes for which said Beacon was erected, set fire to the same, and it was consumed: Jabez Reynolds, Frances

Tanner and Benjamin Tanner all of sd N Kingstown, being suspected of having fired the Beacon. I on the 20th took up, and examin'd the Suspected Persons when it appear'd that all said Persons were very avercè to the present Opposition, (and I beleive Grand Tories) and by Many Cir[cum]stances the Likeliest Men to have Burnt said Beacon that I know of – But Promising on their parole to Hold themselves in Radiness to Appear before your Honour on the first notice given them for that Purpose, and to be of Good behaviour in the mean Time Purmitted them to return to their respective Homes –

I Likewise acquaint your Honour. That on Sunday evening last I was informed that Coll George Wightman had got on board Capt [James] Wallace, went that Night into North Kingstown where examining into said affair found even by the voluntary confession of some of his Family, that he (said Wightman) with one of his Sons and [one] John[] got on Board sd Wallace Last saturday Night – This [day] finding a samll freighting Sloop the Property of Said Wig[htm]an Lying in the mouth of that call'd Thomas All[e]ns Cove in sd N Kingstown, Tho't it my duty. And I took her into possession and sent her into the Harbour of E Greenwich where she now lyes –

I Hope my conduct herein will meet your Honours Approbation, and that of the General Assembly – I am with unfeigned respect [&c.]

Adam Comstock

North Kingtowns Feb 26. 1776 –

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776–1781, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Lunae, 10 HO. A.M.

Feb. 26th, 1776.

John Voorhis, of Brunswick, who attended the Congress at their request to be examined, says: that on Friday morning the 23rd inst. he was coming to New-York with his sloop *Brunswick*, laded with bread and flour, and 5 firkins of Butter; that he was brought to by Capt. [George] Vandeput in the ship *Asia*, who demanded of him what his cargo consisted of. That Capt. Vandeput ordered the hatches of the sloop to be opened, and took out 42 tierces of bread, 5 firkins of butter and 30 barrels of flour, for the payment whereof, he gave this examinant an order on Abm. Lott, Esqr. and then put 14 or 15 men on board the sloop and brought her along side of the ship *Dutches of Gordon*; that he was there ordered by Govr. Tryon to get his tackles ready; that Govr. Tryon directed all the flour to be taken out of the sloop and put on board of the *Dutches*; that 149 barrels were taken out of the sloop by Govr. Tryon's order and put on board of the *Dutches*; that 2 barrels of the finest flour was set by for the ship's use, and the rest stowed in the hold; that Govr. Tryon asked for his account; that he, this examinant asked 19s. per hundred for his flour, as he had been informed that was the market price; that Govr. Tryon would pay him only 18s. per hundred, and

offered to pay him that price or permit him to go to New-York and get a certificate that the price was higher; that Govr. Tryon paid him for only 147 barrels of flour, though he kept an account of the weights and numbers, and is very confident that 149 barrels were put on board; that Capt. Vandeput's barge stopped the vessel of Thompson from Brunswick; that they detained him some time and then sent him back again; that Capt. Vandeput told him, seemingly in a low voice and when he was alone, that he might inform his countrymen that if they sent up provisions fit for shipping he would stop it, but he would not stop loose or unpacked provisions, such as butter, eggs, or pork in quarters for the use of the city, but that he could not let any thing pass which was in barrels; that he, the examinant saw a considerable quantity of beef and mutton in quarters, and pieces hanging between decks in the ship *Asia*.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 322, 323.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, February 26, 1776

A representation from the committee of inspection and observation of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, relative to vessels loading with produce for Great Britain, Ireland, and the British West Indies, was presented to Congress, and read: Whereupon,

Resolved, That no vessel loaded for Great Britain, Ireland, or the British West Indies, be permitted to sail until the further order of Congress; and that it be recommended to the different committees of inspection and observation, to see that this resolution be carried into execution.

Ordered, That the above resolve be published.²

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to examine and report the number and circumstances of the permits, and the destination of the vessels, to which such permits have been granted, for exporting the produce of the colonies, in consequence of the importation of ammunition and warlike stores; and that the representation of the committee of inspection and observation for the city and liberties of Philadelphia, on this subject, be referred to the said committee.

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Duane, Mr. [Samuel] Chase, Mr. [James] Wilson, Mr. [William] Livingston, and Mr. [George] Wythe.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 172-73.

2. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, February 28, 1776.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH¹

[Philadelphia] Monday 26 Feb. the Votes read, and a Letter from Gen [Charles] Lee informg that he will set out for Canada in a few Days. . . An Order passed after long Debate that all the Shipping in the United Colonies now bound to G Britain, Ireland or the British West Indies in Virtue or under Color of a former Resolve allowing Produce to be exported for import-

ing Military Stores, shall be immedy stopped till further Order & this resolution to be published, and the further Consideration of that Subject & whether the Custom Houses shall be shut up was referred to a Comee of 5 –

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

JOSIAH BARTLETT TO MESHECH WEARE ¹

Sir

Philadelphia, Feby 26th, 1776.

The Enclosed order of Congress of the 23d inst ² I am Directed to transmit to our Colony, and I make no doubt (if they have not already) they will speedily comply with the Recommendations.

The necessity of arms & ammunion for our Defence and the Danger of a Disappointment, shows the necessity of using our utmost efforts to be supplied as much as may be within ourselves. And tho' I can with pleasure inform you that large Quantities of Powder and salt petre have arrived here, and more is Dayly expected, yet as we have reason to believe that as soon as the spring opens, our harbors will be much infested with the British cruisers, who have orders to seize all American vessels, and as large Quantities of military stores will be wanted for sea, as well as land service, I humbly conceive it will be prudent to endeavour to supply ourselves with the necessaries of life & Defense within ourselves and leave as little to the uncertainty of winds, weather & Enemies as possible, at least for the present.

You will please, sir, to see that the several orders of our Convention or assembly for manufacturing arms, gunpowder & saltpetre be transmitted to me, and an account of what has been done in consequence of such orders, as it is necessary the Congress should know as soon as may be, the true state of all the Colonies with regard to their supplying themselves with these necessary articles; And when our Assembly meets, you will please to lay these resolves before them, and, in the mean time, communicate them to the Council, or Committee of Safety, or whoever they have left to transact Business in their Recess. I am [&c.]

Josiah Bartlett.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 75, 76.

2. Resolutions recommending that each colony promote manufacture of saltpetre and erection of powder mills.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 26th Feb'y, 1776.

Resolved, That Mr. [John] Nixon & Mr. [Robert] Whyte employ as many Ship Carpenters as they may think proper, to work on board the Provincial Ship now building by Simon Sherlock, in order that the building of her may be forwarded in the most expeditious manner.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 495.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1776

Philadelphia, February 23, 1776. For CORK, The Ship *CHANCE*, Will sail the sixth of March.

She is an exceeding fast sailer, but two years old, and has excellent accommodations for passengers. For passage apply to Joseph Carson, in Market Street.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee 26 Feby 1776 –

Capt William McNeil of the Sloop *Ranger* having applied for Liberty to depart with said Vessel now loaded with Provisions for New England agreeable to a Permission for that Purpose lately granted; And it appearing that the said Capt McNeil hath violated an Engagement entered into before this Committee the 18th day of Decemr to export Fifteen Hhds Molasses imported by him in said Vessel from Turks Island reported to be the Growth of a British West India Island

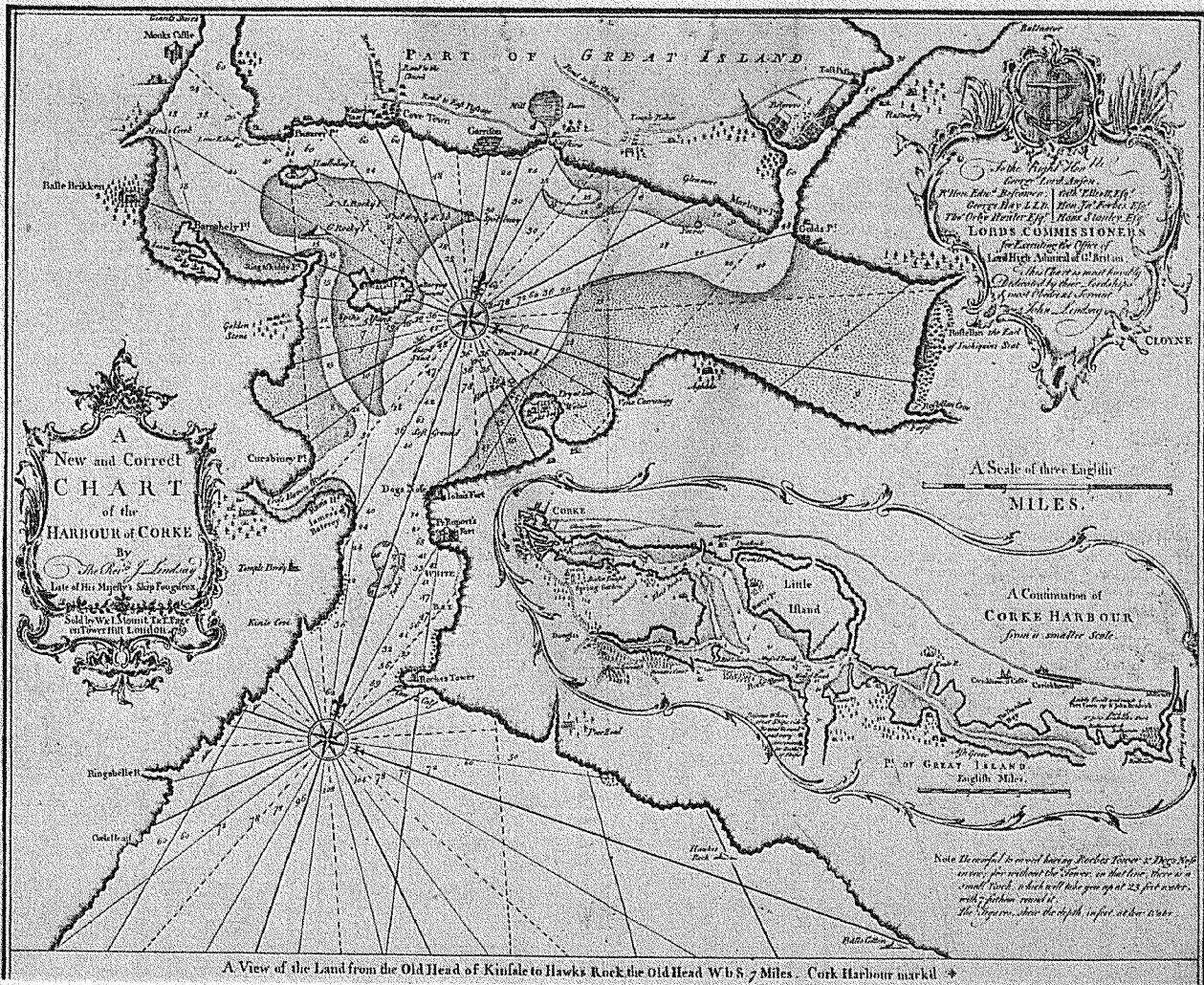
It is hereupon Resolved, That the said Capt McNeil hath behaved very unworthily, and forfeited the Permission granted for loading said Vessel; But it appearing to the Committee, that the Cargo shipped in said Vessel is the Property of Persons unconcerned in Captain McNeils Misconduct, It is agreed, that in case of his engaging to give the Command of said Vessel to a Master approved of by this Committee, the said Vessel shall be permitted to depart with her Cargo on the express Condition that Capt McNeil shall not go in her –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO BENJAMIN TITCOMB AND ENOCH ILSLEY, FALMOUTH, MAINE ¹

[Baltimore] 26 Feby 1776

We refer you to our Sundrey favours that we wrote Mr Titcomb. we now Inclose you Sales of oil p Harding ² Invoice of flour by Him & your Acct Courent by Which you will See you fall a little in our Debt. which ballance we have Carried to the Debit of Mr Titcomb, as he and us has on[e] Acct unsettled. Captn Hardin was Clear the 24th and Sailed the 25th and we hope will get Safe to you. he would not have been here more than two days, if the Ice had not prevented his getting up, and his running on shore to Escape the Tender that Espied him Obliged him to hieve down which also delayed him. the Vessel being so small, you will see we ware obliged to put in half barrels of flour & Kegs of Bread: to make Storage. Else She would have Carried very little which we hope will please. the half Barrels make it Come higher. however we hope its as low as any Cargo that was purchased at the time it was, tho we know if we had been ten days longer in the purchase, it would have been trifle less, but as



thers little Dependance in the weather on the Breaking up of the frost, we ware fearfull least the Roads would get bad and of Course none would Come in; the Certificate you Sent would Bearly do. if you send a vessell here again, Get your Certificate, Signd by several noted members of your Commatt[e]e, and your town Seal to it and let mention of that the manor men that sends the Vessell, and also the Captn are friends to amarica and may be intrusted to Load &c Such Vessell; we got your vessell Loaded at the present without Stoppage but you may Depend our Committee will be very Exact hereafter You must Send us a Certificate of the Discharge of the Cargo with you Signd by Several members of your Commattee. if the vessell arives or in Case of Loss, Captn and sailors protest, as the Security we give to that purpose flour /11/6 a 12/6 [Ex] 70.³

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Captain Jessé Harding of the schooner *Jenny*, who arrived from Falmouth February 19; see Minutes of the Baltimore Committee, that date.

3. See Titcomb's letter, November 5, 1775, Volume 2, 890.

MEMORIAL OF SEPTIMUS NOEL TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

The Memorial of Septimus Noel

Sheweth

That Your Memorialist hath a compleat Frame and Plank, which hath been Seasoned about 20 Months sufficient to build a Boat of 35 feet Keel, with 14 or 15 feet Beam calculated to Sail exceeding fast, and to mount 6 Carriage Guns, and as many Swivels, and can be finished in 6 or 7 Weeks from this time by good Workmen, under the direction of Mr John Pearce Master Builder, fit to Cruize in the Bay and will be a Match for any of Lord Dunmores Tenders except one, which Your Memorialist by the Advice of several Gentlemen of Baltimore County humbly offers to Your Honors for the Public Service, And that he will keep an Exact Account of all Expences which shall attend the Building and finishing said Vessel and requests only of Your Honors approv[al] of his Proposal a reasonable Satisfaction for his Trouble, Your Memorialist is [&c.]

Sept^s Noel.

Balto Town Feby 26 1776

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

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Monday, 26th February, 1776.

A Letter written to Colo. [Robert] Howe, informing him of the sailing of the *mercury King fisher* some Tenders and transports wth Gen'l Clinton and the Troops who designed as the young officers say to call at Cape Fear on a visit to Gov'r Martin, and then to proceed to South Carolina . . . Colo. [Edward] Stevens was also informed by L're.

Instructions given to Capt. Geo. Goosley of the Brig *Liberty's* $\frac{3}{4}$ belonging to the public and $\frac{1}{4}$ to Mr. Wm. Ronald of York Town, as follows:

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 97, 98.

You, &c., (vide copy filed), also a Bond for performance thereof, &c., ackn'd and ord. to be entered.

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

February 1776

Moored in Elizabeth River, Virginia

Monday 26th

Gave Captain [Matthew] Squire ² an Order to proceed up the Cheseapeak and annoy the Enemy there by every means in his power:

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. H. M. Sloop *Otter*.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW,
H.M.S. *Liverpool* ¹

Sir

Roebuck off Norfolk in Virginia 26 Feby [17]76

As I think it necessary to send the *Otter* imediately to Sea on a Short Cruize, it is my desire that the *Liverpool* should be placed so as to give protection to the Mill point, until I can send another Ship to relieve her, which I hope may be in my power to do in about a week: This Arrangement will give you an opportunity of Baking your flour into bread, and getting your Ship in all other respects ready for the Sea, which as Soon as you have completed you will be so good as to inform me. I am &ca

A S Hamond

1. Hamond Letter Book, 1771-1777, UVL.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE,
H.M.S. *Otter* ¹

Having received intelligence that there are two Arm'd Vessels belonging to the Rebels which lately escorted some others Laden with Flour down the Chesepeak bay, and are now supposed to be laying off Baltimore.² You are therefore hereby required and directed to use all possible dispatch in getting his Majesty's Ship under your command ready for the Sea, to take with you the *Liverpools* Tender, which is now Cruizing about the Capes, and proceed imediately up the Bay to Baltimore in search of the abovementioned Pirates, to pursue them wherever you may get intelligence of them, and to use every means in your power to take or destroy them.

When you arrive off Baltimore and should not be fortunate enough to meet with the Rebel Privateers, you are to endeavour to cut out of the harbour any vessels you may suspect to be Laden with any kind of Provisions or that have the appearance of being proper for Arming; and in case you should be obstructed in so doing, by the Town of Baltimore, you are imediately to fire upon the Town, and do your utmost to destroy it. And whereas it is expected that the Rebels have erected a Battery on a point which commands the Mouth of the River leading to Baltimore; should that prove to be so, and appear to be such that, it cannot possibly be destroyed with your force, you will in that case content your self with taking an exact Survey of it, rather than expose his Majesty's Arms to an insult:

And whereas his Majesty's Ships on this station are in great want of Provisions, particularly fresh Meat; When the above service shall have been effected, you will consult with Mr Goodridge [Bridger Goodrich] (who is to accompany you with an Armed Sloop) and use your best endeavours to procure a quantity of live Stock; And wherever you find the inhabitants disposed to Supply you, you are to pay them ready money for every thing you take from them; But if they refuse to do so you are to take it by force of Arms.

You are to annoy the Rebels by every means in your power, and to Seize and detain all American Vessels you may meet with, as well as those of any other Country that may be Trading with the Americans, and send them to me for examination.

Upon your return you are to call at Annapolis, and deliver the enclosed Packet to Governor [Robert] Eden –

It is expected that you perform these services with as much expedition as possible, and by no means to be absent longer than 14 Days if it can be avoided when you are to join me in Hampton Road.

Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck*
off Norfolk in Virginia the 26th Feby 1776

A.S.Hamond

1. Hamond Papers, Orders issued, UVL.

2. The Continental sloop *Hornet* and schooner *Wasp*, which did not return to Baltimore, but joined Hopkins' fleet off the Delaware.

“EXTRACT OF A PRIVATE LETTER, DATED SHIP *William*, NORFOLK HARBOUR, VIRGINIA, FEB. 26, 1776.”¹

There are now here the *Roebuck*, *Liverpool*, *Dunmore*, *King's Fisher*, and the *Otter* ships of war; and the Rebels are in the neighbourhood, raising several new regiments.

General Clinton, with *Mercury* frigate, and two transports, with 150 Soldiers, are now here, on their way to Cape Fear, to join Governor Martin, who is at the head of 3000 Highlanders and Regulars in Government service.

1. *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, London, (Postscript), April 15 to April 17, 1776.

HENRY LAURENS TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON¹

Sir – We desire you will order six, or more if needful, of the men from on board the *Prosper*, to attend Capt. [Edward] Blake, or Mr. [Paul] Pritchard; ship carpenter, and to follow their orders, in weighing the bottom of an old vessel for stopping Marsh channel.

By order of the Council of Safety.
[Charleston] 26th February, 1776.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Hon. W. H. Drayton, esq., Commander of the ship *Prosper*.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 270.

HENRY LAURENS TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON ¹

Sir – As you intimated that you could conveniently assist the smaller armed vessels with forty good men from on board the ship *Prosper*; and as we judge it to be very necessary for the public service immediately to equip these vessels for cruizing on the coast, we desire you will order thirty such men on board the brigantine *Comet*, to obey the orders of Capt. [Joseph] Turpin and his officers; and ten men on board the sloop *Defence*, to obey the orders of Capt [Simon] Tufts and his officers.

By order of the Council of Safety
[Charleston] 26th Feb., 1776.

Henry Laurens, President.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 270, 271.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

Feb'y '76	Moor'd in Savanah River, Georgia. —
Sunday 25th	at 11 AM the 2 Transports ² weigh'd & went up the River; Capt'n Barkley in the <i>Hinchenbrook</i> Schooner went up the River
Monday 26th	AM sent two Lieutenants, 23 seamen & 18 Marines on board of a Schooner, a Sloop & a Pilot Boat; at 11 they went up the River, lost out of a Sloop which was sent to water the Ship, 2 Barge Oars. —

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. The *Symmetry* and *Whitby* transports.

JOURNAL OF H.M. Sloop *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH ¹

February 1776	River Savanah Georgia
[Sunday] 25	AM the <i>Cherokee</i> and two transports got under weigh and proceeded up the river towards Town. Loosed Sails to dry, Longboat watering Light Airs & Vble Carpenters Employ'd as before
[Monday] 26	AM the <i>Scarbourough</i> made a Signal for all Captains Do Sent from the Ship Lieut. Peyton, a Petty Officer, 26 Seamen, a Corporal & 12 private Marines first & middle pt light Airs & Cloudy with some rain latter fresh breezes with rain, the Carpenters finishd the Starboard Side. Righted Ship.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

MAJOR ALEXANDER DICKSON TO GOVERNOR PETER CHESTER ¹

[Extract]

Sir, I think it proper to represent to your Excellency in Council that the present State of the Colonies in open Rebellion and their late Attack on Canada makes it a probable Conjecture that some attempt may be made on this Colony not only to gain over all the Southern Indians to their Interest

to effect which it will no doubt be thought Necessary to prevent any Person in this Colony Supplying them with Amunition and Goods the only place they can now with Safety be sent from – Besides there are other Capital Reasons that might be Assigned was it Necessary – I am of Opinion the small Number of Troops in this Province ought to be kept together in a Body either at this Place and the Harbours Mouth or at Mobile –

I humbly Submit to your Excellency in Council Whether it be more for the Benefit of His Majesty's Service That the Fort at Mobile be Repaired and put into a proper State of Defence and Troops sent there with Guns, Amunition &c to oppose any Attack from the Northern Colonies or Whether the Detachment at Mobile be Withdrawn –

Pensacola Alexander Dickson Major & Commanding
February 26th 1776 The Troops in West Florida

To His Excellency Peter Chester Esqr
Captain General Governor and Commander in Chief
of his Majesty's Province of West Florida.²

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/631.

2. *Ibid.*, Dickson's letter was presented to the Council on February 27, 1776, but no action was taken upon it.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ST. EUSTATIA, DATED FEB. 26, 1776.”¹

It is reported in town this day, that an American merchant was obliged to leave Dominica a few days ago, upon a person deposing that the American had bore arms against his Majesty, and the government have seized on his effects. It is likewise said that all the monies lying in the hands of the merchants in the English islands, belonging to America, will be taken hold of by proclamation.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, March 28, 1776.

27 Feb.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir, Chatham Boston 27th February 1776. –

A few days ago I applied to General [William] Howe, signifying my Opinion that the great Supplies of Provisions and Refreshments sent out by Government to this Country were intended for the use of His Majesty's Fleet and Army agreeable to your Letter to Vice Admiral Graves of the 26th of September last on that subject,² and herewith I think it my Duty to transmit to you, the Friendly but Official Letters which passed between the General and Me relating to those Supplies, that Their Lordships may be undeceived in any supposition they may entertain of His Majesty's Fleet having received any greater Share of His Royal Bounty in that great and Extensive Donation, than the Quantity of about Fifty Butts of Porter. I am, Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. See Volume 2, 735–36.

JOHN COTTON TO BARNABAS DEANE ¹

Sir

Middletown 27th feby 1776 -

I Recd yours, and have Nothing perticular to Ansr the Ways are So bad there is No Carting therefore we are obliged to Wait till they are More Setled as the principle timber is 4 or 5 Miles from the Yard therefore are Obliged to Keep the Carpenters off till we Can gett in Some perticular Sticks Which I hope will be soon as they that have teams Wait Only for the ways to Gett Setled, I have Employed four pr Sawyers in Sawing Plank, Yesterday we Made a begining in the Yard to fix a Birth for the Ship to Stand in ² butt the rain putt Us off[f]. Our people has Done Cuting the Timber if you have any Covenant Oppertunity I Would be Glad you Send Me Down Some Money as the Timber and Work has Near taken all you Gave Me, this Day we Expect Mr Ames and Others in Order to take off[f] the Draught and Consult about all Matters Relating of which you Will be informed by Sr Yrs

John Cotton

To Mr. Barnabas Deane Mercht in Wethersfield

1. Barnabas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

2. The Continental frigate being built in Connecticut.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract] Albany. Feby 27th: 1776.

I shall not be able to leave this until all the Troops destined for Canada are pass'd and until all the Batteaus are built at Fort George, and every Thing got into such a Train, as that General Lee's intended Military Operations in Canada may not be retarded, nor the Army suffer for want of provisions.

There is scarcely pork sufficient to be got on the East Side of Hudsons River to supply the small Quantities intended to be stored near that River - What is gone to Canada and remains at the posts above, will serve the Army but a very short Time; and no Supplies of the Meat Kind can be had even with hard Cash in Canada - from the Beginning of April until the Middle or latter End of September; hence a very considerable Quantity of provisions will be wanted - I shall therefore order the Commissary General to send for 1000 Barrels of pork to New Jersey: but being apprehensive that the Men of War will not suffer any Vessels to pass, I have directed that it should be sent by Water to Hackinsack, from whence I believe the Traverse to Hudsons River is short and Sloops may be sent down to transport it to this place, but as this will be far from being a Sufficiency, I propose if agreeable to Congress, and that they judge fresh Meat cheaper than Salt pork which is very doubtful with me on account of the Numbers lost in driving, extra Waste in issuing &c that a Supply of Cattle should be sent to Onion River to be from thence conveyed in our Vessels and Row Gallies to St Johns but not to be put on Board at Onion River until there is a fair Wind lest they should suffer in the passage. - I do not mean that the Cattle should

be sent before there is Grass sufficient for their Subsistance on the Road and Sedge or some Thing to be got to feed them during the passage.

Since writing the above I have considered that as Hudsons River is not yet open, the Delay of laying the Matter about the pork before Congress for their Determination cannot be attended with any evil Consequences and they may probably adopt a better Mode, if not they can give Orders to some person in Jersey to purchase the pork, and send it as above – Mr Peter Zabriskie of Hackinsack a real Friend to our Cause might be employed to see it transported to Hudsons River.

. . . If the Lakes should open before I can hear from Congress, I will venture to raise a Company of one hundred [batteaumen] for I forsee that great Quantities of provisions must be sent into Canada. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 27–30; NA.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New York] Die Martis, 10 HO. A.M.

February 27th, 1776.

Mr. [Comfort] Sands informed Congress that Mr. John Murray had a sloop with pig metal seized by Capt. Vandeput, and requests permission to go on board of the *Dutches of Gordon* and the ship *Asia*, to endeavour to regain his property.²

Ordered, That Mr. John Murray be permitted to go on board of the *Dutches of Gordon* and His Majesty's ship *Asia*.

To Mr. Elias Nixen, Port-Master.

Mr. Nichols. Low requests a permit to ship flaxseed and lumber on board of the ship *Polly*, Capt. Thos. Kennedy, master, to be exported to Cork, in Ireland, in return for stores imported.

Ordered, That Mr. Low be permitted to load flaxseed and lumber on board of the ship *Polly*, Capt. Thos. Kennedy master, to the amount of £896 0s 9d.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 326.

2. The sloop, unnamed, was bound from New Jersey to the Hudson River above New York, and was seized February 6, 1776, by the *Asia*. Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, February 27, 1776

The committee, to whom the letters from Christopher Leffingwell and others, concerning the brig *Nancy*, commanded by Thomas Davis, and her cargo, were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That the case of the said brigantine and cargo, pertaineth to the judicature established in the colony of Connecticut for hearing and determining matters of the same kind.²

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention of New Jersey, to have the cargo of the transport *Blue Mountain Valley* landed, and secured in some safe place, till further orders of Congress.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 173-75.

2. See Journal of the Continental Congress, February 23, 1776, and footnote.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday 27 [February]. A Motion by E. Rutledge to countermand Gen Lee's Journey to Canada & send Him to command the Southern Colonies was discussed & postponed till Tomorrow. - An Order passed requestg the Jersey Convention to secure the ship and Cargo at Elizabeth Town ² till further Direction - Rob. Morris produced Letters just recd from Bristol with a Copy of the Ministerial Bill for seizing all American Ships which were read, One letter says their American Army will be about 25000 Strong, Part of it to be directed agt the Southern Colonies Part agt N. York, that the Whigs are under the Marquis of Rockingham and will desert Us if We aim at Independency, otherwise not, that Commissioners are certainly coming out to treat . . . the Bill is very long & cruel -

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

2. The ship *Blue Mountain Valley*.

COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE BALTIMORE
COMMITTEE ¹

Gentlemen:

Philada Feby 27th 1776

We take the earliest Opportunity to send You the enclosed Resolution of Congress,² & to request your immediate Attention thereto, & that You will inform Us of the Number & Circumstances of the Permits which have been granted & the Destination of the Vessells for Exporting the produce of the Colonies in Consequence of the Importation of Ammunition & warlike Stores. We are appointed to make Inquiry into this Subject. We are Gent [&c.]

[James] Duane

[William] Livingston

[Samuel] Chase

[George] Wythe

[James] Wilson

P S. a Schooner arrived in the River last Night from Hispaniola, with Arms & powder - Qty unknown.

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.

2. Resolve of Monday, February 26, 1776; see Journal of the Continental Congress.

ROBERT ALEXANDER TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Phila 27 Feby 1776.

. . . I called on Mr [Robert] Morris to know the quantity of Arms & powder imported by him for the province, he was from home, his Clerk inform[ed] me about 400 stand of arms & 3500 lbs of Cannon powder, I have directed a Gent of Maryland now in this city to receive them & to forward them by the stages to Elk from thence to send them in a Boat to Back River

in Balt. City, with orders for the skipper of the boat to proceed to Balt Town & there take directions, in what manner to land them. I have taken this precaution to avoid all danger for should any Tender or armed vessel be cruising in Patapsco River, the boat can proceed to the head of Back River & land the arms & powder within five miles of the town — if no vessel of the Enemy, she can run round without any great expence incurred by the delay — last night a ship arrived here from Bristol which she left the 17th of Decr she cleared out for Cork to avoid suspission, notwithstanding which, she was strictly searched & a letter being discovered, directed to a Mercht in Philadelphia, the ship was detained but the letter being merely on private business the Capt on his petition, was discharged & permitted to sail some News-papers & private letters are brought in they were stowed away by a messenger in the bottom of a Barrel of bread, which being placed in a careless manner, as if for the ships use, it escaped the search, one of the letters was directed to Willing & Morris,² without any signature— it contained a printed copy of my Lord North's conciliatory act by which all American vessels found on the Coast of Great Britain or Ireland are to be seized & confiscated on the first day of January— all American Vessels sailing into or out off the ports of America after the first of March are to be seized & confiscated, all foreign vessels trading to America after the first of June to be seized all Communication between Great Britain or Ireland or the British West Indies with America to be cut off[] all captures made by British Ships of War or by the Officers of the Kings troops in America adjudged by this act to be lawful prizes and as such Courts of admiralty to proceed in their condemnation all orders, for the regulation of Courts of Admiralty in America, heretofore made by the King in council or which may hereafter be made, are confirmed — the Boston port bill, the fishery bill, and the restraining act are repealed by this Bill, the Colonies being in the like circumstances & situation — the last clause of this more than diabolical act enables the King to appoint Commissioners to grant pardons & receive the submissions of any province, County, Town or District — I shall make no comments on this act, it is only a further step in that system of Tyranny, hitherto pursued by that — who under the influence of a Scotch Junto now disgraces the British throne. what measures Congress may pursue in consequence of this act, I know not with me every Idea of Reconciliation is precluded by the conduct of G. Britain, & the only alternative, absolute slavery or Independency, the latter I have often reprobated both in public & private, but am now almost convinced the measure is right & can be justified by necessity — the Gent who inclosed the Bill to W & M, writes that 26000 troops are to be employed in America that a sufft body of men are to defend Boston, while difft bodies are to attack New York, Virginia & South Carolina, that Lord [Charles] Cornwallis is destined for the last place with 5000 men & was to sail in January. . . .

1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch. Alexander was a Maryland delegate in the Continental Congress.

2. Probably Richard Champion; see his letter of December 9, 1775, Volume 3, 416.

JOHN SMITH & SONS TO JOHN CROCKETT¹

Baltimore 27th Feby 1776

Sir Yours of the 9th Feby pr Capt Sherwood we with Pleasure Recd but are sorry you did not get to this Place, as our goods would have sold better here than they are Likely to do at Edenton, the oznabrigs would bring by the Quantity at Least 2/ p yd and by [£.] or 5 pieces. 2/3 the Powder we could sell at 15/ p pound readily. we have been offered 10/ p lb for ours and they to receive it at Edenton; however we wish the Publick to have it at that price or if they will Engage to give us Powder here or in Philada in Lieu thareof would Chuse it rather, however as Matters are circumstanced we submit the whole to your Prudence & discretion making no doubt you'll do the best in your Power for our Interest must beg leave to observe to you that Gold or silver would answer best in payment but if that cant be obtained Continental money must do or any order on the Continental Treasurer provided the Person drawing has Proper Power so to do -

Oznabrigs was sold some Time since at Wms Burgh for 3/9 pr yd. The Council of Safety there are too much like ours willing to pinch Adventurers too close, Procure us proper Certificates from the Committee of Edenton that 500 lb Powder was imported by us into that place to enable us to obtain the Privilege of shipping to the Value from here (unless you go out again yourself,) in that case we should be glad to have the Amount of the Powder shippd in Indian Corn & [Wt] Oak Hhd Staves & to run the same risk we did in the Last Adv[entur]e, & Proceeds to be [in]vested in the same sort of goods ordered before. If you are too closely watch'd in the W.I. & think it not prudent to risk a return you can then remit the Proceed in good bills to M. & R. for our Accot Your &c.

P.S. Messr Lux & Bowley has by direction from the President of the Committee of Safety for Virginia offered for all the Powder you imported into Edenton 6/ their Money pr Pound which is equal to a Dollar & receive it there we therefore are of opinion that the Committee of north Carolina can have no Objection to paying at Least that price Exclusive of your Commissions, without they do so we can't think they are entitled to it if the oznabrigs are not sold before you receive this, would be glad if you can get carriages at a reasonable rate that you would send ours to Williamsburgh as we are Convinced it would sell there for at Least 2/ p yd Virginia Money, and if you could not waite to sell it you might put it into the hands of some Person of Reputation at that Place to Transact for us-

Since writing the above have Sold the Powder to Mr John Sterret for 10/ p lb to whose Order you'll please deliver it. We understand that the lb wt in Statia weighs 106 of our pound. if So you'll please weigh it & take a Receipt from whoever you deliver it to for our Government here.

1. John Smith & Sons Letter Book, September 1775-1784, MdHS.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM WILLIAMSBURG, DATED FEB. 27.”¹

Colonel [Richard] Corbin is returned from his fruitless journey to Lord Dunmore, who refused to give a commission for holding an Assembly, and only proposed that the principal gentlemen in the country should sign propositions for an accomodation, with which he would go home; but we presume he must get them signed by his old friends in the fleet, or about Norfolk, as he will get very few Gentlemens names to it. He said Commissioners were to negotiate; but did not say who they were.

His Lordship is not recalled, but has leave to go if he chuses it. His conduct is approved of, and he has unlimited powers to draw on the treasury. Col. Corbin says that he, General Clinton, and Capt. Hammond, all appeared in good humour, the latter declaring he had forbid his tenders to offer injury to individuals or their property, his sole design being to watch the water, and enforce the acts of trade. General Clinton had four companies who had not landed, but, on the contrary, the transports with the *Mercury* had fallen down into the road (Hampton) under sailing orders; he did not mention his destination, but it was gathered from the young officers, that they were to pay a visit to Governor Martin, at Cape Fear, and then proceed to South Carolina. On hearing that part of our letter to Col. Corbin read, “that we were not authorized or inclined to intermeddle in the mode of negotiation, which must be left to Congress,” the General said there was nothing America could ask in a constitutional way but would be granted, but if we relied on the Congress, we had nothing to expect from Parliament. Lord Dunmore wanted to borrow his troops to drive ours from Kemp’s; he asked if ours would not return? the other said he supposed they would; then, says the General, I don’t think it worth while to meddle with them.

P.S. We have just received intelligence from Hampton, that Gen. Clinton, with his troops, the *Mercury*, *Kingfisher*, and two or three tenders, went out of the capes yesterday.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, March 11, 1776.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO GOVERNOR ROBERT EDEN¹

Roebuck off Norfolk in Virginia the
27th February 1776 –

Sir

The enclosed letters I have lately received from Boston and take the earliest opportunity of sending them to you.

I shall be very Glad to hear from you and be informed of the situation of affairs in your province, as well as to co-operate with you in any measure for the good of his Majesty’s Service. I have the honor to be Sir &ca

A S Hamond

1. Hamond Letter Book, 1771–1777, UVL. Eden was governor of Maryland.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW,
H.M.S. *Liverpool*¹

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esqr &ca

As the Agents to the Contractor are no longer able to Supply his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in this province, with any Specie of Provisions: You are therefore hereby required and directed to order the Purser of his Majesty's Ship under your command, to Purchase Provisions of all species; And this you are to see done with the utmost frugality, taking care that the same shall be good and wholesome, and in every respect fitting for his Majesty's Navy; And to draw Bill on the Commissioners of the Victualling for the payment thereof, untill further Order.

Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck*
off Norfolk in Virginia the 27th February 1776.

A S Hamond

1. Hamond Papers, Orders issued, UVL.

NARRATIVE OF SIR HENRY CLINTON¹

[February 17 to February 27, 1776]

... on the 17th [February] we took the advantage of a favorable Breeze to pay a Visit to the Earl of Dunmore in Virginia, where we found his Lordship on board a Ship in Hampton Road, driven from the Shore and the whole Country in arms against him. On which Account I must confess I could not see the Use of his Lordship's remaining longer there, especially after the failure of his Attack on the Rebel Post at the Great Bridge. I however let his Lordship retain the Detachment of the 14th Regiment than attending him, as he seemed to flatter himself that some opportunity might yet offer for his acting to advantage. Unfortunately the day after our Arrival a Gale of Wind had considerably damaged our Transport by driving her foul of the *Mercury*; which made it necessary to get her repaired before we could move. This accident & contrary Winds detained us within the Capes until the 27th, when we at last took our departure for Cape Fear.

1. Manuscript history of the Revolution by Sir Henry Clinton, CL.

CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY, R.N., TO THE MAGISTRATES AND INHABITANTS OF
WILMINGTON¹

N[o] 2

Cruizer, Wilmington River Feby 27th 1776

His Majesties Ships not having received provision agreeable to their regular Demands

I Shall as soon as possible be off Wilmington with his Majesties Sloop *Cruizer* and other armed vessels under my Command to know the reason of their not being supplied

I expect to be supplied by six this Evening with the provisions I have now demanded of the Contractor

If his Majesties ships or Boats are in the least annoyed it will be my duty to oppose it

Fran^s Parry

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774-1776), NCDAH.

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO
GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN ¹

N[o] 3

Wilmington 27th Feby 1776

Sir The Inhabitants of Wilmington by their representatives in committee in answer to your Excellencies demand of One Thousand Barrels of flour for his Majesties Service: beg leave to assure your Excellency: that they have been always most cordially disposed to promote his Majesties real Service, which they think consistent only with the good of the whole british empire – But the Inhabita[nts] are astonished at the quantum of your Excellencies requisition, as they cannot conceive what service his Majesty [has] in this part of the world for so much flour. – In the most quiet & peaceable Times, when the Ports were open & Trade flourished, it would have been impossible to procure such a Quantity in this Town in so short a time ² as your Excellency mentions – How then can your Excellency expect a Compliance from the Inhabitants of Wilmington during the present Stagnation of Commerce? At a Time too, when you well know that an army raised and commissioned by your Excellency hath been for some Time possessed of Cross Creek and the adjac[e]nt Country from whence only we can expect the Article you have thought proper to Demand

We can with Truth assure your Excellency that it is not in our power to comply with your requisition either in whole or in part, many of the Inhabitants having for sometime past wanted flour for private Use, and the dread of Military Execution by the Ships of War hath induced most of the Inhabitants to remove their effects. The Inhabitants Sir sincerely wish they had not reason to suspect that your Excellencys Demand is only a prelude to the intended destruction of the devoted Town of Wilmington. If this should be the Case, it will not however make any alteration in their determination. It will be their duty to defend their property to the utmost and if they do not Succeed altogether to their wish, they have one Consolation left, that their freinds will in a few days have it in their power to make ample retribution upon those whom your Excellency thinks proper to dignify with the epithets of freinds to Government. These faithless & selfish people are now surrounded by three armies above four times their Number and the Town of Cross Creek now in our hands will make some, though a very inadequate, compensation for the destruction of Wilmington

This Sir is no boast & we would not treat your Excellency with so much disrespect as to make use of Threats – The Accot we have given you is sacredly true and we have the most convincing proofs of it in our possession I have the honour to be by order of the committee Sir Your Excellencys [&c.]

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774-1776), NCDAH. Martin was governor of North Carolina.

2. *Ibid.*, writing this date, Martin had demanded the flour "on or before Saturday next, being the Second day of March."

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN
FRANCIS PARRY, R.N.¹

N[o] 4 Wilmington 27th Feby 1776

Sir The reasons why his Majesties ships have not been supplied with the usual Quantity of Provisions, is so obvious, that it cannot possibly have escaped the sagacity of Captain Parry The Trade of this Colony hath been distressed by the Kings Ships even contrary to the acts of the British Parliament The Military Stores, the property of the People have been seized with an avowed Intention to subjugate them to slavery – The fort which the People had built at a great Expence for the protection of their Trade made use of for a purpose the very reverse, and when they attempted to demolish it they have been fired upon by the ships of war. The Slaves of the American Inhabitants, have been pursued, and many of them seizd and inveigled from their duty, and their live Stock & other property killed & plundered, long before the Committee thought it necessary to deny the Ships a supply of Provisions, and to Crown all, you Sir for the Second Time, have brought up the *Cruizer* and several Armed Vessels, to cover the landing of an Army Composed of highland banditti, most of whom are as destitute of Property, as they are of Principle, & none of whom you will ever see, unless as fugitives imploring protection. Tho you should come up before the Town, you cannot expect any other answer than what we now give you. We have not the least intention of opposing either your Ships or Boats, unless you should attempt to injure us. and whenever you may think proper to treat the Inhabitants as his Majesties officers did heretofore, we shall be happy to receive you in the manner which we always wish to receive those who have the honour to bear his Majesties Commission I am by Order of the Committee Sir [&c.]

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Scorpion*, CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE¹

Febry 1776 Moord in Cape Fear River No Carolina
 Wednesdy 14 at 10 AM Weigh'd the Stream Anchor & hove Short
 on the Bt Br at Noon Weigh'd & Came to Sail in
 Company with his Majestys Sloop *Cruizer*.
 First pt Fresh Breezs & Squally with Rain.
 Middle & latter Mod:
 at 2 PM run ashore on McKnights Shoal Carried out
 the Kedge and Stream Anchor but could not start her
 at 10 Trip'd the Stream Anchor and carried it out to
 the N E
 Thursdy 15 2 AM hove her off into Mid Channel at Noon
 Weighed & Came to Sail.
 Modr Wr
 at 3 PM came too with the Bt Br in 4 fam off[f] the

- Town of Brunswick at 4 sent the Boat ashore Recd Fresh Bf.
- Friday 16 First part Light Breezs & Cloudy Middle and latter Fresh Breezs & Squally with Thunder & Lightning at 2 PM Weigh'd & came to Sail 1/2 past 5 brought too off[f] the Flatts with the Bt Br Veer'd away and Moor'd to 1/2 a Cable each way
- Saturdy 17 Fresh Gales with Rain
Empd Watering & Wooding
- Sunday 18 First and Middle parts
Fresh Gales with Rain Latter Fresh Breezs and Cloudy
- Monday 19 Empd as before
- Tuesday 20 Empd as before
- Wednesday 21 Mod. Breezs & Cloudy Empd as before
- Thursday 22 Fresh Breezs & Squally with rain Anchord here his Maj's Sloop *Cruizer* & our Tender Recd from her 16 Chests of Arms.
- Friday 23 First & Middle parts Fresh Gales with Rain Latter Mod. & Cloudy
Loos'd Sails to dry at 11 Unmoor'd Weigh'd & came to sail in Company the Tenders.
2 PM came too with the Bt Br in 4 Fam
at 5 Veerd away and Moor'd Town of Brunswick WBN found here the *Cruizer*
- Saturdy 24 Moor'd off Brunswick. Recd 17 Chests of Arms. Recd 7 more Chests of Arms & other Gunnrs Stores Supply'd the Tender with Water.
- Sunday 25 First part Fresh Gales with Rain Middle and latter Modr Loosed Sails to dry
- Mondy 26 Modr Breezs & Cloudy Reced Bread from the *Cruizer*
Empd Occasly
Mod. with Rain
PM Dispatch'd Sundry Gunnners Stores to Govr Martin
- Tuesday 27 Passd by for Wilmington the *Cruizer* and two Arm'd Tenders².

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

2. In the fruitless effort to establish contact with the Regulators and Tories.

HENRY LAURENS TO WILLIAM MANNING, LONDON¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] 27th february 1776

Every day leads us in this part of America deeper & deeper into Warlike preparations, the Houses in Charles Town which had been emptied of their Owners & their furniture are now made use of as Barracks for the Country - Rifle-Men & other Militia - Sullivans Island Haddrells' point, Fort Johnson, a formidable & excellent Battery near the latter, are all in good order, well mounted with heavy Cannon, Garrisoned by proper allot-

ments of Soldiers for firing Cannon & for preventing an Enemy's Landing – on the verge of Cooper & Ashley River[s] in eight Batteries are mounted about Sixty guns from 9 to 24 pounders but chiefly 12, 18. & 24 – Matches & Ball all in readiness even for a Midnight defence – threats of Cannoning & destroying this fine Town are lost upon a people who are ready to put the torch with their own hands in preference to Submission & who are determined the Houses in that fine Town Shall never prove Shelters for a Cruel Enemy – . . . in our Naval department we have one large Ship, one Brig & one Schooner, all well mounted with Cannon & Men enough for Harbour Service in case of attack sufficient to Man two of them completely for Sea, & we Shall (barring Capture) soon receive as many more Seamen as will be Sufficient to Man the third & a fourth, in a word, all thoughts of a Speedy reconciliation with Great Britain having been chased away by the Speech & Answers at the opening of Parliament, Mens minds are possessed by Such only, as Lead them on to oppose at all hazards the unjust attempts of the Ministry, Supported as we perceive now by too many of our Brethren – the discoveries² which have lately been made of a Settled plan to involve us in all the horrible Scenes of foreign and domestic Butcheries (not War) have not tended to lull us into Security . . .

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, No. 10, SCHS.

2. Referring to the intercepted letters seized on board the *Betsey* sloop by John Manley, in Washington's armed schooner *Lee*. Copies of these had lately reached South Carolina.

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

February 1776 Thursday 22d	Moored in the North Channell of Savannah River at 9 AM weighed and came to Sail at 1/2 past 10 Anchored with the Bt Br in the No Channel in 5 ffm. at Low Water Veered to 1/3 of a Cable and moored with the Stream Anchor to the No wd Tybee Light House EBS the Buoy of the Leprus Et 1/2 So and the Beacon of the white Oyster bank No 3/4 West distce one Cables Length –
Friday 23d	Light Airs and Cloudy Wear at 1/2 past 7 AM Weighed and came to Sail empd working up the River back'd and fill'd Occasionally at 11 Do Anchored with the Bt Br in 13 ffeet at Low Water Veered to 1/3rd of a Cable and Moored wth the Stream Anchor to the So wd – First and middle parts Light Airs and Cloudy Latter do fresh Breezes with rain PM exercised great Guns and small Arms
Saturday 24th	at 8 AM unmoored Weighed and came to sail & empd Workg up the River Back'd & fill'd Occasionally at Noon Anchrd wth the Bt Br in 14 feet at Low Water Veered to 1/3rd of a Cable and moored with the Stream Anchor to the so wd

- First part Mode and fair middle and Latter Do Light
Airs inclining to Calms
- Sunday 25th at 9 AM unmoored Weighed and came to sail empd
Workg up the River Tack'd back'd and fill'd Oc-
asionally
Light Airs and fair Wear
at 1 PM Anchd, with the Bt Br in $3\frac{1}{2}$ ffm at Low
Water Veered to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable and moored with the
stream Anchor to the so wd the Town of Savannah
WbS $3\frac{1}{2}$ Miles and four Mile point NEBE $\frac{1}{2}$ Et dist
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile at 3 do Came up the River and anchd about
2 Miles below us the *Symmetry* & *Whitby* Transports.
- Monday 26th at 10 AM unmoored Weighed and came to Sail and
Dropt further up at 11 Anchd with the Bt Br in 2 ffm
at Low Water Veered to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable and moored
with the Stream Anchor to the so wd the Battery on
Savannah Bluff W B S 3 Miles and the Rebels Guard
House on Bréwtons Plantation SW 1 Milè found the
Channell block'd up by a Hulk being Sunk in the
Middle of the Channel abreast of the Guard House -
First and middle parts Light Airs and Cloudy Latter
Do fresh gales with rain
at 2 PM Anchd here two Schooners and one Sloop
wth Officers Seamen and Marines belonging to His
Majestys Ships *Scarborough* and *Tamer*
- Tuesday 27th AM Anchord here a Pilot boat with Captn [Andrew]
Barkley and some Seamen belonging to the *Scarborough*
Do got four of our Guns of 3 Prs on board the *St. John*
Sloop

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

28 Feb.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND¹

[Providence] February 28th 1776

Meeting in Being according to adjournment.

Gave Mr Palmer a Memorandum to get two sparrs 73 feet long to work
18 Inches in the Slings one Sparr for Mizen Mast 72 feet long $16\frac{1}{2}$ Inches in
the Partners one ditto for ditto 69 feet Long $16\frac{1}{4}$ Inches in the Partners,
all the above to be Transported to the nearest Water carriage, & then Rafted
to Taunton.

Voted. That the Treasurer pay Mr Ethanah Palmer Seventy Pounds
Lawful Money towards procuring the Masts & Sparrs according to Orders.

Reckoning 28/6

Meeting adjourned to Fryday Evening -

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO VICE-ADMIRAL MÓLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Copy.

Rose, Rhode Island Feby 28th, 1776.

Sir, A Vessel from Captain Parker at [New] York arrived here in her way to Boston, by which opportunity I acknowledge the receipt of Letters and Orders of the 1st Instant, His Majesty's Vessels here, are Employed Cruizing about the Bay and sometimes making Descent[s] harrassing the Rebels as much as possible, they have abandoned the Island of Prudence to Us, and I expect the Island of Connanicut every day, what Hay and Stock they can't take away with them they burn and destroy they are making New levies, New Laws, every one who does not take a Test to join them, they disposes of their Houses, and send them Prisoners into the back Country, some that have escaped on board His Majesty's Ship, acquaint me that several of the Inhabitants are exceedingly tired of the War, wishes for Troops to arrive, that they may join them, it seems their Policy, to Distress the Country and the People in Order to leave them no alternative but entering into the Rebellion. We have found the Transport so necessary for our Wounded Men, that I could not conveniently send her, they are near recovered, and I flatter myself I shall soon send her loaded. I beg leave to observe, by the Weekly Return we run short of some Articles of Provisions, not to be got here, Indeed Fresh Beef and Greens &ca Market stuff is all we do get. In some former Letters I mentioned to Admiral Graves the situation of the Towns about here, and my reasons for not destroying them, it would be a great satisfaction to know your sentiments upon that head, it has been my Opinion some time, that a small additional Land Force tack'd to the Squadron would secure this Post, and oblige them to keep a greater Number of Men to guard the Coast along the Sound, harrass, and do them great Injury and oblige them to give up all the Islands to Us. — [Charles] Lee has been sometime at [New] York — Hopkins is Sailed with the Philadelphia Fleet. — The Continental Congress has Voted themselves perpetual, so says report, our Intelligence is not much to be depended upon they keep so strict a look out.—Inclosed is the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ships.—I have the honor to be [&c.]

James Wallace

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

At a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety

[Lebanon, Wednesday] the 28th day of February, 1776.

Voted, that Nathl Green and Company of the Colony of Rhode Island be permitted to purchase three cargoes of the produce of this Colony in such proportion (as to particulars) as his Honor the Governor shall direct, in order to be transported to the West Indies to purchase warlike stores in pursuance of a contract made between the said Green and Company and the Committee of Secrecy of the Continental Congress, for the benefit of the United Colonies: one of said cargoes to be shipped on board a brig in Nor-

wich belonging to some gentlemen in the Colony of Rhode Island, and the other two cargoes to be shipped on bottoms to be taken up in this Colony.

Voted, That Capt. Ephraim Bill be and he is hereby appointed to repair to Saybrook and there inspect the building the Colony ship of war at Capt. [Uriah] Hayden's yard, and to do whatever is needful to promote the work in the best and most speedy manner. And the builders, riggers, blacksmiths and sail-makers &c. are hereby directed to consult him in their several branches of the work as shall be convenient for the service.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 246.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, 10 HO. A.M.

Feb. 28th, 1776.

Ordered, That Mr. [Henry] White, by his agent, be permitted to supply His Majesty's ship *Phoenix* with 850 lb. fresh beef and some turnips, and His Majesty's ship *Asia*, with 1,300 pounds of fresh beef and greens, and some candles. Also one barrel of corned beef for His Excellency Govr. Tryon.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 327.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, February 28, 1776

Resolved, That a letter be sent to General Lee desiring him not to set out for Canada, till he receive further orders from Congress.

A petition of Anthony Marmajou, master and owner of the brig *Little Polly*, of the island of Martinique, was presented to Congress and read:

Resolved, That Monsieur Anthony Marmajou be permitted to load the Brigantine *Little Polly*, (in which he imported a small quantity of powder and arms,) with the produce of these colonies, (horned cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry and lumber for making casks excepted,) and export the same to Martinique; And that the said Anthony Marmajou do take every possible precaution to avoid all British men of war and cutters on this voyage; and that he use his utmost endeavours to import into these colonies the powder and arms mentioned in his petition,

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 175-77.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday 28 Feb. E[dward] Rutledge renewed his Motion to send Gen Lee to the Southward it was postponed but Mr Lee is to stay his Journey to Canada till further Order - A Petition from a Frenchman who has brot Half a Ton of Powder and the rest of his Cargo in Molasses &c for Leave to export Produce to the Amount of his whole Cargo was

argued and the Prayer granted under the Conditions that several other Foreign Vessels have had — ²

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. See Journal of the Continental Congress for action this day on petition of Anthony Marmajou, master and owner of the brig *Little Polly*.

VOTE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Philadelphia] February 28, 1776

Ordered, That the Resolution [of the Continental Congress of November 25, 1775], recommending to the Legislatures of the several Colonies to erect Courts of Justice for the Purpose of determining concerning Captures, be adopted, and referred to the said Committee. ²

1. Samuel Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives* (Philadelphia, 1852-1856 and Harrisburg, 1874-), 8th series, VIII, 7420. Hereafter cited as Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*.
2. A committee of nine appointed to consider two non-maritime recommendations of the Continental Congress, namely: punishment for those harboring deserters from the Continental or Provincial forces, and the delegation of power to a commanding officer to administer an oath.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 28th Feb'y, 1776.

Resolved, that the Captains of the Armed Boats be directed to see that their respective Crews are properly Cloathed, and apply to Mr. Jn. [Maxwell] Nesbitt, Paymaster, for such necessary apparel as shall be wanted for that purpose; and that the amount of what shall be furnished to each person shall be stopt out of his pay, in such manner that not more than half the pay be stopt at a time.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 498, 499.

Pennsylvania Gazette, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1776

Philadelphia, February 28.

From Hispaniola we have intelligence, that a number of English Frigates are cruising about there, who seize all American vessels they come across.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Wednesday 28 Feb. 1776.

Instructions and sailing Orders were given to Capt George Wise of the Brigantine *Nancy*.

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

CAPTAINS JAMES KENT AND WILLIAM HENRY TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.¹

[Extract] Head Quarters, Northampton Court house, Virginia
Feby 28th 1776.

. . . Sunday night last [February 25] a schooner that lay in Hungers Creek Loaded with provision was taken possession of by 13 negroes, who attempted to make their escape to Lord Dunmore, but the next morning she was pursued by a whale boat which over halld her upon York Spit, and returned with her monday night, the negroes are now under Guards, this is the only remarkable event has happened since our arrival here,

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

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM HAMPTON, DATED FEBRUARY 28."¹

General Clinton, with two men of war (the *Mercury* and *Kingsfisher*) three transports, and four tenders, sailed on Monday [February 26], I believe for sea; and this morning another king's ship, which I took to be the *Liverpool*, and a tender, came down from Norfolk, and I imagine are gone out of the capes.

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, March 1, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME¹

Feby 1776

Wednesday 28

Cape Henlopen NBW Distce 7 Leags

1/2 past 6 AM made Sail & gave Chace to a Brig hove too got the Boat out boarded the Brig & found to have in [blank] Barrls of Gunpowder bound to Philadelphia² took out her hands sent Midsn & 6 Men to take Charge of her hoisted in the Long Boat & made Sail & the *Lord Hows* Signal to Chase³

Fresh Breezes and squally 1/2 past Merdn Kd Ship handed the Fore & Mizen St Sls 2 Sail in Sight 4 P M Kd 6 Do Wore Ship reefed the Main Sail & brought too under the Main T Sail the Light House on Cape Henlopen W1/2S parted with the *Lord How* the Brig in Co

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

2. The brig *Juno*, William Keith, master; owned by Keith and John Pringle, of Philadelphia; from Waterford, but last from Lorient, with gunpowder, saltpetre, and sulphur; sent into Norfolk, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

3. The *Lord Howe*, a tender belonging to the *Roebuck*.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE¹

February [1776]

Monday 26

At an anchor in Norfolk Road Virginia
Departed this life Willm Collart Pursers Steward
Recd Junk onbd

The first part little wind & fair, the latter squally with

rain. At 3 PM weighed & came to sail. At 5 do anchored with the B Bower in 4 fam and veered to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable off the Western Branch. The *Roebuck* made the Signal for all Cruizers. Came from the *Roebuck* a Lieut. Midsn 18 Seamen & 10 Marines

Tuesday 27

At an Anchor in Hampton Road Virginia

At 9 weighed & came to sail, at 10 we struck on a Bank near Turners Creek in the Narrows. Carried out the Stream Anchor & Cable to heave her off; but the Anchor coming home, carried out the B Bower. At noon the Ship got off. Do came to sail & run into Hampton Road.

Fresh Gales & squally. At 1 P M Anchored in Hampton Roads with the B Bower in 6 fam and veered to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable.

Wednesday 28

At an Anchor near the Edge of the Horseshoe at 6 AM weighed & came to sail. Saw 3 Sail to the Northward. At 9 spoke the *Edward* Tender with a Sloop Prize. $\frac{1}{2}$ past anchored with the B Bower in 6 fm on the edge of the Horse Shoe. Found the *Bets[e]y* our Tender to be taken by the Rebels, whereby was lost several Ordnance, Vide Gunners Expence.

Hard Gales & heavy Squalls with a large Sea from the N W, found the Ship to drive, veered to a whole Cable. At 4 saw a Brigg & a Sloop coming down the Bay. Do Slipt & made Sail endeavour'd to speak the Sloop, but she run so near the middle ground as to endanger us. Do gave chace to the Brigg. At 8 PM lost sight of her. Brought too with our head to the Northward. At Midnight sounded 13 fam

I. PRO, Admiralty. 51/663.

GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN TO THE MAGISTRATES AND INHABITANTS OF
WILMINGTON ¹

N[o] 5

[Cruizer Sloop of War off Wilmington, February 28, 1776]

I have been much surprised to receive an answer to my requisition directed to the Magistrates & Inhabitants of Wilmington from a Member of the lawfull Magistracy in the Name & under the Traiterous Guize of a Combination unknown to the laws & Constitution of this Country—as if the Magistrates and Inhabitants of Wilmington chose rather to appear in the Garb of Rebellion than in the Character of his Majesties loyal & faithfull Subjects

The quantity of flour that I required for his Majesties Service I concluded from the information I had received, that the Town of Wilmington might have well supplied within the Time I appointed by my Note and I

should have been contented with the quantity that was obtainable: The requisition was not made as the answer to it imports for a prelude to the destruction of that Town which has not been in contemplation, but was intended as a Test of the disposition of its Inhabitants whose sence I am unwilling to believe is known to the little arbitrary Junto (stiling itself a Committee) which has presumed to answer for the People in this and other Instances

The revilings of Rebellion & the Gasconadings of Rebels are below the Contempt of the loyal & faithfull People whom I have most justly stiled Freinds of Government and the forbearance of menaces I have little reason to consider as a mark of Respect from the Chairman ² of a Combination founded in Usurpation & Rebellion

Jo Martin ³

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774-1776), NCDAAH.
2. John Ancrum, chairman of the Wilmington Committee of Safety, who signed by order of the committee.
3. *Ibid.*, the Wilmington Committee responded that the Governor had been "deceived" about the ability of the town to supply a large quantity of flour on short notice. Martin was reminded that while the inhabitants had "Zeal for his Majesties Service on the one hand," they also had "a firm attachment to their Liberties on the other."

CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY, R.N., TO THE MAGISTRATES AND INHABITANTS OF
WILMINGTON ¹

As I am informed it is inconvenient to supply his Majesties Sloop *Cruizer* with salt provisions must beg you will send a few quarters of good beef.

Fran^s Parry

Cruizer Wilmington River Feby 28th 1776

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774-1776), NCDAAH.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS ¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] 28th feby

Mr [Christopher] Gadsden lately arrived from the general Congress where his Seat is vacated by his acceptance of a Commission, he narrowly escaped being taken by a Man of War Supposed to be the *Syren* on the Coast of North Carolina, the Pilot Boat in which he was a passenger was driven on Shore & afterwards carried off by the Man of Wars Tender, in the mean time him Self his Son Tom the Master & Mariners escaped in the Small Boat with his Books papers & other effects leaving as prize to the *Cruizer* an Empty Vessel pretty much Shaken by many hard Strokes while she lay aground - . . .

I refer you to what I have this day written to Mr [William] Manning on the Warlike preparations in Carolina - we have Since added another Regiment of Rifle Men to consist of 500 Men besides Commissioned & non Commissioned Officers - our Regular forces will therefore amount when these new establishments are completed to 3610. Rank & file - the Militia



HENRY LAURENS JUN^R,

formerly President of the Congress.

Drawn from the Life by Du Simitiere in Philadelphia.

Published May 10th 1783 by W. ^mRichardson N^o 174 Strand

are very numerous, are all draughted for Service; & in Rotation do duty in Charles Town from every Regiment in the Colony.

A very Strong Battery is raised on Sullivan's Island which commands the entrance to this Harbour & a more important work is carrying on at the Same place – Georgia is counting all her little Strength in opposition to the Soothings & menaces of Sir James [Wright], who lately broke his parole & with his Son Charles & the two young Ladies Shiped on board the *Syren* or *Scarborough* lying at Cockspur where also lay the *Tamer*, *Raven* & *Cherokee*, from thence we are told Sir James Sailed last week in the *Syren* for Some place not yet known, probably Boston & thence to England; if I can get a good hand tomorrow to take Copies of Letters from that Gentleman to the Council of Savanna & of certain Letters from our friend [John] Moultrie & others at St Augustine to General [Thomas] Gage & Genl [James] Grant at Boston which were lately intercepted, you Shall have them by the present conveyance, this will afford you astonishing information they were taken upon Moses Kirkland in his passage from Augustine to Boston – he is committed to Philadelphia Goal . . .

Concerning Colonel [Richard] Richardson's expedition I can Say no more but that it has been crowned with Success – except Major [Joseph] Robinson who has made his escape all the Ringleaders of the late Insurrection are now in our custody – the ordinary Classes have been disarmed and Sufferd to return to their habitations where they are now quiet & many of them being convinced of the justice of our Cause have joined the friends of Liberty. No Sooner was that disturbance quelled than another of the Same nature & tendency was heard in North Carolina, a body of Men to the amount of 2310 took Arms in the back Counties in order to force their way down to Wilmington where they were to be received by Governor Martin – the Governor by our last Account had advanced with his little Fleet near to that Town & would to be before it in two days more, but his expected friends from the Western frontier have been beaten & dispersed by Colonel [James] Moore, therefore his Excellency by ret[r]ograde Steps must regain his old Station on the Sea Side, where he may possibly be met by the American Fleet under Commodore Hopkins – The American Fléet is a new power & may be despised by those who affect to con[d]emn every thing but their own, be that as it may, it is the beginning of what may one day prove very formidable to the Enemies of America – We expect that Fleet here, if the King's Ships do not destroy it in the passage. Should it arrive Safe, it will probably be augmented by all those King's Ships which now ride in the River Savanna – nothing but dire necessity can make us wish for its Success –

this moment I learn from Georgia that the *Cherokee* has attempted to Land Men near Savanna & that Colo [Lachlan] McIntosh & Others had fired upon & obliged them to retire – . . .

John Laurens London p *Port Henderson*

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAINS OF HIS SQUADRON ¹

(A Copy)

General No 12.

In Addition to my Order to you dated the 21st November 1775, marked General No.10, You are hereby required and directed to take as prize, all Ships and Vessels of or belonging to the Inhabitants of the thirteen Associated Colonies in America; Vitz New Hampshire, Massachusets Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, the three lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia; and all other Ships and Vessels whatsoever (together with their Cargoes &c.) which shall be found trading in any Port or Place of the said Colonies; or going to Trade, or coming from trading in any such Port or Place, Subject only to such provisos and Exceptions as are particularly mentioned in the Act of Parliament of the 16 of George the 3d Chapt:5 intituled an Act to prohibit all Trade and intercourse with the Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusets Bay &c. which Act you will receive herewith; and are Strictly required and directed to Act in Conformity thereto, for which this shall be your Order.

To the respective Captains of
His Majesty's Ships *Portland*,
Argo, *Hind*, *Experiment*, *Lynx*,
Hawke and *Pomona*.

Given under my Hand at English
Harbour Antigua, the 28th
February 1776.

Jam^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty. 1/309.

29 Feb.COLONEL JOHN GLOVER TO CAPTAIN JOHN WHITE, JR., SALEM ¹

Sir,

I recd yours by your boy respecting the swivils Borrowd for the Use of the American Navey. Doubtless you remember when I recd your Guns, it was agreed that if they should be Lost, I was to see you paid four pounds for the pair, agreeable to that I maid my return to General Washington I therefore Cannot of my self pay a greater Prise. I think if I mistake not I gave you a Receipt for that amount which if you will receive, I will Desier Capt Wm Bartlett to Pay. I am Sir [&c.]

Beverly, Feby. 29. 1776.

John Glover.

1: "Documents and Letters by Actors in the American Revolution," from the Jeremiah Colburn Autograph Collection, *New-England Historical and Genealogical Register* (Boston, 1876), XXX, 332.

"A MEMORANDUM OF THE DEBTS CONTRACTED AGAINST THE ARM'D VESSELS
FITTED OUT AT THE EXPENCE OF THE UNITED COLONIES OF AMERICA AND
THEIR PRIZES" ¹

Schooner <i>Lee</i> Capt John Manl[e]y	£ 158.13..2	
Schooner <i>Franklin</i> Capt [John] Selman	116..5..2	
Schooner <i>Warren</i> Capt [Winborn] Adams	126..9..-	
Schooner <i>Hancock</i> , Capt [Nicholson] Broughton	113..9..3	£ 514.16..7
<hr/>		
Schooner <i>Lee</i> , Capt [Daniel] Waters	£ 119..6..-	
Schooner <i>Franklin</i> Capt [Samuel] Tucker	103..5..1½	
Schooner <i>Warren</i> Capt [William] Burk[e]	112..4..2	
Schooner <i>Hancock</i> Capt John Manl[e]y	90..3..2½	424.18..6
<hr/>		
Sloop <i>Speedwell</i>	£ 1..9..4	
Sloop <i>Ph[o]ebe</i>	7..5..9	
Schooner <i>Prince William</i>	2..10..8	
Schooner <i>Mary</i>	2..1..10	
Sloop <i>Betsey</i>	20.19..3	
Brig <i>Hannah</i>	18.18..8	
Ship <i>Jenny</i>	17.15.11	
Ship <i>Concord</i>	13..2..2	
Brig <i>Nancy</i>	122..4..7	
Carting Brig <i>Nancy</i> Cargo about	280..-..-	
pd Capt Nicholis Broughton his a/c	18.15..-	Omitted
pd Edmund Giles his a/c	16..2..11	do -
pd. Capt [Robert] Hunter's a/c	12..-..-	
pd Wm Stone his a/c	2..8..-	do -
pd Joshua Pierce his a/c	-..5..-	do -
pd John Dennys a/c	3..-..-	
pd Elliott Hoitt his a/c	1.12..-	do -
pd Govourner [Phillip] Callbeck by Order	17.10..4	
pd Thomas Hawsleys a/c	16.10..-	
pd Coll. John Glovers a/c	40..8..8	do
pd Coll. John Glovers a/c	2.17..9	
pd James Hawkins a/c	17.19..5	
pd Thomas Russell his a/c	3.10..8	
pd Wm Standleys a/c	1.19.11	
pd Capt John Darbys a/c	120..-..-	

	Carried Over	
Brought Over amounts	£ 1701 .. 2 .. 11	
To the hire of the 4 Arm'd Vessells to the last of December 1775 about	240 .. - .. -	
To Fixing Schr <i>Linch</i> with other Bills not pd about	200 .. - .. -	£ 2141 .. 2 .. 11
Supra By Cash Recd four Thousd Dollars Cr		£ 1200 .. - .. -
		£ 944 .. 2 .. 11

Beverly Feby [29] 1776 ²:

Error Except

William Bartlett

1. William Bartlett Account Book, No. 5515, BHS.

2. The date is approximated. As Bartlett's final accounts were carried to March 1, 1776, it is logical that he drew up these preliminary figures a day, at least, in advance.

CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR., R.N., TO CHARLES SMITH ¹

By Hyde Parker, Junr: Esqr. Captain of His Majesty's ship *Phoenix*.

You are hereby required and directed to proceed to Boston with the ship *Sally*, under your command, calling at Rhode-Island, where you are to apply to the commanding officer of His Majesty's ships for convoy and a pilot. Should you be so, unfortunate as to meet with any of the rebel cruizers and find no possibility of escaping, it is my positive directions that you do throw overboard all arms and ammunition, to prevent their falling into the hands of the rebels. Should there be any ship in sight that you suppose to be a man of war, you are to do your utmost to disable the ship by cutting her gears and lowering her lower yards down, in order to prevent the rebels from carrying her off.

Upon your arrival at Boston you are to report yourself to Admiral Shuldhham, or the Commander-in-Chief for the time being.

You are also, during your passage, to use your utmost endeavours to keep company with the *Harriott* transport and the *Francis* sloop.

Given under my hand, on board His Majesty's ship *Phoenix*, off of the Narrows of Gravesend bay, this 29th February, 1776.

H. Parker.

[Endorsed] Letter taken from the ship *Sally* (formerly belonging to Samuel Franklin, but was taken by the men of war at New York and sent to Boston) which was driven on shore in a gale at Montauk on the 6th of March, and her crew, passengers and papers seized by the committee of Easthampton and sent to New York.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 155, 156.

ROBERT ERSKINE TO GEORGE CLINTON¹

[Extract]

Ringwood February 29th 1776.

Sir: — Though personally unknown to you, yet I hope you will excuse the trouble of this address, which is to beg the favour you would recommend the Bearer, Mr. Ambrose Gordon, to some proper person in New Windsor, to take in Charge, Six Tons of Iron I have sent there, by order of Mr. Francis Lewis, Merch't N. York, to be forwarded from thence, by the first opportunity, to Messrs. Samuel Tudor & Aug't Lawrence Superintendents, to the Ship-building near Poughkeepsee.

1. Hugh Hastings, ed., *Public Papers of George Clinton First Governor of New York, 1777-1795* —1801-1804 (New York and Albany, 1899), I, 225, 226.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

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

Feb. 29th, 1776.

Niles Christain left England the 2nd or 3rd Nov. 11 weeks ago; was chief mate of the ship *Harriet*, sailed this day for Boston; that no other vessel sailed with them; no troops left England when he sailed; that some transports were gone to Ireland, and 60 or 70 transports were at Deptford to go to Ireland; that they had 80 hogs on board, and 30 are now alive; that the troops from Ireland are to go to Boston; that Genl. Gage was arrived and was blamed for leaving Boston . . . that the people of London are in general in favour of America; that in Ireland they have pressed recruits; that he did not hear of any recruiting in England; trade dull; the America ships laid up; did not hear of any commissioners coming over; that he was bred at Charlestown, Massachusetts; that the pilots frequently came onshore for fowls; that their ship has not received any supply of provisions or flour, except a few fowls; that the captain's order was not to any particular port, but to any place where the army is. The said Niles Christian requested a pass to go to Cambridge. Thereupon a passport was given to him in the words following:

The bearer hereof, Niles Christian, late mate of the transport ship *Harriet*, who has escaped from the said ship, and whose former stated place of residence was at Charlestown, Massachusetts Bay, is hereby permitted to pass to Cambridge, in Massachusetts Bay.²

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 329.

2. A copy of the pass, indicating his safe arrival at Cambridge, is in Mass. Arch., vol 180, 366a. It is endorsed "To the Several Committees where necessary to be Shewn — & to all other Friends to American Liberty."

JOURNAL OF THE NEW JERSEY PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New Brunswick] Thursday, February 29, 1776

The Congress having resumed the consideration of the necessity of instituting a Court of Admiralty in this Colony,

Resolved, That the erection of such Court be deferred until some future day; but as it is highly expedient immediately to determine upon the seizure of the ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, that this Congress will proceed to the discussion thereof tomorrow, at two o'clock in the afternoon.²

On motion,

Agreed, That the President write to the Chairman of the Committee of Elizabethtown, desiring that he would cause such witnesses as may be necessary, respecting the above capture, to appear before Congress at the time aforementioned.

1. *New Jersey Provincial Congress*, 396-97.

2. *Ibid.*, 399, on March 1 the Provincial Congress "postponed the decision until to-morrow morning."

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, February 29, 1776

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the letter from General Washington, [of the 9th instant,] and the trade of the colonies after the 1st of March, and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr.[Samuel] Ward reported that the committee had taken into consideration the matters referred to them, but not having come to a conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their further consideration the letter from General Washington, and the state of the trade of the colonies.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 177-78.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday 29 [February]: the Minutes read as was a Letter from Gen. Washington inclosing a Letter from Lord John Drummond to Gen.[James] Robertson wherein his Lordship of his own Accord, takes steps for a Treaty & desires Passports for Commissioners on the Part of the Congress - 4 Hours were spent in Grand Comee on Trade without any Conclusions, by a former Resolve Trade opens Tomorrow under the Restrictions of the Association - the Points now agitated were the Expediency & Probability of contracting foreign Commercial Alliances and chiefly with France and Spain, and the Advantages and Disadvantages of attempting to carry on Trade in our present Circumstances, much was said about declaring our Independency on G Britain when it appeared that 5 or 6 Colonies have instructed their Delegates not to agree to an Independency till they, the Principals are consulted, the President ([John] Hancock) moved that Madeira Wine may be imported notwithstanding the Association, he meant to please the Southern Delegates who insist on having Wine, but no Question was put upon it - [Joseph] Hewes had a Petition from a Foreigner who

has imported Military Stores, praying Leave to load with Produce but Congress adjourned in the Moment of Presentation –

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

DAVID STEWART TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Baltimore 29th Feby 1776 –

Gentlemen

Inclosed you have a State of the Adventure p Schooner *Seaflower* Waters Mastr from hence to the West Indies & back, which please to Examine, and the Managers will Waite on you to morrow to know your determination therein. – I am Gentn [&c.]

David Stewart

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Thursday 29 February 1776.

Mr James Hutchings agreed with the Council to load the Schooner *Fanny*, James Carmichael Master with Country Produce for the Importation of Salt agreeable to a Resolution of [the Continental] Congress.

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

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday, 29th February, 1776

Ord., that Colo. Fielding Lewis be desired to purchase Capt. Lurty's vessel mentioned in his L're of the 24th for public use, to be employed as one of the cruizers for Rappahannock river.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 100, 101.

COLONEL WILLIAM PURVIANCE TO THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

Wilmington 29th Feb. 1776

Gentlemen

Since I had the honor to write to you last Saturday, the *Cruizer Sloop* of War with three other armed Vessels arrived in view of this Town on Monday Evening. The next morning Governor Martin made a demand of One thousand pounds of Flour. And Captain [Francis] Parry informed the Inhabitants that he should come up in the Evening to know the reason why the Kings Ships had not been supply'd with Provisions as usual. The Committee gave answers to both those messages. The Governor replyd and was again answered, and Captain Parry sent a Note Yesterday for some fresh Beef I have transmitted you Copies of the papers which past on this occasion and I hope what have been wrote by the Committee will meet with your approbation. It is worthy your notice the different Styles in which Mr Parry writes first and last the first is an imperious demand, the last a civil

request.² These Vessels are lying here with intention to cover the landing of their highland Friends, whom they expect to come down in triumph. How sensible must be their disappointment when they hear that all their hopes are frustrated. The inclosed is a Copy of a Letter recd from Col. [James] Moore and contains one of the fullest Account of the Battle we have yet received³ One of our Expresses that returned to day from the Camp informs us that the highlanders broke down their Waggon, and many of them rode away three upon an horse We impatiently waite for all the particulars of this Action which tho' it may appear trifling, will I doubt not be attended with the most important consequences, for as two of the Tory leaders and particularly the second in command fell in the Action I think it very improbable that the principa[l] Officers will be able, were they ever so willing to unite the Army again. Indeed we are assured that the few Regulators they had among them have left them and that they discharged what Prisoners they had. and I have no doubt but many of the poor highlanders will be pleased to get home, being, as they confest, forced and perswaded, contrary to their inclinations into the Service

I have inclosed you, Gentlemen, a return of the men under my Command. You will perceive we are far from being powerful and Col. [Robert] Salters men arrived only yesterday Evening the men I have being very insufficient considering the Post I have to maintain, and the almost numberless preparations for defence, which I have got to make. I shall to morrow have a Battery prepared, and a nine pounder mounted, & as soon as it can be affected, I shall mount a few Six pounders. After this I shall have it in my power to compleat the fire Rafts, from which I was obliged to desist on the arrival of the armed Vessels.

Col. [John] Ashe and his party has been here since saturday, without having done any Duty. He had told Col. Rhodes, that he woud let me have 58 men or more to assist in compleating the Battery. I had sent a [ci]vil message for that purpose, but before it cou'd be delivered Mr Wm. Robeson came, and [said] it wou'd be necessary to have it in writing. I accordingly sent a written message which is inclosed and which I thought could not give offence even to the self important Col Ashe. He thought proper however to return it with a verbal answer, that he did not obey any orders . . .

Col. Ashe advised me on the appearance of the *Cruizer* and other armed Vessels to abandon the Town and join Col. Moore. The few men I had woud have been of little service to the main body and I had not the least Idea of deserting a Post of so much importance, and which I knew the Enemy intended to occupy. On the 27th inst his people applyd for six rounds of Carteridges declaring their intention of joining the main body. they had that additional supply of Ammunition, yet they are still in Town. I have told the Commissary that they are no longer to eat at the publick Expence. . . .

I have the honor to be with great respect Gentlemen [&c.]

W^m Purviance

P.S. . . . A Sailor that deserted from one of the Kings ships of War, lately

come from Boston, has been examined on Oath and declares that he saw three thousand men drawn up wch were destind for the Carolinas. They were to land here, and after they had effected their purposes were to go by land to S[o] Carolina. He further adds that some of their Officers are on board the Ships now in this Harbour.

1. Secretary of State Papers (Council of Safety, 1776), NCDAH.
2. See Martin's letters of February 27; the Committee's answers of the same date, and Parry's letters of February 27 and 28, 1776.
3. The battle of Moore's Creek Bridge.

LIEUTENANT HENRY CHADS TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Hartfield Transport, St John's
Road, Antigua, Feby the 29th 1776.

Sir

In my letter of the 31st of Decr I desired you would be pleased to Acquaint My Lords Commissrs of the Admty, that I was going to the Leward Islands with the *Hartfield*, and *Diana* Transports, to get Rum & Provisions for the Garrison of Boston.

I beg that you will be pleased to Acquaint their Lordships, that I arrived at Barbados the 29th of January, and took in Some Rum and Provisions, and Sailed for this Place, to Compleat the Loading of the two Transports, and Arming them agreable to His Excellency Major Genl [William] Howe's Order. the *Diana* is Loaded, and the *Hartfield* nearly so, The *Hartfield* has Eight 6 pounders, 4 four Pounders, 50 Seamn a Lieut & 30 Marines. The *Diana* will have Eight four pounders, 25 Seamen, and a Compy of the 55th Regt as Soon as Boath Ships are ready, I Shall Sail for Boston.

On My Arrival at this place, I found the *Enterprize* Transport, with 4 Company's of the 55th Regt and the *Argo* Transport (Thos Greeves Master) with 3 Compys of the 46th Regt both Ships much damag'd in their Hulls & Riggin, and Blown off the Coast of America, also the *Royal George* Transport (in Ballast) Blown off the Coast who I was afraid was lost, going to the Bay of Fundy for Forage. The *Enterprize* has been Survey'd by Order of Vice Admiral Young, and found to be too Bad to proceed to America, the Admiral has Order'd her to England, and the *Royal George* is to take 3 Company's of the 55th Regt and the *Diana*, the other one. The *Broomhall* Store Ship John Austin Master, with Naval Stores, for Boston & Halifax, is Arrived here, being Blown off the Coast & Many other Ships with Porter, Coals & Live Stock for the Garrison of Boston, who are to be Convoy'd to Boston by His Majst Ship *Experiment*. I am Sir [&c.]

H:Chads:

[Endorsed] Rd 3 June & Read

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1611.

1 Mar.

CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES AT
NEWBURYPORT¹

Articles of Agreement made this First day of March 1776. Between The Honble Thomas Cushing Esqr of Dedham, on the one part, and Jonathan Greenleaf, Stephen Cross, and Ralph Cross of Newbury port shipwrights on the Other part.

Wittneseth, That the Said Jonathan Stephen & Ralph hath agreed with the Said Thomas to build with the utmost dispatch in Newbury port Afforesaid two Ships for the Account of The Thirteen United Colonies. Agreeable to the Draughts & Directions which the Said Thomas hath Deliver'd them, viz. The Length of the keel of the one Ship, About Ninety Six feet, Breadth of Beam About Thirty three feet Depth in the Hold about Ten feet Six Inches. Between decks about four feet Six Inches the Waist five feet:² The Length of the keel of the other Ship About one hundred & eleven feet Breadth of Beam about thirty five feet, depth in the Hold about Eleven feet, depth Between Decks about five feet, & five feet waist,³ the Said Ships to be built as near as possible to the draughts & directions Above mentioned & Referr'd to; And the timber and plank to be of the best white Oak, and free of Rots and defects except in the bottom where they have Liberty to put some black Oak timber only, And the decks which are to be Laid with good pine plank the scantlens of timber and thickness of plank to be agreeable to the Directions Above Referr'd to, To find and make a Compleat Set of Masts Yards Bowsprit, Topmasts and top gallant mast the main and fore mast of each ship to be Check'd with Oak in a good and workmanlike manner, to build a head & Galleries to each Ship, to find and make two Capstons to each Ship, to fix & Step two pumps which work by hand in each Ship, to find and fix a Sufficient number of Belaying Bitts, To find and fix Suitable pillars to all the Beams above and Below. To find and fix a Rudder and Tiller to each Ship, to find & fix five Anchor Stocks for each ship. To find Sufficient stuff for the Companions, & All the gangway and other Ladders. To Caulk the ships, To find & fix all the Stocks for the Swivel guns. To find & Fix Seven pair standards between decks, and pointers over the transoms abaft in a word to do and find all the Carpenters work in the finishing them off as a Ship of War Ought to be finished, in a good and Workmanlike manner, And to Launch Said Ships Safely a float the Small ship in May the Large ship in June 1776 And the said Jonathan, Stephen & Ralph Agree Allso to Stop all the Worm holes to Clear the timbers and hold of all the Chips, to pay both Ships with Turpentine to Grave both Ships After Launching, to Water both ships on the Stocks, to find Rum for the Labourers, and to Launch Said Ships at their own Risque and Expence. And the Said Thomas Cushing Esqr on his part doth also Agree with the Said Jonathan Stephen & Ralph, that he will find for building the two Ships aforesaid and in Season, Iron work of every kind, pitch Tar, turpentine,

Oackum, Joiners Work, proper tackles to assist them and all such Articles as are Customary for the owners to find and do, And pay to the Said Jonathan, Stephen & Ralph at the Rate of Six pounds ten shills L Money p tun for each & every tun the Large ship shall measure And Six pounds of Like money for each & every tun the smaller Ship may measure the payments to be made in the following manner viz one fourth part when the keel is Laid, one fourth when shut in under the Whale one fourth when the Gun Deck Beams are Carried in one eighth part when Launch'd the Remaining Eight part when finished. To the true and faithfull performance of each and every Article before mentioned, the parties bind and oblige themselves each to the Other in the penal sum of Two Thousand pounds Law money. In Wittness whereof we have hereunto interchangably set our hands and Seals the day & year first above written

Signed Sealed & deliverd	Jonath Greenleaf
in presence of	Step ⁿ Cross
John Bradford	Ralph Cross ^{junr}
Gibbins Sharp	Thomas Cushing

1. USNAM.
2. Subsequently the Continental frigate *Boston*.
3. Subsequently the Continental frigate *Hancock*.

COLONEL JOHN GLOVER IN ACCOUNT WITH WILLIAM BARTLETT¹

1776	[Marblehead]	
Mh 1	To Wharfage 17 Cords wood New mills a/5	0.7.1
	To Ditto 45 Cords pr Schoo a/5	0.18.9
	To Ditto 2 Sloop Loads	1.0.10
	To Wharfage Schoo <i>Franklin</i> 5 weeks a 5/4	1.6.8
	To Watering Ditto	2.0

1. John Glover's Colony Ledger, MarbHS. Bartlett was Continental agent at Beverly.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND¹

[Providence] March 1st 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment. —

Voted. That Mr Barnard Eddy go into the Country and Cut & send in all the Knees he possibly can on the best Termes he possibly can that he also engage Carters to bring in the Timber from Tyler's Lott on the best termes he can he observing to make written agreements with all the people he may Employ. —

Voted. That Capt Pardon Sheldon take a List of all the Carpenters in Bowers Yard, that he call the list at sun rise & sun sett and make return to the Committee's Clerk every Saturday before the Time of paying the men off. —

Voted. That Capt Christopher Sheldon take a list of the Carpenters in Major Talman's Yard & call the List and make Return as above. —

That 25 Dollars be given for all 3 Inch Plank delivd in the Yard by the middle of March.

Voted. That one of the Committee attend the Ship yards constantly and that it be by Lott which fell as follows Nich Brown to attend on Monday John I. Clarke Tuesday Daniel Tillinghast wednesday Wm Russell Thursday Joseph Russell Fryday John Brown Saturday John Smith Monday Joseph Nightingale Tuesday 2d Jabez Bowen 2d Wednesday

Gave Mr Jones an order on the Treasurer for £ 12.16.6 in full to this 1st March Inclusive.

Reckoning 28/6

Meeting adjourned to Monday evening

I. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

STATEMENT OF AUGUSTUS NEWMAN, WILLIAM MERRISS AND
JOSEPH CRANDALL¹

We the Subscribers being brought before General [William] West Declare; that Yesterday a Tender came near the Wharves in Newport, that Mr Ebenzer Richardson went down on the Wharf & made a Signal for their Boat to come on Shore, which she did, he asked them what they wanted, they enquired for Mr [George] Irish & produced a Memorandum of small Stores for Mrs [James] Ayscough, the things were procured & brought down on the Wharf; on one of the Bundles was fastned a Letter, which Things we thought ought not to go on Board, without higher Authority, to which Mr [William] Read answered he had been to Head Quarters. - The Billet on the Bundle was only congratu[la]tory to Mrs Ayscough on her safe Delivery of a Son and that the Council had seen it, which together with the Memorandum is as follows -

Memorandum for the *Swan*

4 Loaves Bread, 6 Fowls 1 Doz. Milk Bisket 6 Cakes Ginger Bread 2 Doz Eggs 1 Doz Cabbages -

To Mr Irish from Capt Ayscough, Pray auquaint Mr Wm Wanton Mrs A———h² is very ill on Board & send her off the above things if you Please. J:A:

Mrs Wanton's Compliments to Mrs Ayscough & give her Joy that she is well a Bed, have sent her 4 Fowls, & a Piece of find Mild Cheese, is Sorry our fate is so Hard that we can't follow our Inclinations as we would. I wish you soon in Health; and may God bless you

N:B. Capt Read upon our refusing to let the Things go on Board swore by God they should go on Board if the Devil stood at the Door, and that after the Assembly should Rise said that he would go on Board for all Head Quarters or Low Quarters he would be Damn'd if he did not, and asked them if they wanted any more Articles, if they did he would get them for them.

August Newman W^m Merriss J^{os} Crandall

[Endorsed] The within & above was taken before General West at Head Quarters on Rhodeisland March 1st 1776

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776-1781, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

2. Mrs. Ayscough, wife of captain of H.M. Sloop *Swan*.

STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM READ¹

Capt. William Read saith that Yesterday one of the Tenders came near the Shore & sent in a Boat with a Memorandum of the following Articles, one Doz. Bisket, 6 Cakes Ginger-bread, 2 Doz Eggs, 8 Loaves Bread, 4 Fowls & about two Pounds Cheese, on the Arrival of the Boat, some of the Council was call'd to the Wharf where she lay, and shewed the above Memorandum, & relating that Mrs Ayscough was bro't to Bed & stood in Need of the above Articles, On which I went to Mr Irish's House, who was not at Home, & I returned to Town to Mr Daniel Holly, who with myself provided the above Articles, & sent them on Board by the Permission of the Rest of the Council -

Questn asked Capt Read by Genl. West, Whether the Council gave him Orders to Deliver the above Articles. Ansr No other Ways than I was permitted to do it - Questn How many of the Council were present when you was permitted. Ansr Only [Ebenezer] Richardson & I were on the Wharf

W^m Read

[Endorsed] The above was taken at Head Quarters on Rhodeisland before Genl West March, 1st 1776

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776-1781, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

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

March 1st, 1776.

Elias Nixen, the port master, at the door, was admitted, he informed the Congress that the officer of the port guard had seized and taken servants of Govr. Tryon who came to shore in a boat with a quantity of linen to be washed; That he had informed the officer of the guard that it was not contrary to the directions of this Congress for persons to come on shore from Govr Tryon's ship; that the officer persisting that it was agreeable to his orders from the general, he prevailed on him to send up to the general. The officer said the general ordered that they should not be discharged; that the said two servants were sent to the guard house, and in custody.

The port master farther informs that his office is become useless; that the guards have fired at several boats this day; that the general told him last night that no provisions should go to the Governor until the occasion of his having stopped a large quantity of flour was cleared up; ² that he has seen the Governor's two servants put into the guard house.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 331, 332.

2. *Ibid.*, February 26, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT¹

March 1776

Moor'd off Bedlow's Island

Friday 1st

Strong Gales & Clear with severe Frost. The Cutter being kept out for the Guard overset in the Night, lost out of her Boat Oars Six, Sails two, Cloak one, Leather Bucket one, Masts two; Yards & spreet one each: Arm Chest One, Rother [Rudder] One, Outrigger one, Bright Musquets Eight, Pistols with Ribs four pair, Cartouch Boxes with Belts & frogs fourteen each, Swords with Scabbard & Bolts three each.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, March 1, 1776

Resolved, That an addition of 34 dollars per month be added to the pay of Joseph Reed, Esqr the secretary to General Washington, on account of the extraordinary services at present attending that office, by reason of the General's direction of the naval department.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 179-81.DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH¹

[Philadelphia] Friday 1 March An Addition was made to the Salary of Joseph Reed Esqr Secry to Gen. Washington, he had befo[re] 66 Dollars p month it was now made 100 under Pretence that he is obliged to act as Secry to the Naval Departmt too, this was on Motion of [Benjamin] Harrison² . . . A Petition was presented but not now acted upon, from a large Number of Philadelphians pray[ing] the Congress to grant Leave for Privateers and Letters of Marque to Seize the Ships of G Britain Ireland and the other British Dominions.

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

2. As Reed had left Cambridge for Philadelphia at the end of October 1775, and did not rejoin Washington during the remaining period of the siege of Boston, the reason for a pay-increase might well have caused Smith to use the word "Pretence."

WILLING, MORRIS & CO. TO GREGORY & GUILLE, BARCELONA¹

P. Capt Getsheus.

Philadelphia, March 1st 1776

Notwithstanding the unhappy circumstances in which this Country is involved, by the Infatuated Conduct of a Wick'd Administration, has deprived us a long time of opportunity of paying our respects to you, Still we hold you in the same estimation & retain the same Desire to Serve you as ever. You will find herein an Invoice & bill of Lading for 11726 $\frac{1}{2}$ Bushels of wheat & 630 Bls of Flour, which by Special Licence we have Shipped on board the *Aurora* Capt Jacob Getsheus for your Address, we should have been glad to Interest you in the Cargo but that could not be, therefore are pleased with the Opportunity for you, the Commission that will

result, When this Ship arrives we Desire you will make the best Sale of the Cargo that you possibly can & remit the Nt Prce'd to Messrs Wm Baynes & Co in London, the sooner the better. We Desire you to keep the Acct relative to this Cargo Distinct from our other Concerns and every remittce you make to them Specify that it on account of the *Aurora* Cargo,² rendering us in Due time Acct Sales & acct Current for the Same —

The Interested in this Cargo may Probably make more Exportations, & if they do to your part of the World, you will come in for a good Share of the Consignments provided you give that Satisfaction we have taught them to expect. We are Sir [&c.]

Morris Willing & Co

[Endorsed] (a Copy) Thomas Rich³

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2389.

2. The *Aurora*'s cargo was shipped under contract between Willing, Morris & Co., and the Secre. Committee of the Continental Congress, Robert Morris Papers, HUL.

3. "Herewith I transmit exact Copys of three Letters found on board the *Aurora*," Captain Thomas Rich, R.N., to Philip Stephens, PRO, Admiralty 1/2389.

WILLING, MORRIS & CO. TO GREGORY & GUILLE¹

Gentn

Philadelphia Mar. 1, 1776 —

We wrote you the 9th Decr and have now reced your favors of the 1st Sept & Copys of the 14th & 25 of October Thanking you for your advices of which however at this time we can make very little use as you will well know by the late Acts [of] Parliament &ca We know nothing of the Ship *Lord Chatham*, but what is Mentione'd in Yours of the 14th OCTR Sorry we shou'd be indeed to see any ship come here now & Doubtless she has been Stopp'd, by the Prospect of what was Likely to happen in this part of the World. We are too much Engaged to Answer the Political part of your Letters, therefore at present it must suffice to assure you that Independancy never was the View of America in the Present contest, nay even now they start at the Idea, altho it appears evident they will be Forced into such a Declaration. We thank you for the Letters & Assistance you gave Capt Van-horne whom we are expecting & wish to see here again, he Judged Ill in Sending [Captain] Lott to London, we wish he had either sent her back here, or sold her for that she would Fatch, for we expect the Value of the Vessel will be Sunk in charges & Expences, under the Extravagent Mr Lott.² We duly note all Articles of Account & shall be glad in due time to receive final Acct Currt. You may find Conveyance of writing to us Via France &ca but the Passage will now be very unsafe for any Ships We are Sirs [&c.]

Willing & Morris. —

PS. If you can render any assantial Service, to Mr Benj Gibbs, Owner of the Ship *Aurora*, we beg you will do it, he's a worthy Deserving Man —

[Endorsed] (a Copy) Thomas Rich³

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2389.

2. The ship *Kitty*, Captain Lott; see Willing, Morris & Co. to Gregory & Guille, December 9, 1775, Volume 3, 22-24.

3. See note under preceding entry.

ROBERT MORRIS AND JOHN ALSOP TO SILAS DEANE ¹

Sir

Philada March 1st 1776

We deliver you here with one part of a Contract made with the Secret Committee of Congress for exporting Produce of these Colonies to Europe & Importing from France Certain Articles suitable for the Indians ² the first part of this business we have undertaken and shall accomplish it as soon as possible by shipping Cargoes to the Markets they are best adapted for & ordering the Consignees to remit the proceeds to the following Houses Vizt Messrs Saml & J.H. Delap in Bourdeaux Messrs Geo. Clifford & Teysett in Amsterdam Mr John Hodgshon in Amsterdam -

We think it prudent thus to divide the remittances that owners of the Houses may know the Extent of your Commission but each of them will have orders to Account with you for the Amount of what comes into their hands for this purpose & to hold the same Subject to your drafts & orders. On your part you are immediately to repair to France for the Execution of that part of this Contract which by our private agreement you have undertaken. We deliver you herewith Sundry letters of introduction to respectable Houses in France which we hope will place you in the respectable light you deserve to appear & put you on a footing to purchase the Goods wanted on the very best terms. We deliver You herewith an Invoice of the Goods wanted which has been inspected & approved by the Secret Committee, we hope you will readily & expeditiously procure every Article wanted, & immediately Shipped in such manner as you judge most likely to answer the purpose of getting them safe landed in some of the United Colonies of North America; you will transmit to the Secret Committee Bills of Load[in]g & Invoices for every parcell of Goods you remit & as the Brig *Rachell* has been Chartered for the express purpose of Carrying you to France and for bringing back a part of these Goods, We deliver you herewith a letter from the Secret Committee to Capt Isherwood directing him to obey your orders, therefore you can deliver it whenever you see proper to disclose yourself to him. the Vessell is on Monthly pay, therefore the sooner you dispatch her back the better & you will give this Captain and all others suitable directions for approaching this Coast on their return with Circumspection We are Sir [&c.]

John Alsop, for Self
Phil Livingston and Francis Lewis -
Rob^t Morris -

PS

You'll please to supply Capt Isherwood with Money to pay the Brig *Rachells* Charges & transmit his receipt for the Amount

1. Silas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

2. The Continental Congress, on January 27, 1776, authorized the Secret Committee to contract with proper person to import goods to the amount of £40,000 sterling, "to preserve the friendship and confidence of the Indians, and to prevent their suffering for want of the necessaries of life," Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 96-97.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety

Philad'a, March 1st, 1776.

The time for the present Contractor for Supplying the men on board the Armed Boats with provisions, being nearly expired,

Order'd, That the following advertisement be published in the papers of this City:

In Committee of Safety.

All persons who are willing to supply the Officers & Men employ'd in the Naval Armament & Artillery of this Province with the following Rations, Vizt:

For each Man per Week, Seven pounds of bread, or Six pounds of flour, one-fourth at least, to be in flour if required; ten pounds of Beef, Mutton, or Pork; the Value of Six pence in Roots & Vegetables; a Sufficient proportion of Salt & Vinegar; three pints and an half of Rum, or Beer in proportion; are desired to send in their proposals to this Committee, on or before the 8th day of March instant; the Contract to commence on the 11th inst., and continue in force for three Months, if the Men are not sooner discharged.²

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 499, 500.

2. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, March 2, 1776, and in the *Pennsylvania Packet*, March 4, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Friday 1st March 1776.

Ordered That Messrs Samuel Purviance Junior, William Smith and David Stewart pay to Messrs William Lux and Daniel Bowly twelve hundred and two Pounds eighteen Shillings and nine pence, being the Ballance of their Account with the province in Consequence of an Adventure by the Schooner *Seaflower*.

Permit was granted to Messrs Samuel Purviance Junr William Smith and David Stewart and others concerned in the Adventure P the Schooner *Seaflower*, to export the Produce of this Province to the Amount of four hundred and eighty nine Pounds and five pence agreeable to a Resolution of the [Continental] Congress.

Doctr George Budd was appointed Surgeon of the Ship *Defence*, and Doctr Nathan Dorsey junr Mate.

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

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ¹

[Newbern] March 1st 1776.

Resolved That Robert Atchison Midshipman and Richard Dunniver, lately belonging to the *Syren* Man of War, now prisoners here on parole be

sent to Halifax Town, and delivered into the Care of the Committee of that Town

Ordered, That Colo John Bryan Attend to the Execution of this Order, and direct an Officer with four Men to execute the same.

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

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[Charleston] Friday, March 1, 1776.

Resolved, That no vessels whatsoever, shall pass any armed posts in the rivers and inlets, or on the coast of this colony, until a satisfactory account shall have been given of them at such posts: And that public notice be given of this resolution.

The Hon. Mr. [Rawlins] Lowndes, with Col. [James] Parsons, being returned from Georgia, Mr. Lowndes reported, that he, with Col. Parsons, and Capt. [Thomas] Savage, having found the Congress of that colony dissolved, they made every representation to the Council of Safety, to induce them to co-operate with this colony, in continuing the non-exportation resolution of the Continental Congress: That the Council represented to them the great opposition, in Savannah, to the measures of Congress, which had not entered into any decisive resolve on that head; but that they would do every thing in their power to co-operate with us: And in short, that it was their opinion, unless this colony interfered in a forcible manner, exportation would speedily take place.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 60, 61.

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety
Savannah, March 1, 1776.

Whereas, the resolution of the Hon. the Continental Congress, restraining the exportation of rice from the United Colonies for a time, having expired this day, without any further or additional restraint, as we know of, now lies with the Council of Safety for this Province either farther to restrain the exportation, or to permit it. And whereas a formidable force, both by sea and land, having invaded this Province for several weeks past, and it appearing, by the arrival of such force, that the cause of the said Continental restriction is not removed:

Resolved, therefore, That no ships loaded with rice, or any other article of produce, in this Province, shall be permitted to sail without leave of the Council of Safety or next Congress, except such vessels as are or shall be permitted to sail for the purpose of procuring the necessary measures of defence.

Resolved, That in case any loss shall be sustained by such detention, the delegates of this Province shall be instructed to apply to the Continental Congress to make the reimbursement for such loss a general charge.

Ordered, That the rudders be unshipped; and the rigging and sails taken away and secured from the several vessels now riding in the port of Savannah.

Orders to Col. Lachlan McIntosh.

Sir, — You will enforce and have executed the aforementioned resolutions and order, the resolution heretofore delivered to you as of the Council of Safety being erroneous; and any permit you may have given in consequence, you will please to recall.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Wm. Ewen, President.

Edward Langworthy, Secretary.

1. George White, ed., *Historical Collections of Georgia* (New York, 1855), 90. Hereafter cited as White, ed., *Georgia Historical Collections*.

JOURNAL PREPARED FOR THE KING OF FRANCE BY JOHN PAUL JONES¹

On the 1st of March [1776] the squadron anchored at Abaco, one of the Bahama Islands, and carried in there two sloops belonging to New Providence. Some persons on board the sloops, informed that a quantity of powder and warlike stores might be taken in the forts of New Providence. An expedition was determined on against that island. It was resolved to embark the marines on board the two sloops. They were to remain below deck until the sloops had anchored in the harbour close to the forts, and they were then to land and take possession. There was not a single soldier in the island to oppose them; therefore the plan would have succeeded, and not only the public stores might have been secured, but a considerable contribution might have been obtained as a ransom for the town and island, had not the whole squadron appeared off the harbour in the morning, instead of remaining out of sight till after the sloops had entered and the marines secured the forts. On the appearance of the squadron the signal of alarm was fired, so that it was impossible to think of crossing the bar. The commander in chief proposed to go round the west end of the island, and endeavour to march the marines up and get behind the town; but this could never have been effected. The islanders would have had time to collect; there was no fit anchorage for the squadron, nor road from that part of the island to the town. Mr. Jones finding by the Providence pilots that the squadron might anchor under a key three leagues to windward of the harbour, gave this account to the commander in chief, who objecting to the dependence on the pilots, Mr. Jones undertook to carry the *Alfred* safe in. He took the pilot with him to the fore-topmast-head, from whence they could clearly see every danger, and the squadron anchored safe. The marines, with two vessels to cover their landing, were immediately sent in by the east passage. The commander in chief promised to touch no private property. The inhabitants abandoned the forts, and the governor, finding he must surrender the island, embarked all the powder in two vessels, and sent them away in the night. This was foreseen, and might have been

prevented, by sending the two brigantines to lie off the bar. The squadron entered the harbour of New Providence....

1. [Robert C. Sands], *Life and Correspondence of John Paul Jones including his Narrative of the Campaign of the Liman* (New York, 1830), 35-36. Hereafter cited as Sands, *Life and Correspondence of John Paul Jones*.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS
BIDDLE¹

[Monday,
February 19
to Friday,
March 1]

On Monday Feb'y 19th Hard gales & thick Weather,
Lost sight of the sloop *Hornet & Fly*, in the Night,
Nothing remarkable Hapen'd [to] us till we made the
Iland of Abbacco one of the Bahama Ilands where we
Came too at the S West Side In 12 fathom[s] Water
on Friday March 1st having seen nothing of the *Hornet*
nor *Fly* since we parted with them,²

1. Enclosure A, Shuldham to Stephens, July 8, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484. This journal, kept by First Lieutenant James Josiah, *Andrew Doria*, was found in his possession when the transport *Crawford*, in which he was prize master, was taken by H.M.S. *Cerberus*, June 12, 1776. Hereafter cited as *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484. See Appendix C.
2. From the Journal of John Trevett: "I went on board the Ship *Columbus*, as first Lieutenant of Marines, and when we had got to sea we stood to the Sou[th]ward until we made the Island of Abbaco one of the Bahama Island[s]. There we came to anchor," NHS. Trevett had been promoted to lieutenant of Marines on February 13, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Viper*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES¹

March 1776
Friday 1

Anegada So 10 Wt 151 Leagues
AM Read the Articles of war & Abstract of the late
Act of Parliament to the Ships Company Unbent the
fore topsl and bent Another
Fresh gales & Squally
at 1 PM Shortened sail for Convoy in 2nd reef Topsls
saw a sail a head at 2 Fired 2 Shot & brought too a
brig from Georgia bound to Tartola with Lumber and
Indigo² Sent an Officer & 9 Men to Conduct her to
Antigua at 9 in 3d reef Topsls & handed fore & Mizn
topsls

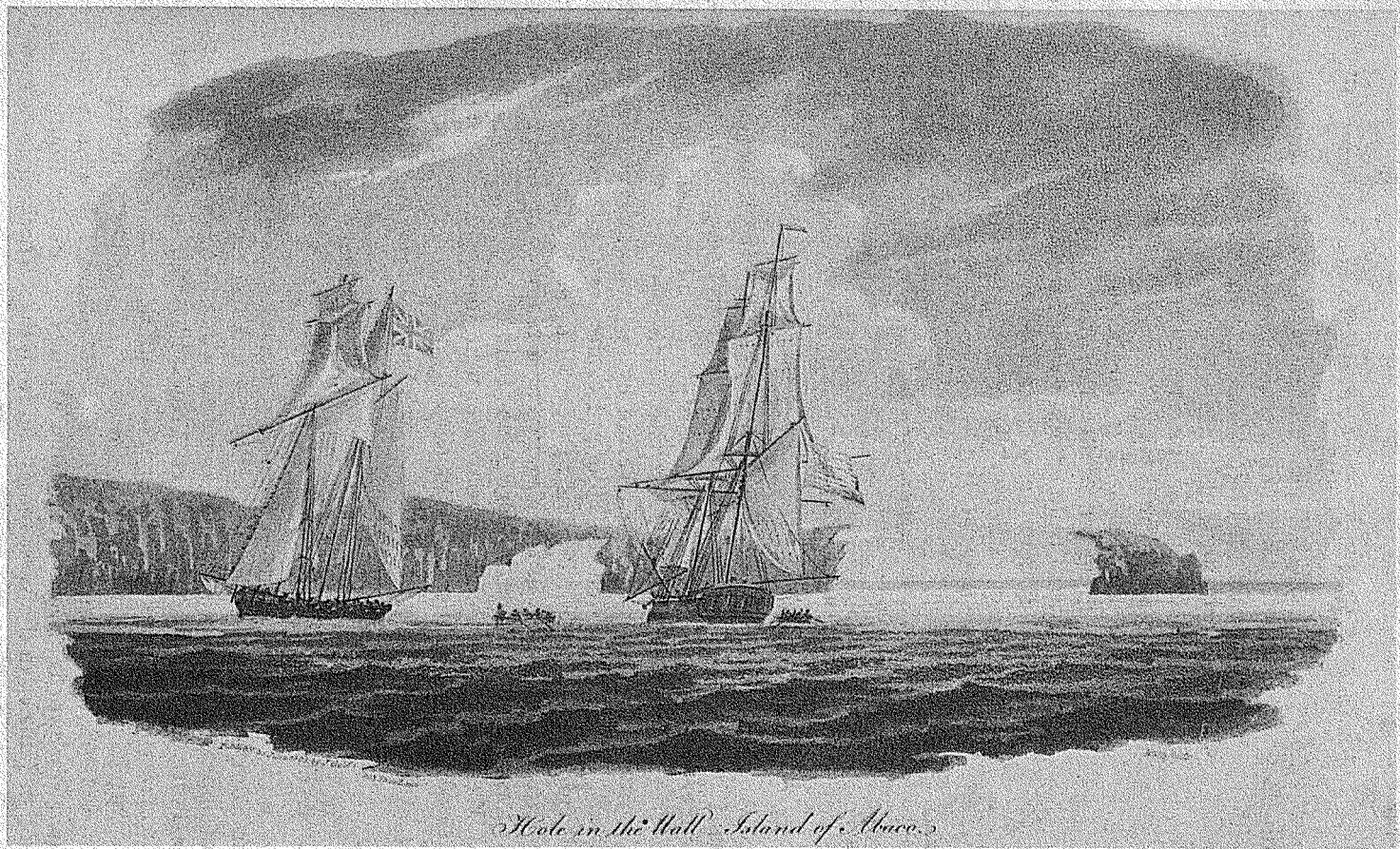
1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1039.
2. The *Sawney* (probably *Suwanee*), Francis Skinner, master. She was bound to Santa Cruz, not Tortola, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Argo*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM GARNIER¹

March 1776
Friday 1st

Moored at Prin[c]e Ruports Bay Dominica
at 4 PM Sent a Boat in the Offing and Boarded the
Dolphin Schooner a Wheeler from New York took
Her as Prize and Sent Her to Roseau Dominica with
an Officer and Six Men.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/19.



Hole in the Wall, Island of Anco.

2 Mar.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU¹

March 1776
Saturday 2.

At Single Anchor as before [Marblehead Bay]
At 1 AM fired at a schooner running out, And sailed
hence his Majesty's sloop *Nautilus* AM loosed sails to
dry And read the Articles of war & Abstract to the Ships
Company at Noon furled sails.
Moderate and fair
at 5 PM sway'd up Topgallant Masts on seeing a Brigg
coming out of Beverley And got ready for slipping at
½ past 6 slipped and gave Chace through Bakers Island
Channell at ½ past 7 fired three 9 Pounders And
brought her to, found her laden with fish and Lumber
for the West Indies at 9 made Sail.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

2. Although there is no record in Shulldham's prize list, the *Fowey's* journal of March 4 records:
"the Prize Brig went up to Boston."

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1776

Providence, March 2.

We hear that the *Yankey Hero* Privateer this Week took a Provision Vessel bound to Boston, which has had a short Passage from England—A number of Letters were found on board for the ministerial Officers in Boston, which were sent to Head-Quarters at Cambridge.¹

Advice it is said has been received by the above Vessel, that Mr. [Edmund] Burke had moved the House of Commons for Leave to bring in a Bill empowering certain Persons to treat with the Honorable Continental Congress, which passed in the Negative by a Majority of only 5, and that a Day was appointed for reconsidering the Motion.

Wednesday last the ministerial Fleet went down the Bay, and anchored off Conanicut, where they still remain.

1. The brigantine *Nelly*, John Robinson, master, taken Monday, February 26, 1776.

DEPOSITION OF ELEAZER TREADWELL¹

Colony of Connecticut Hartford County ss. —

Be it remembered that upon this second day of March In the Year of our Lord one Thousand seven Hundred and seventy six personally came and appeared befor me Titus Hosmer Esqr one of his majesties Justices of the Peace for said County Eleazer Treadwell of Haddam in said County Mariner who being duly sworn upon his Oath deposeth and saith that upon the 28th day of May last he shipped himself as a Mariner on board the Briga *Polly*, Giles Sage Master, owned by Colo Matthew Talcott and Capt Jeremiah Wadsworth upon a voyage from Middletown in said County to the Island of Jamaica in the West Indies and from thence back again to New York

and Middletown, & soon after sailed in sd Briga from the port of New London and arrived at Kingston in Jamaica, and having lain there some time he sailed again in sd Briga from Kingston for New York, and that in his passage to New York on or about the 20th day of September last they fell in with his Majesties Ship the *Nautilus*, being near the Land, which immediately fired three Guns at us, and then sent her pinnace with Armed Men and took possession of said Brig and took the Master and all the people that belonged to the Briga except the Mate and carried them on board the *Nautilus* – and put a prize Master and Mariners on board said Briga and then stood away for Newport on Rhode Island with sd Briga in Company –² this Deponent farther saith that the Crew of said Brigantine, at the Time she was taken consisted of the following Persons to wit Giles Sage Master, Josiah Lee Mate, and Jabez Perkins, John Pike, John Hall, Noadiah Bailey Jeremiah Fullerton and this Deponent Mariners; this Deponent also saith that the Cargo of said Brigantine at the Time she was taken as aforesaid as far as he knows and can remember consisted of the following Articles to wit a large Quantity of Jamaica Rum and Sugar, Beef, pork, Oznaburghs, Duck, writing Paper, Ginger, Cotton-wool, Checkd Linnen, a large quantity of Indigo, a Negro, a Gun, a Spy Glass which this Deponent knows to have been on board but has not any means in his power to ascertain the Quantity or Quality of the same

This Deponent farther says that the mate Josiah Lee at Newport in Rhode Island was brought on board the *Nautilus* & confined there & laid in Irons upon preten[s]e that he had conspired with two of the seamen of the *Nautilus* on board the Briga to rise and rescue the Briga & run away with her, altho he steadily denied the Charge, and the Informer was not reputed a person of Good Character by the Crew of the *Nautilus* and it was not pretended that he made any attempt to rescue the Briga or had done any one thing tending that way, the loading him with Irons this Deponent thought to be very severe treatment, as there was no Danger from him on board the *Nautilus* notwithstanding his Irons were kept upon him till this Deponent made his Escape in October last

The Deponent further says that soon afterwards the *Nautilus* sailed with said Briga from Newport for Boston and on her passage near Beverly ran aground, and was there attacked by People from the shore when this Deponent & the other Seamen taken out of sd Brigantine were ordered to the Guns on board the *Nautilus* and compelled to fire them upon the Town and the people on Shore –³

This Deponent further says that he was detaind on board the *Nautilus* till towards the End of October when he had Liberty to go on shore in Boston when he took an Opportunity in the Evening to make his Escape in a Boat to Dorchester point & from thence returned home, leaving the rest of the Crew of said Briga on board the *Nautilus*, & sd Briga in the Harbour of Boston & further this Deponent saith not

elezer trewell

sworn to by said Eleazer Treadwell the day and year above written before me

Titus Hosmer, Justs Pace

1. Papers CC (Connecticut State Papers, 1775-89), 66, I, 147-48, NA.
2. The *Polly* and her cargo were condemned and sold in Boston, Graves's Prize List, December 31, 1775, II, 36-38, BM.
3. Encounter of the *Nautilus* with the people of Beverly and Salem while chasing Washington's schooner *Hannah* into Beverly harbor on October 10, 1775, Volume 2, 386-87.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New York] Die Sabbati, A.M.

March 2nd, 1776.

Col. [Alexander] McDougall informed the Congress that Capt. James Smith has the care and charge of the sloop or vessel which Capt. [Anthony] Rutgers and himself were directed by this Congress to purchase and arm. That Capt. Smith has had sundry disbursements in that matter, and also that wages are due to the men and mariners employed in and about the said sloop. That Capt. Smith has occasion for about £50 on account.

Ordered, That Peter V.B. Livingston, Esqr. as Treasurer of the Provincial Congress of this Colony, advance to Capt. James Smith the sum of £50, on account of wages for the seamen, mariners and marines belonging to the sloop *Schuylers*, now under his command, and the expenses and disbursements of the said James Smith for and on account of the said armed sloop; and her arms and appurtenances.

Information having been given to this Congress by several members, that the sentries placed near the wharves frequently fired at boats and sloops, with the inhabitants of this and the neighbouring Colonies, as they are going out and coming into the docks and slips, whereby the persons on board are in danger of losing their lives; that the masters of some of those very boats or sloops had obtained passes before they attempted to go out.

Information was also given to this Congress yesterday evening, and by some members this day, that all communication with, and the supplies of necessary provisions to, the ships of war, and Govr Tryon's ship, in the harbour or in the bays near this city, is interdicted; and Mr. [Isaac] Roosevelt informed the Congress that Col. [David] Waterbury has lately declared that the other United Colonies ought to crush this Colony of New-York; and that Mr. Isaac Sears had spoken of this Congress, and the general committee of the city of New-York, in the most harsh, disrespectful and abusive terms, many of which were mentioned by Mr. Roosevelt.

On motion of Mr. [Leonard] Gansevort,

Ordered, That Mr. [John Morin] Scott, Mr. [John Sloss] Hobart, and Mr. Gansevort be a committee to wait on Major-Genl. [Charles] Lee without delay, and request of him the reason of his interdicting the communication between this city and the ships of war and Govr Tryon's ship, in or near the harbour of this city, contrary to the resolves of this Congress; and also to re-

quest the occasion of the firing by the soldiery of this city on the inhabitants of this Colony, that are coming to and going out of the city. And

Ordered, That Mr. [Thomas] Smith, Col. [Abraham] Lott, and Mr. Roosevelt be a committee to inquire into, and take examinations on oath relative to the soldiers firing on the inhabitants in boats, and also as to the declarations of Col. Waterbury and Mr. Isaac Sears inimical to this Colony and its inhabitants.

Die Sabbati, 4 ho. P.M. March 2d, 1776.

The committee who attended on Major Genl. Lee returned and made a parol report; and they were requested to deliver their report in writing at the next meeting of Congress.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 332, 333.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW YORK, MARCH 2.”¹

An affair has lately been discovered here which has given no small uneasiness to the Congress. Some manoeuvres of Governor Tryon convinced that Assembly that he was perfectly acquainted with their proceedings, and they were at a loss to guess from what quarter he could get his intelligence. At length, a doubt arose in the breast of Mr [James] Duane, (a principal Member of the Congress,) that his Valet,² who had formerly lived with Governor Tryon, had at night, when he went to bed, taken his Minutes out of his pocket, which he had copied, and sent to his late Master. He informed the Congress of his suspicion, and it was agreed that he should put, as usual, some Minutes in his pocket, but they should be fictitious ones, in order, if possible, to ascertain his Servant's dishonesty before he was apprehended: This was accordingly done; the Servant, as it is supposed, copied and sent them to the Governor, who soon found that the Servant either had imposed on him, or was himself imposed on, and therefore gave him notice to take care of himself; he fled immediately, and is said to be sent to England in the last ship that sailed from hence.

1. *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, London, April 17 to April 19, 1776.

2. James Brattle. See Volume 3, 698-99.

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

March 1776
Saturday 2d

Moor'd in Graves End Bay
Mode Breezes and Clear A M Fir'd Sevrall Shott at
Vessels to bring them to.²
P M Sail'd hence the *Harriot* Transport with the *Sally*
Salt Ship and the *Francis* Sloop.³

1: PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

2. A prize taken that day, but not recorded in the journal, was the sloop *Ranger*, Thomas Dobbs, master; Abraham Eve, owner, bound from New York for Egg Harbor, in ballast, Shulldham's prize list, May 23, 1776, lists the *Ranger* as sunk, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

3. The *Harriot*, from England, had anchored in Gravesend Bay on February 20; the *Sally* was the prize taken by the *Phoenix* on February 3, and the *Francis* had dropped down from New York on February 21. All three were intending for Boston. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR. TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM¹.

Dear Sir—

Phoenix, New-York, March 2nd, 1776.

This will be delivered to you by Mr [John] Young, a young gentleman of fortune, from Philadelphia, as I am informed. His errand to Boston is to offer himself a volunteer to General Howe. During six weeks' residence on board the *Phoenix*, his behavior was such as to entitle him to every civility I could shew him, and from his request take the liberty of presenting him to you.

The sloop *Francis* is loaded with naval stores, tobacco, &c. In the article of tobacco, she has a great deal more than is cleared out from the custom house. I therefore presume that becomes forfeited to the captors, by the acts of trade. Should this be the case, I beg you will be pleased to allow your secretary to sell it as our agent. There is also a strong suspicion that the ship loaded with salt has wines and other merchandise under the salt.² The owners of both these vessels are good subjects to the King, and I have assured them they will be treated with as much lenity as the times will admit of.

Since I had the honour of writing to you on the 25th of last month, I find General Lee is ordered to Canada to take command of the army in that country, and a General Schuyler to have the command at this place. Lee has pulled down the north curtain of the fort, and is now entrenching what was called the Bowling Green. The privateer, it is said, has certainly sailed from Philadelphia.

I am, Sir, with great esteem [&c.]

H.Parker.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 157. This letter was intercepted and never reached Shuldham.

2. The ship *Sally*.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW JERSEY PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New Brunswick] Saturday, March 2, 1776.

The Congress proceeded to the determination of the prize ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, now lying at Elizabethtown Point, lately seized by Lord Stirling, with detachments of the Continental forces, and militia: And it appearing by the testimony of credible witnesses, upon their oaths, that the said ship, John H. Dempster, master, sailed from London some time last fall, laden with stores shipped by order of the right honorable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, bound to the port of Boston, or any one other port in America: The said cargo by the bill of lading, dated the 30th day of September, 1775, to be delivered unto the Commander-in-Chief of his Majesty's forces in America, or to his order. And the honorable Continental Congress, having previous to the taking the aforesaid ship,

Resolved, That all transport vessels in the same service, having on board any troops, arms, ammunition, clothing, provisions, or military or naval stores of what kind so ever, and all vessels to

whomesoever belonging, that shall be employed in carrying provisions or other necessaries, to the British army or armies, or navy, that now are, or hereafter shall be within any of the United Colonies, or any goods, wares, or merchandize, for the use of such fleet or army, shall be liable to seizure, and, with their cargoes, shall be confiscated.²

It is therefore Resolved, That the said ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, with such of her cargo, as was shipped by order of the said Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury directed, as by said bills of loading, to be delivered at the port of Boston, or elsewhere, unto the Commander-in-Chief of his Majesty's forces in America, or to his order: shall be and is hereby confiscated to the use of the captors, pursuant to the general directions for distribution, resolved on by the said honorable Continental Congress.

Resolved, That the said ship and cargo be disposed of by any two agents or persons to be chosen, the one by Lord Stirling, and the other by the Committee of Elizabethtown.

Resolved, That all the necessary charge and expense, which have arisen, by guarding and securing said prize, and supporting the seamen, be first deducted out of the neat proceeds of such sales.

Resolved, That the amount of the sales of the ship and cargo (the expense and charge of guarding and securing the same, and supporting the seamen being first deducted and paid thereout) be divided among all the captors, as well those of the militia sent out by the Committee of Elizabethtown, as such of the Continental forces as were employed in that service under Lord Stirling: that the said distribution be made among the officers, privates, and to the vessels employed in the said captor, in such manner as is usually distributed in the neighbouring Colonies, agreeable to resolutions of the Continental Congress.

Resolved, That all such goods, wares, and merchandize on board said ship, belonging to the captain, mates, and seamen, as their, or either of their own private properties, be reserved for the proprietors thereof, and delivered to them free of all costs and deductions.

Resolved, That the captain and seamen belonging to said ship when seized, be suffered to go to any place they may think proper (his Majesty's fleet or army only excepted.)

And this Congress recommend to the captors of said ship, to make some gratuity to each of the seamen on board, to enable them to travel to some other parts in pursuit of business.

1. *New Jersey Provincial Congress*, 400-01.

2. Resolution of November 25, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

In Committee of Safety.

[Philad'a] 2nd March, 1776.

Resolved, That John Brice be appointed first Lieutenant to the Armed Boat *Warren*.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 501, 502.

"PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE SENDING
S. DE[ANE] TO FRANCE"¹

[Philadelphia] March 2nd 1776

The Committee met viz. Col. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr [John] Dickinson, Mr [Robert] Morris, Mr [Benjamin] Franklin. Agreed upon the instructions to Mr _____ and signed them, also signed and sealed a Certificate that Mr _____ is authorized by the Committee, which Instrument follows in these words

[The certificate appears in its final form as the next entry, and the instructions are under March 3, 1776]

Agreed

That we advance Mr _____ £500 in Bills and 20 Half Joes in Cash towards his expences, and to remit him an equal sum within six Months from the present time.

Three Letters written by Dr Franklin to Monsr _____ Monsr _____ and Monsr _____ were also read and delivered to Mr _____

1. Henry Laurens Papers, SCHS.

CERTIFICATE OF THE COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE OF THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

We the underwritten, being the Committee of Congress for secret Correspondence, do hereby certify whom it may concern, that the Bearer, the Honourable Silas Deane Esquire, one of the Delegates from the Colony of Connecticut, is appointed by us to go into France, there to transact such Business, commercial and political, as we have committed to his Care, in Behalf & by Authority of the Congress of the thirteen united Colonies. In Testimony whereof we have hereunto set our Hands and Seals at Philadelphia, the second Day of March 1776 –

B Franklin
Benj^a Harrison
John Dickinson

John Jay –
Rob^t Morris

1. Silas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

BENJAMIN GIBBS TO CAPTAIN JACOB GETSHEUS¹

Capt Jaco Getsheus

Philadelphia 2nd March 1776

I request you'll immediately proceed with the Ship *Aurora* under your Particular care & Command to Barcelona where you are to Discharge your Cargo & receive Freight agreeable to bills Lading at Fifteen pence Stg p. Bushl & six Shillings p Barrel you must try all in your power to sell the ship, not under Two Thousand pounds Stg Cash Only, in which case you are to remit the Whole in your hands to Messrs Pre Thellusson & Co in London in good bills on London at Thirty days sight Desiring 'em to pass it to Credit of Mr John Pringle of this City Merchant, if you cannot sell and a

Freight Offers you can accept of safely either by changing the Property (in which case you must take Security to the Value of the Vsl) or otherwise which is worthy your acceptance you are at Liberty to Employ her either by the Mo or as you may find most for my Interest; but if you can neither sell or Freight her and the Present Disputes between Great Britain & us, are not Settled must leave it Intirely with you to do as you may think best, Should matters be Settled which I realy despair of Shortly, and you can neither sell nor Freight go to Lamat & take in a Load of Salt reserving about 200 £ Stg out of the Freight the remainder of which remit as above Directed, write me p every Conveyance, as I shall be anxious to hear from you, all other matters which may occur, must leave intirely to your own Judgement, Wishing you a good Passage & Safe return am. Your assured Friend —

Ben Gibbs

[Endorsed] (a Copy) Thomas Rich

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2389.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Annapolis] Saturday 2d March 1776.

Mr Hugh Young agreed with the Council to load the Schooner *Peggy*, with Country Produce, and in Return to import Salt agreeable to a Resolution of [the Continental] Congress.

Ordered That the said Treasurer pay to Mr William Lux One thousand Pounds Currency on Account of the Ship *Defence*. —

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

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday, March 2d, 1776.

Ordered, That Captain [George] Goosley do return in the Brig *Liberty* to Cumberland Town and there remain until further orders.

Same order to Capt. Howe in the Schooner *Sally*

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 103, 105.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Cruizer*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY¹

Febr [17]76
Monday 26th

At our old Moorings [off Fort Johnston, North Carolina]

Reced on board some Provisions from one of the Prizes, At 7 unmoord and hove short at 9 weigd & made sail up the river in Company with the *Lady Wm* Schooner and other tenders. At Noon fire'd two guns as Sigl Bru[n]swick about [west] two Cables length.

Tuesday 27th

Mode and pleasant wear At 4 PM Anchor'd below the

- dramtree, this 24 hours fired 9. 3 pounders as Sigls²
 At 9 weigd and run up and Anchord 1/2 Mile below
 Wilmington in Compy with the *Lady Wm Sloop Betsey*
 and Pilot boat. sent a boat up to Wilmington³ Recd
 from the *Betsey* tender 10 Chests of arms & some Pow-
 der
 PM fired 3 Guns at differt times as Sigls at 2 the boat
 return'd.
- Wednesday 28th AM fresh breezes and Cloudy, weigd the Anchor fired
 2 guns as Signals.
 Strong gales' and squaly wear Carred out the Streem
 anchor and [cáb]le saild down the river in Compy with
 the *Pencicola Packett*,
- Thursday 29th AM fresh Gales & Cloudy
 got on board some Wood
- March [17]76 [Cape Fear River below Wilmington].
- Friday 1st AM moor'd [these] 24 hours fir'd 3 guns as Sigl at noon
 shifted the anchor. Mode winds and fair wear
- Saturday 2d AM unmoord and hove short on the small bower Came
 up the *Pencicola Packett* at Noon saild down the river
 [the] *Lady Wm Pencicola Packett & Delegate*. Mode
 and foggy, at 3 PM sent the Purser up to Wilmington,
 at 5 the boat returnd without him, and brought one
 of the Committe off

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

2. The signal guns fired this day, the previous one and subsequent days were an effort to contact the Tory and Highlander forces, which had been gathering inland, but which on February 27 had been disastrously beaten at Moore's Creek bridge.

3. See the interchange of communications between Governor Martin, Captain Parry and the Wilmington Committee of Safety on this day.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL¹

[Newbern] March 2d 1776

Resolved, That no Pork, Beef, Flour, Bacon, Rice or Peas be exported from any part of this province after this day without first obtaining leave from the Provincial Congress, excepting for returns for Salt Arms or Ammunition actually imported into this Colony

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

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[Charleston] Saturday, March 2, 1776.

Mr. [John] Rutledge from the Committee to prepare a form of orders

proper to be delivered to Col. Bull, made a report, which being amended, was unanimously agreed to as follows:

South-Carolina.

By Authority of Congress.

To Stephen Bull, Esq; Colonel, or,

To the Commanding Officer for the time being, of the South-Carolina forces ordered to act in aid of Georgia.

Whereas there is reason to apprehend, that attempts will be made to cause the merchant vessels in Savannah River to sail with their cargoes: And as such a proceeding would be detrimental to the interest of America; it becomes this colony to aid the friends of America in Georgia; by endeavouring, with them, effectually to prevent the said vessels sailing with their cargoes: Therefore, you are hereby ordered under the direction of the Colonel of the continental forces in Georgia, and with the concurrence of the friends of America in that colony, to take post on either side of Savannah River, with the troops under your command, and use every effort in your power to incapacitate those vessels from proceeding with their cargoes on their several voyages; and to that end, cause them to be forthwith unrigged, their rudders taken off, and their sails and rudders deposited in some secure place, or kept under a proper guard.

You are also ordered, under the direction and with the concurrence aforesaid, to give every aid in your power for repelling insurrections and invasions there, and securing and imprisoning every person in Georgia, whose going at large may be dangerous to the liberties of America, or the security of that colony.

Having executed these orders, you are, either with all or a part of the forces under your command, to return to this colony, or remain in Georgia, at your discretion, and so act, under the direction, and with the concurrence aforesaid, as you shall think most advantageous to the American cause, until you shall receive further instructions from the Congress or Council of Safety of this colony; to whom you are, from time to time, to transmit full information of your proceedings.

Ordered, That an engrossed copy of the above orders be forthwith made out, signed by Mr. President, and delivered to Col. Bull. All

Which was done accordingly.

Ordered, That the sum of two thousand pounds be advanced to Col. Bull, for the above service, to be accounted for by him.

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,
Savannah, March 2, 1776.

For the safety of the Province, and the good of the United Colonies, it is unanimously

Resolved, That the houses in the town of Savannah, and the hamlets thereunto belonging, together with the shipping now in the port of Savannah, the property of, or appertaining to the friends of America, who have associated and appeared, or who shall appear in the present alarm to defend the same, and also the houses of widows and orphans, and none others, be forthwith valued and appraised.

Ordered, That Messrs. Joseph Clay, Joseph Reynolds, John McLuer, Joseph Dunlap, and John Glen, or any three of them, be a Committee for that purpose, and that they make a return of such value and appraisement, to the Council of Safety to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock, or as soon after as possible.

Resolved, That the delegates for this Province shall be instructed to apply to the Continental Congress for an indemnification to such persons who shall suffer in the defence of this town or shipping.

Resolved, That it shall be considered as a defection from the cause of America, and a desertion of property in such persons who have and shall leave the town of Savannah, or the hamlets thereunto belonging, during the present alarm, and such persons shall be precluded from any support or countenance towards obtaining an indemnification.

Resolved, That it be incumbent upon the friends of America in this Province to defend the metropolis as long as the same shall be tenable.

Resolved, That rather than the same shall be held and occupied by our enemies, or the shipping now in the port of Savannah taken and employed by them, that the same shall be burnt and destroyed.

Resolved, That orders shall be issued to the commanding officer, directing him to have the foregoing resolutions put into execution.

1. White, ed., *Georgia Historical Collections*, 87-88.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,
Savannah, March 2, 1776.

A Proclamation.

Whereas, many householders in the town of Savannah, and the hamlets thereunto belonging, have basely deserted their habitations since the commencement of the present alarms;

And whereas, some of them are associates in the great American Union, and by consequence, their lives and fortunes bound to support it; And whereas, there is a number of shipping in the port of Savannah belonging and appertaining to persons resident in this Province; And whereas, we deem it incumbent upon every person, more especially those who have associated, to defend their property with their lives:

These are, therefore, to cite and admonish all persons holding any property in the town, or hamlets, or shipping aforesaid, forthwith to repair to head-quarters, in Savannah, to defend the same, on pain of suffering all the consequences contained in the foregoing resolutions.

By order of the Council of Safety.
Wm. Ewen, President.

1. White, ed., *Georgia Historical Collections*, 90-91.

3 Mar. (Sunday)

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Hope* ¹

Remarks on bd. the *Hope* Sundy the 3d March 1776

Cape Ann NW
5 or 6 Leagues

Fresh Breezes and Clear Saw four sail to the North ward one Ship in the N E Qr Made the Private Signl to Do Ship ansured it, at 1 [P.M.] Made Sail after the four Vessels to the No wd at 4 Came up with them to be Rebel arm'd Schooners at ½ Past 5 Engaged them, they Still Runing, Fired a Number of Shot at them, Got Damaged by them one Man Wounded and Several Rops Shot away and Shot in the Hull, at 6 PM Do Schooners Boraway for Cape Ann Harbr Hauld our Wind to the East ward at 8 Cape Ann, N W 3 or 4 Leagues, ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1823.

2. John Rowe's Diary, March 10, 1776 reads: "Capt. [George] Dawson is returned with two vessels; he has had a severe brush with four privateers." *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 2nd series, X, 95. The privateers were Washington's schooners under Commodore John Manley.

RECEIPT FOR CARTRIDGES SUPPLIED WASHINGTON'S SCHOONER *Franklin* ¹

Reced of William Bartlett for the Use of the Schr *Franklin*

30 four pound Cartrages	} also Shot for Each Cartrages
30 Three do do	
30 Two do do	
100 Swivel do	

Beverly 3 March 1776.

p Edward Fettyplace ²

1. Bartlett Papers, No. 5753, BHS.

2. Fettyplace was First Lieutenant in the *Franklin*.

CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Sir, *Niger* at Sea, 3d March 1776.

If Mr [George] Dawson has not already informed You, I am now to convey to you the disagreeable News, that the *Friendship* which Sailed lately from Boston for New York was cast away about 4 o'Clock in the Morning of last Friday [March 1] Three Leagues to the Southward of Cape Cod - My

first sight of her as I was standing towards the Land, was about 11 the same day, and appeared to be at an Anchor in a dangerous Situation on the open Coast, on my nearer approach I found she was high and dry on Shore; it blew Violently at NWt by which means it prevented any communication between us; at 8 the same Evening I got round to the Northward of the Cape, came to an Anchor off the Coast and fired a Gun, as I knew there was then but a Neck of land about Two Miles between me and the Wreck; I then expected to have got her Crew on board, but all to no purpose, it blew so Violently that Night and all the next day; - The Pilot of her is the only Person Secreted from the Rebels, he was conveyed on board the *Hope* Brig, and Mr Dawson has I believe been prevented putting him on board You agreeable to my directions, by He and Lieutenant [John] Brown ² Chasing two Schooners to the Southward of Cape Cod. I am [&c.]

Geo: Talbot

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. Commander of H.M. Schooner *Tryal*.

COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE INSTRUCTIONS TO SILAS DEANE ¹

Philadelphïa, March 3d, 1776.

On your arrival in France you will, for some time, be engaged in the business of providing goods for the Indian trade. This will give good countenance to your appearing in the character of a merchant, which we wish you continually to retain among the French in general, it being probable that the court of France may not like it should be known publicly, that any agent from the Colonies is in that country. When you come to Paris, by delivering Dr. Franklin's letter to Monsieur [Jean Baptiste] Le Roy, at the Louvre, and M. [Barbeu] Dubourg, you will be introduced to a set of acquaintance, all friends to the Americans. By conversing with them you will have a good opportunity of acquiring Parisian French, and you will find in M. Dubourg a man prudent, faithful, secret, intelligent in affairs, and capable of giving you very sage advice.

It is scarcely necessary to pretend any other business at Paris than the gratifying of that curiosity, which draws numbers thither yearly, merely to see so famous a city. With the assistance of Monsieur Dubourg, who understands English, you will be able to make immediate application to Monsieur [Charles Gravier] de Vergennes, *ministre des affaires etrangères*, either personally or by letter, if M. Dubourg adopts that method, acquainting him that you are in France upon business of the American Congress, in the character of a merchant, having something to communicate to him that may be mutually beneficial to France and the North American Colonies; that you request an audience of him, and that he would be pleased to appoint the time and place. At this audience, if agreed to, it may be well to show him first your letter of credence, and then acquaint him that the Congress, finding that in the common course of commerce, it was not practicable to furnish the continent of America with the quantity of arms and ammunition

necessary for its defense (the ministry of Great Britain having been extremely industrious to prevent it), you have been dispatched by their authority to apply to some European power for a supply. That France had been pitched on for the first application; from an opinion that if we should, as there is a great appearance we shall, come to a total separation from Great Britain, France would be looked upon as the power whose friendship it would be fittest for us to obtain and cultivate. That the commercial advantages Britain had enjoyed with the Colonies had contributed greatly to her late wealth and importance. That it is likely great part of our commerce will naturally fall to the share of France, especially if she favors us in this application, as that will be a means of gaining and securing the friendship of the Colonies; and that as our trade was rapidly increasing with our increase of people, and, in a greater proportion, her part of it will be extremely valuable. That the supply we at present want is clothing and arms for twenty-five thousand men, with a suitable quantity of ammunition, and one hundred field pieces. That we mean to pay for the same by remittances to France, or through Spain, Portugal, or the French Islands, as soon as our navigation can be protected by ourselves or friends; and that we, besides, want great quantities of linens and woolens, with other articles for the Indian trade, which you are now actually purchasing, and for which you ask no credit, and that the whole, if France should grant the other supplies, would make a cargo which it might be well to secure by a convoy of two or three ships of war.

If you should find M. de Vergennes reserved, and not inclined to enter into free conversation with you, it may be well to shorten your visit; request him to consider what you have proposed, acquaint him with your place of lodging, that you may yet stay sometime at Paris, and that, knowing how precious his time is, you do not presume to ask another audience; but that, if he should have any commands for you, you will, upon the least notice, immediately wait upon him. If, at a future conference, he should be more free, and you find a disposition to favor the Colonies, it may be proper to acquaint him that they must necessarily be anxious to know the disposition of France on certain points, which, with his permission, you would mention, such as whether, if the Colonies should be forced to form themselves into an independent State, France would probably acknowledge them as such, receive their embassadors, enter into any treaty or alliance with them, for commerce or defense, or both? If so, on what principal conditions? Intimating that you shall speedily have an opportunity of sending to America, if you do not immediately return, and that he may be assured of your fidelity and secrecy in transmitting carefully anything he would wish to convey to the Congress on that subject. In subsequent conversations you may as you find it convenient, enlarge on these topics that have been the subjects of our conferences with you, to which you may occasionally add the well-known substantial answers we usually give to the several calumnies thrown out against us. If these supplies on the credit of the Congress should be refused, you are to endeavor the obtaining a permission of purchasing those articles, or

so much of them as you can find credit for. You will keep a daily journal of all your material transactions; and particularly of what passes in your conversation with great personages; and you will, by every safe opportunity, furnish us with such information as may be important. When your business in France admits of it, it may be well to go into Holland, and visit our agent there, M. [Charles William Frederick] Dumas, conferring with him on subjects that may promote our interest, and on the means of communication.

You will endeavor to procure a meeting with Mr.[Edward] Bancroft by writing a letter to him, under cover to Mr.Griffiths, at Turnham Green, near London, and desiring him to come over to you in France or Holland, on the score of old acquaintance. From him you may obtain a good deal of information of what is now going forward in England, and settle a mode of continuing a correspondence. It may be well to remit him a small bill to defray his expenses in coming to you, and avoid all political matters in your letter to him. You will also endeavor to correspond with Mr.Arthur Lee, agent of the Colonies in London. You will endeavor to obtain acquaintance with M. Garnier, late *chargé des affaires de France en Angleterre*, if now in France, or, if returned to England, a correspondence with him, as a person extremely intelligent and friendly to our cause. From him you may learn many particulars occasionally, that will be useful to us.

B.Franklin.

Robert Morris.

Benj.Harrison.

John Jay.

John Dickinson.

1. Francis Wharton, ed., *The Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States* (Washington, 1889), II, 78-80. Hereafter cited as Wharton, ed., *Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence*.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Philad. March 3. 1776

... No Arrivals of Powder or Arms since my last; or any Account of our Fleet - tho from their present cruising Ground we hope they will fall in with Ld Cornwallis & the Transports -

Notwithstanding the Act of Parliament for seizing our Property & a thousand other Proofs of a bitter & irreconcilable Spirit - there is a strange Reluctance in the Minds of many to cut the Knot which ties us to Great Brittan particala[r]ly in this Colony & to the Southward - Tho no Man of Understand[i]ng expects any Good from the Commissioners, yet they are for waiting to hear their Proposals befor they declare off - However yesterday I was informd Letters had been sent to France to know what Encouragement we might expect from that Quarter. Our Coast is yet clear, it is a golden Opportunity to make Provision for the War which I hope will not be lost. - If the other Provinces had done any Thing like this in the making of Arms this Winter we should have been tolerably provided - We shall by the 1st April have made 4000 Stand since last October every Part [done] here - We are casting Cannon & there is more Salt Petre made than in all

the Provinces put together. — Six Powder Mills are erecting in different Parts — The two near This City deliver 2500 lb P Week & are now in very good Order. —

1. Washington Papers, LC.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL
MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Roebuck at Hampton Road in
Virginia the 3d March 1776.

Sir By his Majestys Ship the *Mercury* which arrived here the 17th of last Month, I had the honor to receive your orders respecting the River Delawar, and you may depend, Sir, that I will do my utmost to execute them: I confess, however that, I am of opinion as the River is now become rather formidable, a much larger force is necessary for that service, than I am able to carry thither from hence.

I have here only the *Liverpool*, ill Man'd and sickly; the *Otter* in as bad a state; and the *Kingsfisher* Sloop: One Ship at least must be left at Norfolk to protect the Governor and the Fleet there, and not less than two can properly guard the mouth of the Chesepack-bay. In my judgment, Sir, not less than three or four Ships of good force with a small one to cruize off the Capes can promise much success in opening the passage up so narrow a River which the Rebels have employed their whole art and industry for this year past to block up.

I understand those Chevaux de Frizes which the Rebels have sunk, have at least forty or fifty Tons of Ballast in them, which I concieve will be very difficult to raise, especially as they are protected by Battery's on the Jersey shore and the Armed craft in the River: Therefore, Sir, if you should think proper to send me more Ships as I hope you will, I should be glad to have a few Howitzers or Cohorns, which will certainly be of great service. I must also take the liberty of saying that as Philadelphia is now an object of great consequence, I really think, if any Troops can be spared, a body of Men to land occasionally on each side of the River would be a great Assistance to the expedition. One cannot bear the Idea of His Majesty's Arms meeting with an insult; therefore am perhaps more cautious than necessary, but shall be perfectly satisfied with whatever force you think proper to send, and shall be most happy to receive any advice for my proceedings that you may please to give me

I have not yet been able to procure a Single Pilot for Philadelphia, but have little doubt Captain [Alexander] Graeme of the *Kingsfisher* (who I have employed on that service) will be able to succeed: I have sent with him one of the *Roebuck's* officers in a Tender, with Orders in case of failing by stratagem to decoy the Pilots off at Cape Henlopen, to send the Boats into Lewis Town Creek, where they take Shelter, and endeavour to surprize them in their Vessels.

I intend very soon to move the *Roebuck* round to the Delaware, and

shall leave Capt [Henry] Bellew here to receive your orders.

I hope that I shall soon have the pleasure to hear from you, that you approve of my request, and attribute the liberty I have taken to its true motive, the zeal I have for his Majesty's Service. I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

A S Hamond

1. Hamond Letter Book, 1775-1778, UVL. An extract of this letter was enclosed in Shuldham's letter to Stephens of March 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW¹

March 1776

Off Norfolk in Virginia

Sunday 3

AM dry'd sails arrvd here our Tender with a sloop loaded with salt taken from the Rebels²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.
2. *Ibid.*, the tender *Edward* had sailed on her sixth cruise February 21, 1776. There is no record of this vessel in either Shuldham's or Howe's prize lists.

RAYMOND DEMERÉ AND DANIEL ROBERTS TO THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[No. 1]

On board the *Charming Nancy*, March 3, 1776.

Gentlemen: In obedience to your command, we both came on this vessel to demand Mr. Rice.² We were ordered on board, and examined by Captain [Andrew] Barkley and Major [James] Grant, who have both declared it was never their intention to commit any act of hostility against this Province, nor do they even now mean any, unless drawn on by you. The above gentlemen have desired me to declare to you, that if any two of you will come on board, you will have their faith and honour to return unmolested; and you may be satisfied with what is above set forth. We are, gentlemen, [&c.]

Raymond Deméré, Daniel Roberts.

1. Peter Force, comp., *American Archives*, Fourth Series (Washington, 1837-1843), V, 600. Hereafter cited as Force, comp., *American Archives*.
2. See William Ewen's letter of March 4.

"COPY OF THE MANIFESTO SENT ONSHORE AT NEW PROVIDENCE"¹

To the Gentlemen Freeman and Inhabitants of the Island of New Providence

The Reasons of my landing an armed force on the Island is in Order to take Possession of the Powder and Warlike Stores belonging to the Crown and if I am not Opposed in putting my design in Execution the Persons and Property of the Inhabitants Shall be Safe, Neither shall they be Suffered to be hurt in Case they make no Resistance.

Given under my hand onboard the Ship *Alfred* March 3rd 1776.

E.H. Cr. in Chief

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

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

[Friday, March
1, to Sunday,
March 3]

Employ'd here [Abbacco] putting Our Marines On b[d] the Sloop *Providence*, Likewise all the Marines belonging to the Fleet on board two small Sloops, the Comodore had taking, to Cary them to The Iland of Providence, On Sunday 3rd [illegible] & put to Sea with the Fleet, Steering S B E ½ E & S S E 54, then made the Iland of Providence. Bearing S S E 3 Lea[gues] Where we lay off and on Waiting for the rest of the Fleet at 10 AM Came too Under Roze Iland, with the rest of the Fleet in 4 fathom Water, The Comodore sent the Sloop *Providence*, Schooner *Wasp* & 2 Sloops with all the Marines, amounting to two Hundred and fifty under the Command of Capt [Samuel] Nichol[a]; and at 3 in the afternoon they gott possession of the Eastermost Fort, Without Loosing a Man, the Inhabitance having Desarted it, after firing 15 or 20 Cannon at them ²

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. Journal of John Trevett reads: "we took two small craft, belonging to New Providence, and got pilots, and went in the night over to New Providence and landed all the men we could spare. I took command of one of the companies and marched to the first fort. They fired a few 18 pound shot, but did no damage. We saw an officer coming & I went up to him to know what he wanted. He informed me that Gov. Brown [Montfort Browne] would wish to know who we were [and] what our business was, we soon gave him his answer, and the first fort st[op]ped firing; and that night we lodged in the fort," NHS. The narrative of Charles Bulkeley offers the most meager information of this event: "Sailed from the Capes of Deleware Feby 17th 1776 & arrived at New Providence, March 3d & took the place," NLCHS.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

No. 1

English Harbour Antigua 3d March 1776.

Sir I wrote You the 9th January last by the return of the November Packet, and by the present Opportunity transmit You Duplicates thereof, which desire You may Communicate to My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. I have now to request you will be pleased farther to acquaint their Lordships that on the 14th January The *Viper* Sloop, Captn Samuel Graves arrived at English Harbour; and on the 18th January the *Experiment* Captain Robert Keeler did the Same; both blown off the American Coast in bad Weather, and were very much damaged in their Hulls, rigging, Sails &c: The *Experiment* had her Fore & Main Mast Sprung: I immediately Ordered the Necessary repairs to be done to them, with all possible Expedition that they may be enabled to proceed as early as possible to the places of their destination: The Transport & Victualing Vessels named in the inclosed List marked No 1. have likewise been blown off from the American Coast and come to this and St Johns harbour Antigua in



distress:² The *Enterprize* Transport with four Companies of the 55 Regiment on board, having lost all her Masts and otherwise greatly damaged I apprehend she cannot be repaired in any reasonable time to proceed forward with the Troops I therefore propose embarking them in the *Royal George & Diana* Transports, and to Discharge the *Enterprize* from the Service & send her back to England as soon as the Master gets her put into Condition to proceed there.

The four Companies of the 55 Regiment and three Companies of the 46: Regiment which came here in the *Enterprize & Argo* Transports I have got accomodated in the Barracks at St Johns in this Island; whilst the Transport Ships are got ready to receive and proceed with them to Boston.

Since the Receipt of their Lordships Orders of the 2d September last, the Kings Ships under my Command, have Seized and Carried to the different Islands in these Seas; the American Vessels named in the List Inclosed, marked No 2: those that could be proceeded against by the Restraining Acts, or had transgressed any of the Acts of Trade; I directed to be prosecuted immediately and the others to be detained 'till I might receive their Lordships farther Orders; which I hope will arrive soon, as most of the Cargoes in the American Vessels are of a Perishable Nature and if kept but a short time in this hott Climate will be wholly destroyed and lost.

I have likewise transmitted a paper marked No 3, Containing Intelligence given by some of the Masters & people belonging to the Vessels that have been Seized here by the Kings Ships which I think it necessary their Lordships should be informed of.

Should the information of the Rebels Naval preparations be true, it is very probable some of their Cruizers may be sent into these Seas; where they undoubtedly might do a great deal of Mischief, in despite of the Small Squadron under my Command; now weakened by the *Hind's* going to St Augustine, with the three Companies of the 60 Regiment; and the *Lynx* coming to England. I therefore hope their Lordships will think proper to Order a Considerable Reinforcement of His Majesty's Ships to this Station; and thereby enable me to Protect and Secure the British Islands from Insult, and likewise prevent the Rebels carrying on a pernicious & dangerous Traffick to the French, Dutch and Danish Islands; whose Inhabitants will readily give them such assistance as they may require, in return for the Provisions & Lumber carried there by American Vessels; of which they now stand in great need. —

The 15th Instant Captain Robert Keeler of His Majesty's Ship *Experiment* (who has been very much indisposed from the time of his Arrival here) wrote me the inclosed Letter marked No 4, requesting my Permission to Exchange into His Majesty's Sloop *Lynx* in Order to return to England to reestablish his health; which I have Complied with and Appointed Captain Alexr Scott to Command His Majesty's Ship *Experiment* in his room; and flatter myself their Lordships will Approve of the Exchange.

The other Papers inclosed marked No 5, 6, & 7 are List of the Appointment and removal of Officers in the Squadron between the 1st October and

the 31st December 1775: The State & Condition and Disposition of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under my Command, which You will likewise please to Communicate to their Lordships. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. The list enclosed reads as follows:

Ships Names	Masters Names	Sort of Vessel	From whence	When Sail'd	Where bound	Lading
<i>Killingsworth</i>	Thos. Powditch	Ship.	London	24th Septemr 1775. from Spithead under Convoy of the <i>Niger</i> , parted Compy with the Convoy the 7th. Octor. & bore away for Antigua the 28th Novr Arrived in St John's Antigua the 22d December.	Boston.	Provisions for the use of the Kings Ships stationed there.
<i>Manners</i>	John Parkin	Brig	London	Do	Do	Provisions for the use of the Kings Troops.
<i>Felicity</i>	John Breen.	Ship.	London.	22d Octor 1775 from the Downs, on the 27th Octor off the Stark alone, bad Weather Longs 40°11' Lat 48° which obliged him to bear away for Antigua. Arrived there 30th Decemr.	Do	Provisions for the use of the Kings Troops. Out of 107 Sheep, 92 have died.
<i>Layton</i>	Robt. Johnson.	Ship	London.	15 Septemr 1775. from Spithead, under Convoy of the <i>Phoenix</i> , party Company with the Convoy 30 Septr in Latd 45° Longd 18 Wt - got upon the Coast the 1st Novr and continued beating there till the 18th and then bore away for Antigua, where she Arrived the 20th December.	Do	Provisions for the use of the Kings Ships Station'd there.
<i>Royal George</i>	Josa Kneeshea	Pink.	Boston.	1st Novemr 1775.	Annapolis	Royal Ballast, going for Hay forage for the Kings Troops at Boston Jam ^s Young.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

[Extract]
No 2:

English Harbour Antigua
the 3d March 1776.

Sir In Addition to my Letter to You of this date marked No 1, I must farther request you will lay before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the inclosed papers Marked No 1. 2. 3. & 4. - being Copies of Dispatches I received Express from Major General How[e], and my Answer thereto; however before the *Viper* could get to Sea with the two Victuallers I had

proposed sending under her Convoy; The *Hawke* Sloop, Captain Robt Paliser Cooper arrived here in distress, having on board Government Dispatchers of very great importance, with which it was impossible she could proceed, having lost her Masts, Guns &c in bad Weather at Sea: In this Exigence, and having no Ship belonging to the Squadron under my Command, with me, I had no other alternative but to send them immediately to the Kings Naval Commander in Chief at Boston to be carried into execution by him. I therefore Ordered Captain [Samuel] Graves to take only One of the Victuallers under his Convoy, and proceed without a moments loss of time with her and the aforesaid dispatches to Boston. Copies of my Orders to Captain Graves & Letters to him and Rear Admiral Shuldham are inclosed and marked No 5. 6. 7. & 8.

I have Ordered the *Hawk* Sloop to be refitted forthwith and propose giving her the *Lynx's* Guns as None of the Weight the *Hawk* carries can be purchased here; and the *Lynx's* Condition being very bad, makes it improper to keep her Out longer. I therefore intend sending her to England with my Dispatches as soon as the *Experiment* and the Transports leave this place.

Jam^s Young.

[Endorsed] Rd 30 May.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

4 Mar.

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA ¹

Monday, March 4th, — Cold morning. Grows warmer. . . . A number of transport ships, convoyed by the *Savage* man of war, bound from Halifax to Boston, put in here.

1: Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary*, I, 114.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1776

Watertown, March 4, 1776

Yesterday se'nnight the *Yankey Hero* sent into Newbury Port, another Prize, a fine Brig, of about 200 Tons burthen ¹ laden with Coal, Cheese, &c. bound from White Haven, for the use of the Ministerial Butchers, under the command of General [William] Howe governor of Boston. This is the fifth prize out of eight which sail'd from the above Port, and we are in hopes of giving a good account of the three remaining.

1. The brigantine *Nelly*, John Robinson, master.

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

[Providence] March 4 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment

Voted. That the Committee's Treasurer pay Mr Cromwell Child One Hundred & twenty pounds Lawful Money in part pay for Timber & Iron Bot of him. —

Voted. That the sum of Twenty four pounds seven shillings & 8 pence $\frac{1}{2}$ d be paid to Jabez Bowen out of the Committee's Treasury being the amount of his Accompt. —

Voted. That the sum of One Hundred & Ninety eight pounds eleven shillings be paid Mr John Brown out of the Committee's Treasury it being for Duck Bot of him —

Reckoning [blank]

Meeting adjourn'd to Wednesday Evening —

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

DEPOSITION OF GEORGE STARR AND GILES SAGE ¹

Colony of Connecticut Hartford County ss —

Be it remembered that on this fourth day of March in the Year of our Lord one Thousand seven Hundred and seventy six personally came and appeared before me Titus Hosmer, Esqr one of his Majesties Justices of the peace for said County Captains George Starr and Giles Sage both of said Middletown in said County, and being duly sworn to declare the Truth upon their Oaths depose and say, and first the said George Starr saith that in May last at said Middletown he carefully examined the Brigantine *polly* Burthen about One Hundred and Ten Tons then owned by Messrs Matthew Talcott Esqr and Jeremiah Wadsworth with her appurtenances, being upon a Treaty for the purchase of the same and that he then judged her to be worth Five Hundred and Fifty pounds lawfull Money and that he verily believes that at the Time she is said to have been taken, on the 20th of September last by the *Nautilus* Man of War, making proper Allowance for her Wear and Tare on her voyage betwixt said Months of May and September that she was well worth Five Hundred Pounds lawfull Money, and further he saith not. and the said Giles Sage upon his Oath deposeth and saith that sometime in the Month of May last he was appointed by said Talcott and Wadsworth Master of their said Brigantine, the *Polly*, and on the 12th day of June last sailed in her from the port of New London with a Cargo of Horses, provisions and Lumber, shipped partly by said Owners and partly by sundry other persons for Kingston in the Island of Jamaica in the West Indies where he arrived on the 6th day of July last; That he continued at Kingston from that Time till the 20th day of August following and in that Time sold the Cargo of said Briga, and laid out the neat proceeds in the purchase of the produce of sd Island and other Merchandize, & laded the same on board sd Briga, cleared her out at the Custom House for New York, and on sd 20th day of August sailed from Kingston for New York — the Deponent farther says that on his passage from Kingston to New York on the 20th day of Septemr Last being in Soundings & not far from Land, about South West from Montauk, and South from Long Island, standing In for

New York, we fell in with his Majesties Ship *Nautilus*, Commandd by Capt John Collins who immediately fired three Guns at us to bring us to, and hoisted out her pinnace and sent her with a Number of Armed Men on board the Briga, took said Briga into his possession, & took this Deponent, and all his Mariners, the mate excepted out of sd Briga, & put a prize Master & Seamen on board in their stead and then stood away for Newport Rhode Island with said Briga in Company.

This Deponent also saith that he judged said Brigantine and her Appurtenances at the Time she was taken as aforesaid to be well worth Five Hundred pounds lawfull Money, and that her Cargo consisted of the several Articles particularly enumerated & sett down in the foregoing Account on this Sheet of paper,² that the same were the property of the several persons therein mentioned, and that, to the best of his Knowlege and Belief, the same would have ben worth the prices thereto set and affixed amounting in the whole to twenty five Hundred thirty four pounds nineteen Shillings and two pence lawfull Money had he been permitted to carry them into the port for which said Briga was destined.

This Deponent farther says that at Newport the Mate Josiah Lee, was by Order of Capt Collins taken out of sd Briga and confined in Irons on board the *Nautilus*, and continued loaded with Irons eleven Weeks afterwards, & then was put on board his Majesties Ship the *Boyne*, and sent to England. – The pretence for this Severe Usage was an Information from a Mariner put on board the Briga that two other of sd Mariners had sollicited him to join with them to rescue sd Briga and likewise told him that sd Lee would join with them, which Charge the accused Seamen denied & declared sd Lee never did say anything to them upon the Subject, & sd Lee likewise denied that he had any Knowlege of a Design to rescue sd Briga or that he had ever said any thing upon the Subject to any person whatsoever

The deponent farther says that after the Arrival of said briga in the Harbour of Boston, she was libelled before Nathl Hatch Esqr Deputy Judge of the Admiralty, and after a long time condemned, but for what Cause this Deponent is ignorant, it was indeed given out that some Cotton wool he had on board was not shipped agreeably to the provisions of the Act of Navigation, but of this the Deponent was ignorant, he having cleared out sd Briga in Jamaica, as he had usually done in former Voyages, when no Exception had been taken either in the West Indies or here in the Custom Houses on the Continent

The deponent farther says that he continued & was detained in Boston till about the 10th day of December last, when upon being informed by Capt Collins that he had Orders from the Admiral to put him on board the *preston* then bound for England, as soon as the sales of the Briga and her Cargo were closed, he found Means to make his Escape to Dorchester point, and from thence returnd Home

finally this Deponent says that the Crew of said Brigantine when taken consisted of Josiah Lee, Mate, Eleazer Treadwell,³ Jabez Perkins, John Pike, John Hall, Noadiah Bailey, Jeremiah Fullerton, and this Deponent; of

which sd Eleazer Treadwell & this Deponent have made their Escape, and the rest are yet detained in Captivity – and farther this Deponent saith not.

George Starr
Giles Sage

Sworn the Day and Year above written before Me

Titus Hosmer, Justs Pace

1. Papers CC (Connecticut State Papers, 1775–89), 66, I, 145–46, NA.
2. *Ibid.*, the total loss of vessel and cargo, according to the appended detailed account, was £3,034.19..2.
3. See Treadwell's deposition, March 2, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Lunae, A.M.
March 4th, 1776.

Mr. [John Sloss] Hobart, from the committee appointed on Saturday last to call on Genl. Lee, to know the reason of the firing by the troops on persons coming to or going out of this city, and the reason of the interruptions given to the persons having passports from this Congress, delivered in their report in the words following, to wit:

The purport of the conversation between General Lee
and the committee

Genl. Lee says that he inhibited the communication with the ships of war and the *Dutchess of Gordon*, becaust he was informed that Govr. Tryon had seized a quantity of flour coming to this market, which he considered as a breach of the compact, which though not perhaps expressly made, yet was undoubtedly implied, that while we continued to supply them with provisions, they would not obstruct any coming to this market; that he wished the Congress would write to Govr. Tryon, and demand an explanation of his conduct; that if they should prefer the mode, he would write himself; that if upon settling the matter the Congress should incline to continue the daily supplies of provisions, he would give the necessary orders to the port-guard, provided no person from the shore should be allowed to go on board the said ships, nor any person to come on shore from the same, as he could not permit a personal communication to be any longer kept up. And as to the firing on the boats he assured the committee, that it was entirely owing to a misconstruction of his general orders; that if the Congress or any individual would draw up a set of instructions for the direction of the port-guard, that shall effectually prevent such inconvenience for the future, he would readily sign it.

Die Lunae, 3 ho.P.M. March 4th, 1776.

A letter from Major-Genl. Lee, bearing date this day, was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

March 4th, 1776.

Sir – The letters I received last night from the Commander-in-Chief and Gen. Green were unfortunately thrown into the fire; but according to the best of my recollection the reasons given by the generals for surmising, or rather concluding, that it was the intention of the enemy to evacuate Boston, were these: That they had withdrawn their mortars and heavy cannon from Bunker's Hill and Charlestown; that their transports were hauled in to the wharves; that some people, who had left the town lately, declared that the officers' baggage was sent on board; in short, it is from every circumstance concluded by those who are before the place, and those who have lately left the place that they are soon to abandon Boston, and that consequently they will attempt to establish themselves here. May I, sir, take the liberty to express my uneasiness on a subject, which is more properly a matter of consideration for the Congress – the liberation of the notorious enemies of liberty and their country, on giving bonds for their good behaviour, appears to me, in our present situation, extremely ill imagined; it is so far from a security, that it is rather adding virus to their malignancy; the first body of troops that arrives will cancel those bonds – some vigorous decisive mode must be now adopted of discovering on whom you may depend – on whom not – the crisis will admit of no procrastination. I cannot, therefore, help wishing for the common safety and the honour of this Province, in particular, that some test may be immediately offered that we may be enabled to distinguish our friends from our foes – the latter must not and cannot be suffered to remain within your walls to co-operate with those without in working your destruction.

I am, sir [&c.]

Charles Lee.

To Col. [Nathaniel] Woodhull, President
of the Provincial Congress.

Mr. Hobard, from the committee appointed to consider of the intelligence received from Major-Genl. Lee, by his letter above mentioned, delivered in their report, which was read, and the same being read a second time, paragraph by paragraph, and amended, was approved of and unanimously agreed to in the words following, to wit:

Your committee beg leave to report the following resolves. . . .²

6th. That a letter be wrote to the committees of Sout[h] Hampton and East Hampton in Suffolk county, requesting them to station men at the most convenient places in that county to give the earliest notice of the arrival of a fleet upon the coast; and that upon the first appearance of a fleet they despatch an express immediately to this Congress or the Committee of Safety of

this Colony, with an account of the number and size of the ships, and the course they steer.

7th. That the light-house at Sandy-Hook be dismantled, the lantern rendered useless, and all the oil and lamps taken and carried to some place of safety at a proper distance. . . .

Resolved, That the Congress does agree with their committee in the said report. But as some of the resolves therein reported are very important.

Ordered, That the said report be reassumed and read to-morrow morning, when the house is full – and a charge of secrecy as to the light-house, was given from the Chair.

A draft of a letter to the committee of East Hampton and to the committee of Sout[h] Hampton, was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Provincial Congress, New-York, March 4th, 1776.

Sirs – This covers a resolution of Congress directing the committees of East and South Hampton to station suitable persons on the most proper places for observing the approach of a fleet.

From some intelligence we have received, there is reason to expect that the British army are about to leave Boston, and as it is probable that they may attempt to take possession of this Colony, we therefore entreat you to use all possible despatch to carry this resolve into execution.

We are, sir [&c.]

By order of Congress.

To John Chatfield, Esqr. East, and Thomas Cooper, Esqr. South Hampton

Ordered, That two copies thereof be engrossed and signed by the President, and transmitted. One to John Chatfield, Esqr. chairman of the committee of East Hampton, and the other to Thomas Cooper, Esqr. chairman of the committee of South Hampton, and that a certified copy of the sixth resolve reported by the committee on the news received by Genl. Lee, be enclosed in each of the said letters.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 333–37.

2. Resolves from 1 to 6, relate to creating magazines of provisions and military stores in Westchester county; to increase production in powder mills, and to have the militia in various counties ready to march at the first alarm.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, March 4, 1776

The committee appointed to examine and report the number and circumstances of the permits granted for exporting produce, &c. brought in their report, which was taken into consideration, Whereupon,

Resolved, That the restraint be taken off, which was laid by a resolve of the 26th of last month. upon the vessels loading or loaded with Produce for

Great Britain, Ireland, or the British West Indies, in consequence of permissions granted for arms and ammunition, &c. imported into these colonies. ²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 182-84.

2. The above resolution was printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, March 6, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 4th March, 1776.

Lieu't [Benjamin] Thompson & [John] Webb ² appear'd before the Committee and gave information that a certain Henry Yelverton Price had frequented the places of Rendevous of the Crews belonging to the armed Boats, that by words he endeavour'd to discourage the service, That he had declared himself a Tory, & inimical to the American cause; That he Damned the Congress and wished that the waggons carrying Powder for the Continental Service were blown up; and the said Henry Yelverton Price appearing before the Committee and having the said Charge made known to him, did not deny the same.

Resolved, That it would be unsafe to permit the said Henry Yelverton Price to go at large; therefore,

Resolved, That he be Committed to the Gaol of the City and County of Philad'a; agreeable thereto, Thomas Dewees, Gaoler of this County, was commanded to receive him into his Custody, and to keep him safely confined 'til he is discharged by this Board.

Robert Towers, Commissary, makes the following Report; That he deliver'd to Sam'l Parker p order of this Board, 100 lbs Brass. That he deliver'd to Capt. [Thomas] Procter

169 Canon Cartridges,	1 Traile Ropes,
73 fire locks,	1 Rammer & Sponge,
1 four pound Canon,	1 Wad Hook & Ladell.
1 Carriage & Limber,	

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 502, 503, 504.

2. Thompson was Lieutenant of the galley *Experiment*, and Webb of the *Bull Dog*.

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON TO CHARLES CARROLL, SR. ¹


[Extract]

Ph[iladelphia] 4th March 1776.

Dr Papa We got here Saturday evening about 4 o'clock - I shall give you a short acct of our journey: we crossed the bay in 2 hours and a half under a reefed foresail: there was a very high swell in the bay & we were both very sick: ² we got that evening to Chester town - the next day we set off facing a cold northwest wind we got no further Thursday then to Warwick 24 miles from Chester[town] - the roads were bad & the weather intensely cold. . . . friday evening we got to Newcastle: the morning ride was cold, the evening's comparatively mild. Saturday in a Packet boat at Newcastle having first engaged a man to carry our horses & my chair to Green trees - I hope

they will get to Annapolis this evening. We had a pleasant sail from N. Castle to this city: the distance by water is 40 miles – we passed thro' the cheveaux de frize but could see nothing of them there is a chanel, or opening left of 70 feet wide for vessels to go thro': this on notice given of the approach of the enemy will be obstructed by more chevaux defrize ready to be Sunk & by a large boom & chain: the row gallies will be stationed at the point of the Iland wh lies behind the chevaux de frize & wch will protect them from the enemy's fire: There is a floating battery ready to be launched: I saw it as I Sailed up the river but at too great a distance to describe it. I shall if I have time, go and examine it – They are building here 4 or 5 frigates: in Fact this city appears quite like a garrison –

Monday evening

I have taken an agreeable morning walk. I went on board the floating battery. it will carry 10 18 pounders, and will draw 2.6 or 3 feet water – they have 13 row gallies, or gondolas, each of wh carry a 24 or 18 pounder. I went on board of one wh has a 24 pounder in the prow, & several swivels. They lie low in the water: besides the floating battery & row gallies, and a frigate of 24 guns, wh will be finished sometime next month, they have built Seve[ral] rafts, or flat bottom boats, wh are filled with combustibles & Ankerd together with chains: these rafts, row gallies, and frigate are intended to protect the cheveaux de frize. They are building here for the Continent 4 frigates, of 24 & 32 guns: they are fine Ships indeed, their timbers are all of cedar & live oak – a 60 gun Ship may come up to the city: but the above impediments, it is thought, will render the attempt too hazardous I saw one of the cheveaux de frize: this is its form  the projecting pieces at top are armed with iron spikes – I had the pleasure to see this morning a vessel come up to this port loaded with 27 Tons of Gunpowder, 5 tons of Saltpetre, 500 stand of arms, & coarse linens to the amount [of] £600 ster[ling] prime cost this vessel came from Zealand –³ . . .

1. Carroll Papers, MdHS.

2. John Carroll, a brother, who was a Jesuit priest.

3. The largest island off the Danish peninsula.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia 4th March 1776.

. . . There has been no mention yet of Agents for any of the Colonies: when there is I shall be mindful of what you mentioned.² A Brig arrived this morning from Holland with 27½ tons gun powder, some salt petre and 300 arms. 10 tons was immediately ordered to the camp.

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, I, 95, LC. Whipple was a New Hampshire delegate in the Continental Congress.

2. Langdon sought an appointment as Continental agent for New Hampshire.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]
(No 36)

Ship *Dunmore* in Eliza River Virginia
4th March 1776. -

I have the pleasure to inform your Lordship that our little Tenders have been very Successful having taken and destroyed near thirty Vessels employed in the Service of the Rebels, here and to the Northward.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.

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

March 1776
Monday 4th

Moored in Hampton Road, Virginia
at 6 [P.M.] weighed and made Sail, and at 9 Anchored
in Hampton Road, in 13 fathoms, found riding here
the *Kingsfisher* and my Tender the *Lord Howe*,² which
brought in a Brig last from France bound to Phila-
delphia with 40 Barrels of Gunpowder, a quantity of
Saltpetre and Sulphur,³ and a Small Schooner in Ballast
belonging to New England.⁴

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. *Ibid.*, the *Kingsfisher* and the *Lord Howe* had sailed February 22, 1776, under orders from Hamond to cruise off the Delaware.

3. The brig *Juno*. See journal of the *Kingsfisher*, February 28, 1776.

4. This vessel does not appear on any British prize list.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ¹

[Newbern] Monday 4th March 1776

Whereas by sundry Resolutions of the Continental Congress, the Provincial Council is authorized to permit exportation from this province under certain restrictions, in order to procure in return Salt, Arms and Ammunition, And Whereas persons willing to Adventure may from the difficulty of making application loose the oppertunity of so doing.

Resolved, that Archibald Maclaine Richard Quince Senr and Henry Toomer for the district of Wilmington, James Davis, Alexander Gaston and Christopher Neale for the district of New Bern, John Smith, Andrew Lytle, Samuel Dickinson for the District of Edenton be appointed Commissioners to carry the said Resolution into Execution in their respective districts under the rules, regulations and Instructions formed and laid down by this Council.

Instructions for the Commissioners vizt

That no pork, Beef, flour, Bacon Rice or peas be exported except in return for Salt, Arms or Ammunition actually imported into this province.

That before any person be permitted to export any Commodity whatever, til he enter into Bond with good and sufficient Security in the Sum of twenty five hundred Dollars, that he will comply with the Resolutions of the Continental Congress respecting the importation of Salt Arms or Ammunition.

And also take the following Oath.

You swear that you will not Land the Cargo Shipt in the — in any part of the World prohibited by the General Congress and that you will not export in said Vessel more Staves and Naval Stores than is contained in the Manifest exhibited and that you will to the utmost of your power invest the proceeds of said Cargo in Salt, Arms, and Ammunition or either of them.

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

HENRY LAURENS TO ARCHIBALD BULLOCK ¹

Dear Sir —

Charles Town So Carolina 4th March 1776. —

The Messenger by whose hands I received your favour of the 15th Ulto together with Letters from your Congress to the Congress of this Colony dated the 15th & 16th has been detained ten days past, partly owing to the hurry of business in Congress which has employed the president's whole time while on Shore & partly to the young mans neglect to call on Mr [William Henry] Drayton under pretence that he could not find him. at length the Council of Safety think it necessary to discharge him, & I have paid his expences for supplies on the Road £ 12,, — & a further sum is to be paid to his Landlord for himself & Horse —

I will not trouble you with a detail of our affairs here, you will lern the whole from a number of our Gentlemen who are gone & going to your assistance in Savanna — I am afraid from your accounts they will arrive too late to do all the good we wish for. but while we are busily employed in guarding Savanna it behoves us to look well to Beaufort the loss of that place together with the acquisition of the Harbour by our Enemy would be a fatal Stroke to both Colonies

I beg you will put a Wafer under the Seal & take the first opportunity of conveying the Letter here inclosed to my old acquaintance Capt Innes who I suppose is in your Neighborhood. My good wishes ever attend you if you are crowned with Success, you will nevertheless deserve it; I am therefore with great truth and regard Dear Sir [&c.]

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 195, 196. Bullock was president of the Georgia Provincial Congress.

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

March 1776

Moored abreast of Salters Island in Savannah River

Friday 1st

AM read the Articles of War and Abstract &ca to the Ships Company

Light Airs and fair Wear at 4 P M arrived here His Majesty's Armed Schooner *Hinchinbrook* in Compy wth 2 Armed Sloops the *George* and the *Et Florida*

Saturday 2d

AM sailed hence the *George* Armed Sloop fired the Evening and Morning Guns—

Light Breezes and fair Wear.

P M sent all our Marines on board the *Hinchinbrook* Sailed up towards the Town of Savannah thro' the back River in Compy with the *St John Sloop*, *East Florida Symmetry* and 3 Schooners They were fired at frequently from the Bluff Battery Do we fired a Gun and made the Signl to Weigh at 11 Do heard several Guns fired up the River.

Sunday 3rd

AM Light Airs and foggy at times at 6 A M sent our boat Man'd and Armed to the Assistance of the above Vessels at 10 Do saw sevl Guns fired from the Town and from the Bluff—fired the Evening and Morning Guns –

Moderate and fair Wear

P M saw sevl Guns and Volleys of small Arms fired from the Town, and from the Ships abreast of the Town at 4 Do saw a Ship on Fire near the Town at 5 Do saw 3 other Vessels in Flames they proved to be British Mercht Ships destroyed by the Rebels at P M our boat returned at 2 Do sent 10 Seamen on board the *Symmetry* and a boat man'd & Armed to Attend the *Hinchinbrook* at 11 Do the Boat returned at 7 AM sent the boat man'd and Armed as before fired the Morning and Evening Guns—First and middle parts Light Airs and Cloudy Inclining to Calm Latter Do Strong gales and Cloudy at ½ past 6 PM unmoored weighed and Dropt up abreast of the Rebels Guard House at 7 fired our Broadside on it and Continued the Cannonade until 8 o'Clock as did the *Whitby Transport* at 10 Do weighed and Dropt down to our former Station Anchored wth the Bt Br Veered to ⅓rd of a Cable and moored wth the Stream Anchor to the Southward

Monday 4th

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

RAYMOND DEMERÉ AND DANIEL ROBERTS TO THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF
SAFETY¹

Gentlemen: On Board the *Charming Nancy*, March 4, 1776.

Immediately on our coming on board here, we wrote you a letter by return of the boat; but as we did not hear from you, and the unfortunate scene that afterwards ensued, we apprehend the letter has not reached you. We therefore beg leave to mention the purport of it.

On our coming alongside, we were ordered on board, and examined by Captain [Andrew] Barkley and Major [James] Grant, with regard to our errand. After informing them of this particular, we were confined to the

cabin. The above gentlemen have both declared, on their mutual faith and honour, it was never their order or intention to commit any act of hostility against this Province, nor do they even now mean any, unless drawn on by fresh provocation from you. They have both desired us to assure you, in the most solemn manner, that if any two gentlemen, such as the inhabitants most confide in, will come on board, they may inform themselves of the truth of what has been mentioned; and they pledge themselves, as above, to grant them permission to return when and where they please, unmolested. This, gentlemen, is the conversation that has passed, and beg leave to submit it to your consideration.

We further assure you, that we write without any constraint, or being any way dictated to; and the genteel treatment we have both received, encourage us to place the greatest confidence in their assertions. We shall just add, that your deliberations on this matter may be productive of the most important consequences. Mr. Rice is with us, and treated very well.

We are, gentlemen, [&c.]

Raymond Demeré, Daniel Roberts.

To the Commanding Officer at Savannah.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 600.

COLONEL LACHLAN McINTOSH TO RAYMOND DEMERÉ AND DANIEL ROBERTS ¹

[March 4, 1776.]

Colonel McIntosh's Answer.

Dear Gentlemen: I received your letters of yesterday and to-day, and am authorized to tell you that, as you have been so shamefully treated, contrary to the uniform practice of all civilized people, we will not risk the liberty of any more of our fellow-citizens, which they are unanimously deterred, at all events, to sell with their lives. The manoeuvres of these gentlemen, their hostile appearance, with so many armed vessels and troops, stealing in the night on board the ships of those who have scandalously deserted a people by whom they got their bread, in order to attack us, and their conduct with respect to you, evidently show their design against an innocent, peaceable people. We all earnestly wish you among us again; but are sure you would not desire your freedom on any conditions dishonourable to your country. If they will withdraw their vessels and troops from annoying us, to Cockspur again, we authorize you to receive any proposition they may make. I am, [&c.]

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 600.

RAYMOND DEMERÉ AND DANIEL ROBERTS TO COLONEL LACHLAN McINTOSH ¹

In Savannah River, March 4, 1776.

Gentlemen: We just this moment received yours, and are authorized to inform you that, from the circumstance of our letter of yesterday not being answered, and your firing to-day, it was believed your intention was

to treat his Majesty's sea and land forces in a hostile manner, notwithstanding the declaration made in our letter; but as the proposal made in your letter of this day intimates your disposition to act inoffensively towards his Majesty's sea and land forces, if the vessels and troops are carried to Cockspur without annoying you, we are authorized to assure you that, consistently with the declarations made, the troops and vessels will be conducted to Cockspur immediately, without any act of hostility on their part, if not attacked; and an express-boat is to be sent to stop the firing below, not doubting but similar steps will be taken by you. We therefore flatter ourselves that you will pay due attention to the above, as we have pledged our words, in consequence of the above declaration, that every act of hostility will be refrained from by you. We are, gentlemen, [&c.]

Raymond Deméré, Daniel Roberts.

N. B. Captain Barkley has this moment despatched an express to the *Cherokee*, to stop firing. We beg the bearer may be permitted to return.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 601. McIntosh accepted the proposal.

WILLIAM EWEN TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety, Savannah.

Gentlemen

March 4, 1776.

The intimate Connection between this and your Province in a particular Manner, renders it necessary to acquaint you with the Occurrences in the former, since the Date of our last; to which, and the Dispatches preceding, we refer you.

Our Dispositions in the Evening of the 2d, were such as appeared to our Officers the most likely to prevent the Landing of our Enemy; and so as, if they should make their Landing good, either above or below the Town, to prevent their getting in; however, notwithstanding our Vigilance, they, by Collusion with the Masters and others on board the Merchant Shipping, which hawled near the Shore of Hutchinson's Island in the Night Time, got on board these Ships, about four o'clock yesterday Morning; to the Number, as far as we are competent to judge from the Observations we made, and the Intelligence we received, of between two and three hundred, where the affected to conceal themselves.

We had our Fears respecting these Shipping; and therefore kept a good Watch upon them; but it was impossible for Centinels, on this Shore, to descry them in boarding from the other, the Vessels being betwixt.

Capt. Rice, who commanded a Boat of Observation, was sent on board the Shipping about nine o'clock, to order the Rigging on Shore, and was, without any Noise, or the smallest Knowledge of us, kidnapped. This we did not know till about half an Hour afterwards: Two Sailors, under Pretence of coming on shore for Cloaths, gave Information of the Troops being on board the Shipping, and of Rice's being taken. About three hundred Men were then immediately marched to Yamacraw, opposite the Shipping, with three 4 Pounders, and threw up a Breastwork. The armed Schooner

Hinchinbrook, of — Guns, with a Number of Men on board, which, with others, went up the Back River, in the Afternoon of the Day preceding, about this Time set sail down to the South River, with Intent, no Doubt, of covering the Landing of the Troops, from on board the Merchant Shipping: But being continually fired at, by two Companies of Riflemen who were placed in Ambuscade, she was obliged to come very slowly, and often came to, and returned a very smart Fire at the every place where the Riflemen fired from, until the Tide was spent, and she could not go down. During the Course of this firing, only one of our Men got wounded, and that slightly in the Thigh; but on board, several men were seen to fall.

In Town we had exhibited a still more interesting Scene. We found the Officers and Men clamorous, about the Capture and Detention of Rice; and two Gentlemen, Lieut. Daniel Roberts, of the St. John's Rangers, and Mr. Raymond Demeré of Saint Andrew's Parish, solicited, and were permitted, to go on board, to Demand a surrender of Rice and his People. They accordingly divested themselves of Arms, and were rowed by a Negro on board the Vessel, in which were, Capt. Barclay, the Commodore, and Major [James] Grant; and these Officers, contrary to all the Principles which cement Society, and govern Mankind, immediately arrested our Deputies, and yet detain them as Prisoners. We waited with anxious Expectation for near half an Hour, when we demanded our Deputies, by the Help of a Trumpet, without getting any other, but insulting Answers; whereupon we fired two 4 Pounders directly into them; and then they informed us, that they would send an Answer in Writing; which they presently after did, signed by Lieut. Roberts and Mr. Demeré, purporting, that if we would send two of the Persons in whom the People most confided, they would treat with them.

Capt. [James] Screven, of the St. John's Rangers, and Capt. [John] Baker, of the St. John's Rifle-men, chagrined no doubt, the former particularly, on Account of his Lieutenant, by detention of our Deputies, took about a Dozen of Rifle-men in a Boat, and rowed directly under the Stern of Capt. Inglis, in whose Vessel were a great Part of the Soldiery, and, in peremptory Terms, demanded the Deputies, and were answered, after one Shot from Col. Baker, by a Discharge, down directly upon them, of near two hundred Shot, both from Swivels and small Arms, which was kept up while they were in Reach; the Captains and Men in the Boat, not in the smallest Degree confused, or even, perhaps, disappointed by the Attack, fired their Rifles, most of them three several times, and as they say, not without Execution; and wonderful to tell! not a Man of them killed; one Man only received a Slug in the fleshy part of his Shoulder, which was immediately cut out, without the smallest Inconvenience or Danger. The Spectators declare, as we now do, that such a providential Deliverance has not yet been known.

This unmanly Attack, upon a few Men in an open Boat, produced a general Fire from our Field Pieces and Intrenchments; and as smart — Return from two 4 Pounders and several Swivels from the Shipping; which lasted from about Twelve o'Clock to Four; and although they often fired langridge, which continually whistled about our Men, not a single Man

was even touched; but we have no doubt, a Number of the Enemy met with a worse Fate, as they were seen frequently to fall.

About Four o'Clock we called a Council, and determined to have the Vessels immediately burnt; and issued orders to Col. [Lachlan] M'Intosh accordingly: Whereupon the *Inverness*, late Capt. M'Gillivray, loaded with Rice and Deer-Skins, was set on Fire, and cut loose. Upon this, the Soldiers, in the most laughable Confusion, got a shore in the Marsh; while our Rifle-men and Field pieces, with Grape Shot, were incessantly galling them. The Shipping were now also in Confusion, some got up the River, under cover of the Armed Schooner, while others caught the Flame, and, as Night approached, exhibited a Scene, as they passed and repassed with the Tide, which, in any but the present Times, would be truly horrible, but now a subject only of Gratulation and Applause.

The Ships of Capt. Inglis and Wardwell, neither got up the River, or on Fire; they were ordered on Shore, and now are Prisoners of Capt. Screven in the Country, and their Vessels brought down close in to a Wharf. They were permitted to write to Capt. Barclay in the Evening, to inform him of their situation, and to request an Exchange of Prisoners, which the latter peremptorily refused.

We have thus given you a particular Detail of Things, as they really happened, to prevent the Belief of any erroneous Intelligence; and, from which you will be competent to judge of our Situation.

Col. M'Intosh laid before the Board, a Resolution of your Congress to aid us, accompanied by a Letter from Mr.[Rawlins] Lowndes; and we are very glad you have determined to afford us further Assistance. We wish it may arrive in Time.

By Order of the Council of Safety,

William Ewen, President.

1. *South-Carolina and American General Gazette*, February 23 to March 8, 1776.

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

[Monday,
March 4]

Early the next morning they [the Marines] march'd in to Providence and took possession of fort Nausaw without any opposition, a schooner ² and Sloop having gone off the night Before with most of the Powder, Our people found in the fort, Large Quantitys of Sheel & Shott, Sixteen Morters of Different Sizes; 20 Cask of Powder & some Provisions fifty two Cannon Eighteens Twenty fore & Thirty two pounders Loaded with Round Shott Double headed & Grape & several other Articles, belonging to the Garrison,

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. H.M. Schooner *St. John*.

"A LIST OF THE SHIPS AND VESSELS LIBERATED FROM THE REBELS OF SAVANAH BY CAPTAIN BARKLEY & MAJOR GRANT
THE 4TH MARCH 1776." ¹

Ship or Vessels Name	Masters Name	Where Belonging	Owners Name	Lading	Quantity of the different Species of the Cargoe & to whom belonging	No of Seamen	Where the Owners reside	Tons.
<i>Christian</i> , Brig	Jno Alexander	Glasgow	Jno Alexander	Rice	290 whole Barrels of Rice, 57 half Barrels Do, 221 Deer Skins & a Quantity of Lumber	8	Glasgow	140
<i>Christie</i> , Brig	Geo Craick	Aberdeen	Geo Craick	Rice		200 whole Barrels	6	Aberdeen
<i>Marborough</i> , Ship	Thos Walker	Whitby	Jonas Brown	Rice	189 Whole Barrels 15 half Do	13	Whitby	213
<i>Live Oak</i> , Brig	Jno Wallace	Glasgow	Jno Wallace & Co.	Rice	250 whole Barrels, 15 half Do	6	Glasgow	250
<i>Samuel and Charles</i> , Brig	Wm Pinkerton	Barbadoes	Thos Welch	Rice	210 Whole Barrels	5	Barbadoes	150
<i>Christie</i> , Brig		Andw Lee	Glasgow	Alexander & Rt Donald	Rice	220 Whole Barrels & a Quantity of Dry Goods	7	Glasgow
<i>Maria</i> , Schooner	Rt Welch	Liverpool	Hugh & Henry Lee & Thos Case	Rice & Dry Goods	70 whole Barrels & a great Quantity of dry Goods	6	Liverpool	100
<i>Georgia</i> , <i>Pacquet</i>	Thos Glenders	Scarborough	Jno Glenders	Rice	45 Whole Barrels	9	Scarborough	120
<i>Jane</i> , Schooner	Jno Mills	Savanah	Fellfair & Co	Indigo & Rum	47 Barrels of Indigo, 15 Punchns Rum, Nails & Dry Goods	3	Savanah	30
<i>Sally</i> , Sloop	Jas Weston	Savanah	Fellfair & Co	Sugar Bale Goods	Sugar & Bale Goods	3	Savanah	30
<i>Adventure</i> , Ship	Rd Chapman	Jamaica	Johnson & Co	Ballast	"	8	Jamaica	160
<i>Esther</i> , Schooner	Dl McNess	Savanah	Fellfair & Co	Dry Goods	Dry Goods	4	Savanah	20
<i>Charming Nancy</i> , Ship (Copy)	Rt King	London	Simons & Co	Ballast	"	14	London	200

(Sign'd) And^w Barkley

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosed in Shuldham's letter of April 24, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. John*, LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT¹

- March 1776 Anchord in the Stream in [New] Providence harbour
- Saturday 2d Arrived here a sloop from Abico Who informed us that 8 sail of Ships & Vessels were Standing in for Providence said to be 2 Large Ships with guns 2 brigs & sloops and 1 Schooner—Supposed to be an american fleet come to take by force of arms the Kings Powder Stores &c—
- Sundy 3 saw from the Mast Head 8 sail Standing for the Island and soon discovered them to be 2 learge ships, 2 brigs, 3 Sloops, & 1 Schooner—At 7 do the said Vessels Anchored in Hanover Bay, and Supposed them to be a Rebel armament—and to plunder by forse or Chatagem the Kings Forts and Magazines,—I went to Town to Consult with the Governor² and council what was to be done on the Occasion; After Various Opinions it was resolved for the good of the Service that His Majestys Schooner under my Command should be brought to Town—her boats and stores were getting on board, Unmoord, Weighed & got under sail—Received a letter from the Governor reccomending it to bring the Schooner down to Stop the Channel Off the East Fort, but at this time being against wind and tide, At Noon complyd with said requisition; While performing said service we saw the aforesaid sloops and Schooners get under sail very full of Armed Men. Received another Message from the Governor and do to bring the Schooner down to Town, and Moor her Head and stern within Pistol shot of the Shore at the upper end of the Town—Filled 9 rounds of Powder, all hands called to Quarters—Loaded the small arms, got up the handgranades &c—Left on the Carreening Island which we had not time to get off, Fifteen Cask of Water, 3 hogsheads, 10 half hogsheads, 7 bundles of Iron hoops, 30 in each—Half a barrel of Turpentine, 1 barrel Pitch, main & fore boombs, 2 Topsail yards, some Mahogany Plank, 4 Handironleavers, and all the Material that were left after repairing the Schooner—1 barrel beef 1 barrel Pork Chests with books Papers Cloaths &c Strong Gales and clear Wr Employed clearing the Schooner for Action – At 1 (PM) 4 of the Enemys Vessels got under sail, and run into the Eastern Channel, and landed their Troops 7 Miles to the Eastward of Fort Montagu—At 2 a pilot came on board, Warp'd and Weighed,

and Anchord at the East End of the Town within Pistol Shot of the shore, and road the Enemy must pass and moord— Called all hands to Quarters—Guns loaded with Double round and grape shot – At 3 saw the Rebel Army take Fort Montagu and the Malitia march out – By request of the Governor and Council, Slipped our Cabil a Stern and Weigh'd the other Anchor and left the former behind us – Came to sail and Anchord, and moor'd to Cover the entrance of the Castle – Parted our small bower Anchor and Cable, got the schooner on shore – Got Warpt out and with much difficulty hove her Off, The Vessels being all in confusion and deserting, the inhabitants of the Town all took refuge in the Fort in the utmost Confusion – At ½ past 10 (PM) got well Moor'd with the broad side within half a Pistol shot of the Shore and Fort Gates – At 11 do I was Summoned to Attend the Council, On these Emmergencies they told me, that they were resolved to send the Powder away, and asked If I would carry it to Saint Augustine to which, I told them, that it was impractable but that, I would defend it to the utmost of my power, and act in every thing for the good of the service that could be pointed out as far as is consisting with my duty and honour – They had an answer to their Message sent the Rebel army that they were come here their [aim] was to destroy the Kings Schooner and Carry off the Powder and which they were determined to Execute – And as the powder was to be Sent away, the Fort in confusion and would make no resistance, the schooner must inevitably fall a Sacrifice – It was recommended for me, for the Safety of the King Schooner and the Sloop with the Powder to push out and convoy her to Saint Augustine as it was the most likely Method to save both I told the Governor & do I had that day put the Schooner in the several stationd they had recommended and where I thought most likely to Annoy and battle their Troops and to protect the province in the best manner the Schooner I commanded would admit of – The Governor and do were of Opinion, and again repeated as the powder was to go, I could not be of any other service but to defend it.

Monday 4

I Sent my boats and men to assist getting it on board –

At 2 [A.M.] Unmoord, Weighed, and came to sail with the Vessel uncompleat either in her repairs, Stores, or Provisions – a Many of the People sickly & without a master or Pilot – Got the boats in ½ pst got over the barr Sloop in Compy People much fatigued – Rais'd the mainsail, bent the foresail square sail & Flying Gib & other sails, Kept all hands to Quarters expecting to find the Enemy off] the Barr – Lost in a hurry Several Species of Stores, as cannot as yet be ascertain'd – At 4 Providence Barr SEBE 5 or 6 miles at 6 Berry Islands NNW 13 leagues – Shortned sail for the Sloop, saw she was to deep and in distress – at ½ past 10 (AM) brought to on her Joining me, and took out of her 43 barrels of powder &ca &ca – Fresh Gales and cloudy Wr The Sloop having come up with us run under Sherrops Key and at 4 Weighed and came to sail in company with the Sloop Saw the Land bearing NNE 6 Leagues —

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.
2. Governor Montfort Browne of New Providence.

JOURNAL OF LIEUTENANT JOHN TREVETT ¹

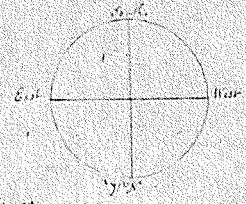
[New Providence, March 4, 1776]

. . . The next m[orning] by break of day we marched for the town of Nassau, where the G[overnor] lived, which was 4 miles from the fort. we arrived within [a mile,] wh[en] we halted about one hour, and had a parley, when the [gate] of the Capital fort, Nassau, was opend, and the British col[ors] hauled down, and we took possession. The Commodore and [our vessels lay] back of Hog Island, but in about 2 hours after, they came in[to] the harbour, and as the Commodore was landing, we saw Governor [Montfort Browne] and his council walking his Piazza, and his servants waiting bel[ow] with hor[s]es. Capt. Hen[r]y Dayton, who command[ed] the other company, and myself, Asked Major Nichols [Samuel Nicholas] liberty [to go an]d take him. The Major informed us he had no orders from the [Commodore to] take him, but we may do as we pleased. Capt. Henry Day[ton] and a young officer from Philadelphia and myself went to the [Governor's ho]use and informed him he must go with us to the fort, he sai[d in] reply that it was beneath his dignity, as Governor, to go to the f[ort.] We made him this reply that he must go, then he says it must [be by] the force of arms, We told him it was by the force of arms! In a short time Com. Hopkins and the Captains of the fleet landed and came to the fort. After some time spe[nt,] the Commodore sent for me, and gave me orders to take as many men as would be sufficient, and keep the Governor prisoner in his own house. . . .

1. NHS.

The following Plan and View of the Harbour and Town of Providence, in the Bahama Islands, was taken by the late Captain John Smith, in the year 1705.

A Scale of one Mile

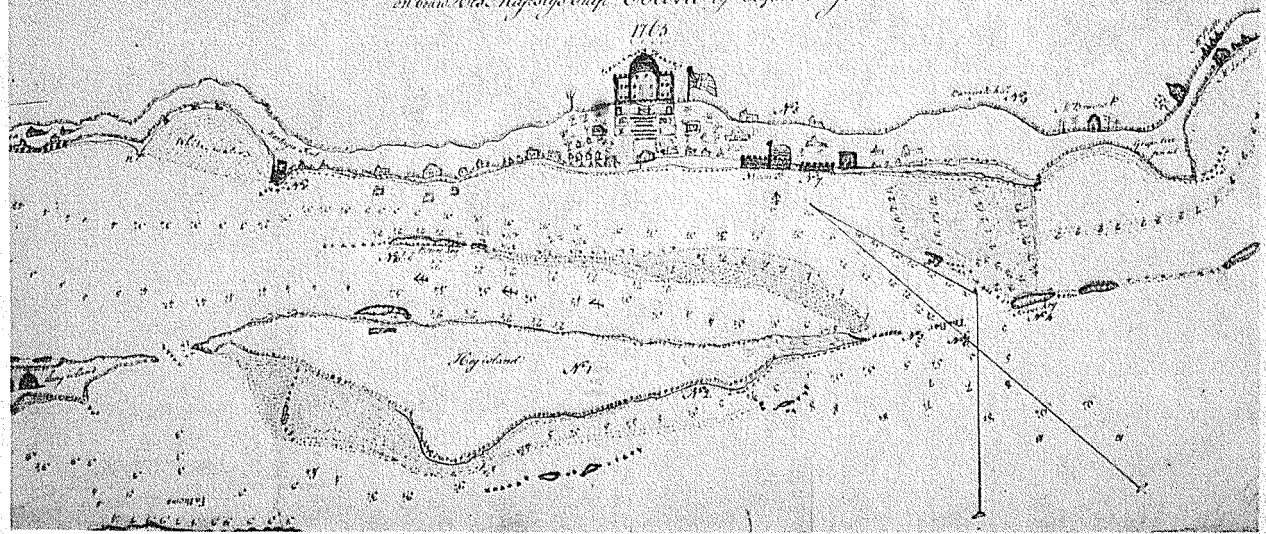


A Plan and View of the Harbour and Town of Providence

Latitude 23. 00. 00

Longitude 77. 26. 00

in the Year 1705, by the late Captain John Smith, in the Ship 'The Adventure',
1705



New Providence, Bahama Islands.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Argo*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM GARNIER ¹

March 1776 Turning into St Piers Martinico
Monday 4th took as prize the Sloop *Thomas* from Rhode Island. ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/19.

2. The sloop *Thomas* is not named in the list of vessels taken by Vice Admiral James Young's squadron prior to May 1, 1776. See Prizes Taken by the British Ships in the Windward Islands, May 1, 1776.

5 Mar.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP ¹

March 1776 West end Minagen [Monhagan] NW $\frac{1}{2}$ N 5 or 6 Lgs
Sunday 3 at 6 A M Swayed up Topgallt Masts at 9 Close Reef
Fore Topsail at 10 A M 4 Sail in Sight gave Chace
out 2d Reef Topsails
Light Breezes and fair Weather brot too Main Topsail
to the Mast at 3 P M set Topgallt sails. 4 Sail in
Sight which we judged to be Privateers the *Hope* Brig
& *Tryal* Schooner in Chace of them lost off the Reel
a Logg & 3 Lines at 11 P M saw a Sail to the Northwd
gave Chace

Monday 4th Isle [of] Shoals N W $\frac{1}{2}$ N 5 or 6 Lgs
at 1 A M spoke her the Schooner *John* from Baltimore
bound to Cape Ann Laden with Flour ² Sent a Midn
& 3 Men onboard her & took her hands out

Tuesday 5 Cape Ann S W B S 6 or 7 Lgs
at 4 A M Tack'd at 9 Saw a sail to the N E Let the
Reefs out of the Topsails & Set Steering Sails at 10 In
1st & 2d Reef Topsails $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 came up with the
Chace a Sloop from Philadelphia—³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

2. The *John*, Daniel Marchant, master, and Daniel Serjeant, owner, was sent into Boston. Her cargo was both flour and Indian corn, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

3. *Ibid.*, the sloop *Mary*, Abner Lowell, master, and Benjamin Rogers, owner, from Philadelphia for Newburyport, with a cargo of flour, iron and steel. Sent into Boston.

"Tiranesides CONTRACT 1776" ¹

we the Subscribers Joyntly & Sevirly agree with Wm Hacket to buld or Cause to be Bult in Mr John Hackets yard the one half of a Vessell of fifty five feet Keel twenty two feet beam & nine [feet] 4 Inches or 9 feet hold four feet West Stringd & gunwald a risen on Deck as high as the bottom of the Ports a Short quarter Deck – all above the Deck to be Done in a warlike maner, as sd Hacket Shall Direct or Layout, & the Whole to be Done in a workemanlike maner to a Kleet at or before the fiftenth Day of may Next

In Consideration for which the sd Hacket agrees to give the subscribers thirteen Shillings & Four Pence Lawfull money pr Ton for buld-

ind 1/2 sd Vessell one half Soon after begining sd Vessell the other half when She is Completed & the sd Hacket is to find or Cause to be found Good Stuff to buld Sd vessell in Season – Draft & mould her find Masts Clear Chips Stop worm hols Caulk & Lanch sd Vessell to Give a treet att Ra[i]sen Gitting up of framş & Carving in beams & no More Except he Chuses it

to the faith full Performance of Which we bind our Selves Each to the other in the Sum of one hundred Pounds in witness hereunto have Set our hands & Seals this Fifth Day of March 1776 in Salsbury –

in presents of	Neil Edwards	Thomas Hackett
David Currier	Jacob Mcon[ne]ll	Jacob bagly Currier
John Webster	Enoch fowler	Benjamin Collins
	Hezekiah flanders	[Th]omas Pettingill
	Nathan Wells	Abraham Edwards

1. Privateers Collection, Cushing & White, PM.

LETTER OF AGENCY OF CAPTAIN AND OFFICERS OF H.M.S. *Renown*¹

No.3 Know all Men by these presents that we the Captain and Officers of his Majestys Ship *Renown*, have constituted & appointed and in their Stead and place put Alexander Brymer Gentleman, of Halifax in Nova Scotia, our lawfull Attorney for us and in our Names to ask, claim Demand & recover all Prize Money Share or Shares of Prize money which by any ways or means may become due to us & to take care of such prizes or seizures as we shall make and to prosecute the same in the Court or Courts of Vice Admiralty & generally to do act and Transact in all things respecting the premisses as fully amply and Effectually to all intent and purposes as we might or could do if personally present hereby ratifying allowing and Confirming all and whatsoever our said Agent may lawfully do or cause to be done in and about the Premisses, with full power to make and Substitute one or more attornies under our said Attorney and the same again at pleasure to revoke – In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and Seals the fifth day of March one thousand seven hundred and seventy six on Board his Majestys Ship *Renown* in Nantaskett Road & in the sixteenth year of his Majestys

Reign –

Sign'd Seal'd & Deliver'd

in Presence of

F.Banks	Jn ^o Legge	Duncan Ferguson
So.Marris	W Pearce	John Sefton
A.Walter	W. James	John Thomas
Rich ^d Graves	T. Landford	John Elwell
Andrew Elliott	Henry Cox	Robert Sackett
P B Morris	Tho ^s Edwards	Tho ^s Sandon
John Mall	Maurice Pierce	Dan ^l DePear
Ja ^s Barnette		

[Endorsed] Recd Octr 2d 1776 – & Registred Liber 2d folio 15th

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

MEMOIRS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH ¹

[Cambridge] 5th. [March, 1776]

The British, it was expected, would attempt to dislodge the Americans from Dorchester heights. Signals had been prepared at Roxbury meeting-house to mark the moment. The detachment at Cambridge (designed to push into Boston in the boats) was paraded, not far from No.2, where it remained a good part of the day. But kind Heaven, which more than once saved the Americans when they would have destroyed themselves,² did not allow the signals to be made. About 3500 of the British troops, it was said, had been sent down to the Castle, with the intent to have made an attack on the Americans; but about midnight the wind blew almost a hurricane from the south; many windows were forced in, sheds and fences blown down, and some vessels drove on shore; and no attempt was made on the works.

1. William Abbatt, ed., *Memoirs of Major-General William Heath by Himself* (New York, 1901), 33. Hereafter cited as Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*.

2. Heath had opposed the plan to descend upon Boston in boats if the enemy launched an attack on Dorchester Heights.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Martis, 10 ho. A.M.

March 5th, 1776.

A letter from Colonel Gilbert Budd, directed to Mr. [John] McKesson, one of the Secretaries, was read. He therein requests permission for the bearer to go on board of the ship *Asia*, to obtain a boat which had been privately taken from him, and is supposed to be at the said ship.

As Major-General [Charles] Lee has cut off all communication with said ship, and through his conduct and orders the passports of this Congress are of no avail, the Congress refused to give permission.

The report of the committee on Genl. Lee's letter, relative to the ministerial army preparing to leave Boston, as entered on the minutes of yesterday afternoon, was again read. The Congress approves thereof, and again agrees with their committee therein, and confirms the same.

Ordered, That the committee who brought in the said report on Genl. Lee's letter, and Mr. [Thomas] Randall, be a committee to carry the seventh of said resolutions of that committee into execution.²

A charge was given from the Chair to keep the matter of the seventh resolve secret.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 337.

2. To dismantle the lighthouse at Sandy Hook.

JOSIAH BARTLETT TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia March 5 1776.

The twenty thousand dollars for which the Marine Committee gave me an order, as mentioned in my last, I have rec'd and have agreed with Mr [John Avery] (who is to take some money down for Mr [Thomas] Cushing) to take fifteen thousand dollars for you. I have taken up your order to Mr [Tristram] Dalton for 1333 $\frac{1}{3}$ dollars, the remaining 3666 $\frac{2}{3}$ dollars, I shall leave with Col Whipple to answer Such orders as you may draw on him, or the Marine Committee.

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] March 5th

Visited by Wm Clifton & Wm Bradford invited to attend Sub Committee at 10 this forenoon at Coffe house, in order to Consider of the powder, Salt Petre & arms brought yesterday in Briggt *Hannah* James Neale from Holland.

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 5th March, 1776.

Resolved, That Mr. John Mitchell be appointed Muster Master to the Naval Armaments and to the Artillery of this Province, he having offer'd to do the business Gratis.

William Brown, Captain of Marines, receiv'd his Comission this day, and dated the 16th Feb'y last.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 504.*Pennsylvania Evening Post*, TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1776

Philadelphia, March 5, 1776.

For England, the Brig *Jamaica Packet*, now lying at Shewell's wharf, which will sail in ten or twelve days, wind and weather permitting. She is a good vessel, was formerly one of the Charlestown packets, called the *Prince of Wales*, and is known to be a prime sailer. For passage only apply to Robert Shewell, in Front-street, between Race and Vine streets.

It is expected the passengers will be speedy in their application, that there may be time to accomodate them properly.¹

1. The advertisement was repeated March 9, with the destination specified as "Bristol and Cork."

DAY BOOK OF CHARLES WHARTON ¹

Philadelphia, March 5, 1776

Sales of Merchandize by the Ship *Charming Peggy*, Captain [Thomas] Dowman ²

Dr. to Sundry Accounts Vizt	£
To Cash paid Gauging & Cooperage of oyl &ca.	1 . 5 . 11
To Profit & loss for my Commission & storage of 7½ P Cent on the Amot of the Sales being £530 . . 1 . . 2	39 . 15 . . 1
To Parr Bulkeley & Co. their Accts, with Me for half of the Neat proceeds when the outstanding debts are paid	231 . . 8 . . 6
To my Concern in Advr from Lisbon & Falmouth by Dowman for the other half of the Neat proceeds	231 . . 8 . . 6
	<hr/>
	503 . 18 . . 0
My Concern in Advr from Lisbon & Falmouth by Dowman Dr. to Profit and Loss for thus much gained by it	16 . 13 . . 3

1. Charles Wharton's Day Book, HSP.

2. Dowman [or Downing], in the *Charming Peggy*, had cleared Philadelphia in mid-July, 1775, for Lisbon, with a cargo of flour and staves. She was taken later in the month by H.M.S. *Glasgow*, and carried into Boston, where her cargo was bought for the British army, but the vessel was freed to proceed on her voyage to Lisbon, Graves's Prize List, December 31, 1775, II, 36-38, BM.MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

Gentn

We have just received intelligence that a large ship supposed to be a 20 gun man of war and two sloops are on their way up the Bay their destination is not known but as they may intend for your Town, we send off this express that you may be on your guard and make all the preparations in your power for your defence.²

[Annapolis] Tuesday 5th March 1776

To the Commee of Observation of Balt Town

1. Executive Papers, Box 2, Md. Arch.

2. Similar alerts were sent to Colonels John Hall, Thomas Dorsey, and John Weems, area military commanders. In the letter to Colonel Hall the reported 20 gun enemy ship became "a 44 Gun Man of War." Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, 1776, Md. Arch.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL
MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Roebuck at Hampton Road in
Virginia the 5th March 1776.

Sir The Squadron of his Majesty's Ships stationed here being in great want of Provisions, Stores and other necessaries, and having no prospect of any supply but from Boston, I find my self under the absolute necessity of sending the *Kingsfisher* to inform you of our situation, Altho' 'tis sorely against my will to part with her from hence at this juncture.

Since the burning of the Town of Norfolk all civil communication with the Shore has been at an end, and very little Provisions by any means of any sort has been procured: The Contractors for Victualling the Navy could no longer supply the Ships, and had it not been for a vessel that was stopped by one of the Tenders in January last laden with Flour, Lord Dunmore the Governor would not have been able to have subsisted the people he has afloat with him untill this time.

We are also greatly in want of Slops of all kinds; as I found the Ships here entirely without them, I have been under the necessity of supplying them from the *Roebuck*.

Enclosed is an account of the State and Condition of the Ships under my command, together with a Journal of my proceedings since I received Vice Admiral Graves' Orders of the 25th december. Also an account of the Vessels that have been seized and detained by his Majesty's Ships here; the list I believe is complete except those taken by the *Otter*, and as Captain [Matthew] Squire is on a cruize, and has omitted leaving an acct of them with me, I must defer sending it untill a future opportunity, but I understand they amount to only four or five small vessels of little value: It is impossible to send such round to Boston as it would employ our men to very little purpose; And as we have no judge of the Admiralty here, nor Commissioners for prizes, I shall be glad, Sir, to have your Orders concerning them.

I likewise transmit you, Sir, a particular account of what the *Liverpool* is in want of. I am prevented from sending you the same from the *Otter*, for the reason above mentioned, but Captain Squire informed me before he sailed that he was in want of every kind of Store, leaving with me the enclosed memorandm of his decayed Cables and Sails.

I beg leave Also to acquaint you, Sir, that I have given Mr Charles Fletcher Surgeon of the *Roebuck*, who is also I believe a good Physician an order to receive on Shore the Sick Men from the Ships in the usual manner of sick quarters, which I hope you will approve of. The Ague and fever on board the *Otter* had shewn itself to be epidemick, and many died of it, but I have the pleasure to tell you that since I got them ashore the disease has subsided, and they are most of them in a fair way of recovery.

Lieutenant [John] Orde of his Majestys Ship under my command having when commanding officer on board at Halifax confined the Boatswain for bad behavior, I applied to commodore Arbuthnot for a Court-martial to

be held on him, but during the time I remained there, it could never be assembled for want of a sufficient number of Captains: I therefore took the Opportunity of the *Mercury's* calling in here to Order a Court-martial for his trial, when the charge was proved and the Boatswain was dismissed the Service. Since which I have given an Order to Alexander Forbes (a Brisk active Boatswains Mate) to do that duty, whom I beg leave to recommend to you for promotion.

I hope my having detained the *Liverpool* here will meet with your approbation and that it will be in your power to send me the Supply's the Ships here are so much in want of.

I have the honor to be, Sir &ca &ca

A S Hamond

Account of all the Papers enclosed with — the above. —

Journal of the Ships proceedings.

State and condition of (*Roebuck, Liverpool, Otter, & Kingsfr*) the Squadron.

Report of Seizures &ca made by Do

Liverpools demands for Stores &ca

Otters defective Cables &ca

Governor [Josiah] Martins Letter to Capt Bellew &ca

Captain Parrys to Do

Captain Bellews Admty orders (a copy)

Account of the Rebels Marine force

Intelligence of Do

Minutes of a Court-martial

Sentence of Do

Demand for Stores for the *Roebuck*

1. Hamond Letter Book, 1775-1778, UVL.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*¹

March 1776

Tuesday 5th

Remks on bd His Majesty's Ship *Roebuck*

A M at 6 unmoord & Weighed & came to sail at 9 Anchord in Hampton Road in 13 fa His Majesty Sloop *Kings Fisher* Riding here which with the *Lord Howe* Tender had brought in a Brig² Bound to philladelphia with Powder, Salt petre, Sulphur & . . . and a Schooner in Ballast from Road Island Point Comfort N E Hampton Church N N W

First part Strong Gales & squally latter Moderate & fair P.M at 2 Struck top Gallt masts & received 20 barrels of Powder out of the Prize

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

2. The brig *Juno*. See journal of H.M. Sloop *Kingsfisher*, February 28, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL¹

[Newbern] Tuesday 5th March, 1776 –

It appearing to this Council That Lot Strange Master and John Strange Owner of the Sloop *King Fisher* have been Guilty of importing certain British European Goods contrary to the Continental Association.

Resolved, That the said Lott Strange and John Strange enter into Bond in the sum of five hundred pounds to the Committee of Perquimons County for their future good behavior and that they depart the port with their said Vessel in Ballast within one Month from this day, and when the said Lott Strange and John Strange shall have given such Bond, then the said Committee is hereby directed to deliver up the said Sloop *King Fisher* with her Tackle, Apparell and Furniture and other property belonging to the said Lot and John Strange

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

DEPOSITION OF WILLIAM RADDON, MASTER OF THE SLOOP *Joseph*¹

New Hanover county [North Carolina].

William Raddon, of the city of Philadelphia, mariner, maketh oath on the holy evangelists of Almighty God, that he sailed from Philadelphia, the eleventh of February last, as master of the sloop *Joseph*, bound for South-Carolina or Georgie. That on the thirteenth following he was taken by the sloop *General Gage*, on board of which was Capt. [John] Collett, and brought into Cape-Fear. That Lieutenant Pitcairn informed this deponent, that every transport vessel that was to come from England was to bring one or more flat bottomed boats. That this deponent has seen the deposition of Peter Simon, made this day, and was informed by Captain Collett of the several circumstances therein mentioned. That Lieutenant Osborne, of the *Raven* sloop of war, informed this deponent, that there were to be sixty sail of armed vessels, of different sizes, stationed on the coast, and twenty sail of twenty gun ships and sloops of war were to be on the coast from England in April; and that bomb-ketches were to be brought out, to throw bombs into those places where ships of war could not go up, and were particularly intended against Philadelphia, because the Congress sits there; and that he made his escape with Mr. Simon and others.

William Raddon.

Sworn to before me, the fifth of March, 1776.

William Purviance.

John Cooke, Secretary.

William Raddon, within named, farther deposeth, and saith, that on or about the 27th of February, this deponent being then on board the *Falcon* sloop of war, Capt. Lindsey [John Linzee], and Lieut. Wright, who commands an armed sloop, declared that they had intended that night to go up to the town of Brunswick, with about an hundred sailors, to set the town on fire in front, station their men on the back of the town, and destroy man,

woman and child, that escaped from the flames; but the reason they did not put their design in execution was, that the sloop commanded by Lieut. Wright got aground when she went out to examine what vessel the sloop *General Gage* was, and that afterwards Lindsey told Wright that the inhabitants had left the town, and therefore it was of no use to burn it.

William Raddon.

Sworn to before me the 5th of March, 1776.

John Cooke, Secretary.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 2, 1776.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF NORTH-CAROLINA, DATED NEWBERN, MARCH 5, 1776.”¹

One Mr. [Robert] Achison, midshipman of the *Syren*, with three sailors, were drove over Ocracock Bar in distress, who were taken prisoners and brought to Newbern; the midshipman and one sailor are sent to Halifax as prisoners, the other two discharged in this town. It appears the *Syren* had taken a vessel of ours on the coast, and those men were conducting the prize to Boston, when they were forced over the bar.

1. *Providence Gazette*, April 13, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[Charleston] Tuesday, March 5, 1776.

Ordered, That Mr. President, Mr. John Rutledge, Col. [George Gabriel] Powell, Colonel C. C. Pinckney, and Capt. [Thomas] Shubrick, be a Committee to prepare proper rules and articles for the better regulation and government of the navy of this colony.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 82-84.

HENRY LAURENS TO MAJOR JOSEPH HABERSHAM¹

Charles Town So Carolina 5th March 1776.

Dear Sir – Yesterday morning Mr Will brought me your favour of the 28th Ulto which I immediately laid before the Congress, the Members were so deeply affected by the melancholy contents as led them instantly into a debate upon the necessity for sending an additional number of Militia to those already ordered for Savanna – a determination of that point was postponed until we Should hear from Collo [Stephen] Bull whose orders are to throw in any Number of Men that he Shall judge necessary for your assistance – we had Scarcely got through this business before an Express arrived with a Letter from your Council of Safety importing the most agreeable intelligence. I am extremely glad to find you are likely to make a Stand against the attempts of our Enemies & that the burthen of business which lay upon two or three of you is now more equally borne. the assistance which we have already dispatched we hope will be sufficient, but should there be a necessity for more Men I am persuaded we shall not hesi-

tate to add three or four hundred, as to the article of Gunpowder I am sorry 'tis not in my power to say anything more on that subject. – while the *Cherokee* is parceeding within Sight of your Town & drawing off Men from the Southern frontier of this Colony I clearly perceive the feint which may be intended & that our Beaufort, may in one Night be taken by surprize & Fort Lyttleton fall without opposition, success in such a Stratagem would infinitely embarrass us, but it would effectually ruin you, as intercourse between Savanna & Charles Town would be much impeded, a few Troops from St Augustine attempting to make inroads about Sunbury & Ogechee would put you between two fires & keep your strings constantly upon the stretch – let us guard by every wise precaution against such schemes & while we are anxious to suppress the Fire in your own House take care lest we are ruined by flames from the next door – it will become us too, to be very careful of our Men, to avoid harrassing them unnecessarily & to compel them to take all possible care of themselves while they are upon duty – the approaching season should be well considered & all unnecessary fatigue avoided – if early fevers should seize our Troops the work of our Enemies would be made very easy – on the contrary if we support our Men, theirs will unavoidably begin to flag as the warm weather sets in – confinement on board their ships & want of proper refreshment will on the other hand hasten their destruction.

While North Carolina on one side & Georgia on the other is attacked, & we, who are most loudly threatned, are left in a seeming State of tranquility, what conclusion can be drawn not surely that we are protected by our Innocence, but that Vengeance is preparing for us, to be brought on when our friends shall be rendered incapable of affording us assistance – from every consideration therefore it behoves these three Colonies to act with great wariness & foresight always on the defensive. – but let us act with Resolution & divine providence will bless our actions with success –

I wish you my Dear Sir Honour in the field & the smiles of fortune everywhere – being very sincerely [&c.]

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 196–98.

COLONEL LACHLAN MCINTOSH TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., AND
MAJOR JAMES GRANT¹

Savannah, March 5, 1776.

Gentlemen: When I authorized Messrs. Demeré and Roberts, by my letter of yesterday, to inform you that orders were given for a cessation of arms on our side, we certainly expected you would consider it as implied that those gentlemen, together with Mr. Rice, should be immediately released; for surely it must appear to every man that the detention of our fellow-citizens is, to all intents and purposes, a continuation of hostilities on your side. I am now directed to acquaint you that the people have waited with the utmost anxiety for the arrival of those gentlemen all this day; and I am induced to think, from your professions of a friendly disposition, that

you will see how absolutely necessary it is to make this step the groundwork of a further negotiation. I shall wait with impatience for your answer, and hope our friends will be the messengers themselves, by ten o'clock, to-morrow morning. I am, &c.,

Lachlan McIntosh.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 601.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

[Extract]

Duplicate No 3.

My Lord Your Lordship's Commands of 23d December No 1. I have the honour to receive, and am exceedingly happy my Endeavours to dispatch the Detachment of His Majestys Troops to Lord Dunmore, have enabled his Lordship to effect useful Services for the King. It is always an inward heartfelt Comfort and Satisfaction to be assured that one's Endeavours to forward His Majesty's Service, meets with His Majesty's Approbation -

The *Hinchinbrook* Schooner arrived on the 20th of last Month from Boston. By the Dispatches I have received from General Howe, I fear several of my Dispatches to the Commander in Chief have miscarried, they were all sent to Lord Dunmore,² except one which was sent by a Vessel from hence the beginning of November, that I contrived to get loaded with Oranges Honey and Live Stock for Boston, but we have not heard My Lord of this Vessel since she sailed out of this Port.

The *Hinchinbrook* brought me Letters from Captain [Andrew] Barkley of the *Scarborough*, and Major [James] Grant of the 40th Regiment, who are detached with four Men of War and a Command of Troops to procure Provisions on the Coast of Georgia.

I sent to them with all dispatch every Assistance I could think of, Pilots for the Coasts that are acquainted with all the Plantations on the Islands and on the Main, and Vessels that they might employ, and every Information that I could imagine would tend to facilitate the Service they were upon. A Transport Ship from England arrived the 22d of last Month with Captain Van Braam, and on the 28th another with Lieut. Vanipper and Recruits for the 60th Regiment. I have the honour to enclose Your Lordship a State of them; there is as yet My Lord no appearance of the Companies from St Vincents.

St Augustine 5. March 76

[Endorsed] St Augustine 5th March 1776 Govr Tonym. (No 3)

R/ 22d August Dup[licat]e Origl not recd (1 Inclosure)

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 277-80. Tonym was governor of East Florida. Lord Germain was Lord North's secretary of state for the colonies.
2. Tonym's dispatches sent through Lord Dunmore were taken on December 17, 1775, in the sloop *Betsey*, by Captain John Manley in the Continental schooner *Lee*. The *Betsey* had been dispatched from Norfolk by Lord Dunmore with his dispatches to General Howe. There were more than thirty intercepted documents disclosing many of the plans for the spring and early summer campaign.

“INTELLIGENCE CONCERNING AMERICAN VESSELS LOADING GUNPOWDER &c;
AT THE ISLAND MARTINIQUE.”¹

(English Harbour Antigua 5th March 1776.)

“Information given to Vice Admiral Young, Commander in Chief of all His Brittannic Majesty’s Ships employed and to be employed at Barbadoes the Leward Islands and in the Seas Adjacent.”

(By Robert Waller, Mariner, Mate of the Sloop *Batchellor* Born in London.) (Who says He entered on board the Sloop *Batchellor* John Scott Master at and belonging to Virginia the 21st December 1775; The Sloop was then loading with Flour &c; and declared to be going to Barbadoes. She Sailed from Virginia the 1st January 1776, and when at Sea the Master declared He intended for Martinico) “The 10th February 1776. The Sloop *Batchellor* John Scott Master from Virginia with a Loading of flour &c. arrived at St Pierres Martinique” (and was immediately Seized and Confiscated; as was said, for a breach of the French Laws; however said Sloop) “was purchased by a Monsieur Begoraus, for Account of Mr Richard Harrison, an Agent there for the Continental Congress, and is now Loading with Gunpowder, Arms, &c; to carry back to America.”

“The 23d February 1776. The Sloop *Molly*, Richard Conway Master belonging to North America, Sailed from St Pierres, Martinique, having on board 500. Musquets; 60 Barrels Gunpowder, 6 four pound Carriage Guns, and 12 Swivels; all purchased at Martinico and taken on board openly; where it was also publickly talked, that said Sloop was intended for a Privateer, as soon as she should arrive in America.”

(Waller further says.) “The aforesaid Sloop *Molly*, before she left Martinico took on board a Nominal French Master, and French Seamen; and cleared out with French Papers for the Islands of St Pierre & Miquelon, at Newfoundland, thinking by such Finesse to pass for a French Vessel and escape the Vigilance of the English Cruizers; it was likewise generally believed the other American Vessels intend taking the like precaution when they are ready to proceed on their Voyage.”

“There are now in St Pierres Bay Martinique; four other American Vessels all Loading with Gunpowder, Arms &ca Vizt.

“The Sloop *Charles* . . . Captn Dennison . . . from Newburn No Carolina
“ Brig *Liberty* . . . from Casco Bay
“ Brig *John* . . . Forsyth . . . from Baltimore, Maryland
“ Sloop *Industry* . . . Sewell . . . from Rhode Island”

“Mr Richard Harrison, a Merchant from Philadelphia, now resides at St Pierres Martinique; and is employed by the Continental Congress as their Agent, to Sell the Cargoes of all Such American Vessels as may be sent there and to Buy up for the use of the Americans, Gunpowder, Arms, and other Military Stores;² in which He is assistend by a Monsieur Degoraus, an Inhabitant of St Pierres.”

Memo Those parts of the above information, that are within the different

Parentheses, were left out in the Copy sent to the Compte De Nosier.
(a Copy) Jam^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. Harrison, a Baltimore merchant, was employed by the Maryland Council of Safety, not the Continental Congress.

6 Mar.

DIARY OF CAPTAIN SAMUEL RICHARDS¹

[1776]

[Camp before Boston]

Mch. On the night of the 1st & 2d of March our batteries both on the Roxbury & Cambridge side commenced & continued discharge of shott & shells on the town, some of the balls fell in the town, for after we had entered it a gentlemen, in whose house Genl. [Robert] Pigot had lodged, shewed me the hole where one of the cannon balls had pass'd a little way over his bed which he was sleeping in. a fourteen inch mortar which among other military stores was captured in the ord'nance brig [*Nancy*] by Capt. Manly—was burst in firing from our lines on the enemy in Boston. we had set a high value on it—call'd it *the Congress*. it wounded one or two in bursting, but killed none.

Mch. 3d
1776

during our fire – on the night of the 4th of March a detachment from our army moved on to the heights of Dorchester point – this is also a peninsula joined to the main by a narrow neck; on this was placed – on the side looking toward the enemy – a line of bundles of pressed hay to defend our troops from the enemies fire while passing it.

This detachment proceeded to the top of the hill and immediately commenced making a redoubt, entrenching tools & facines being carried there & ready: the next morning at 8 oClock a relief was sent on – of which I was one – in passing the neck the tide having overflowed it I found my boots filled with mud and water, but we had no dry clothes with us, nor any time or opportunity for changing.

Of this event I think some remarks more than a mere passing notice are proper. . . . Having carried you to the top of the hill on Dorchester point I found a redoubt considerably advanced in a position well calculated for defence. Outside the parapet were casks filled with sand and so placed that a slight touch would set them rolling down the hill which was very steep on every side, and thus break the ranks of the enemy on their advance. On the afternoon of the 6th² we very plainly saw the enemy in motion in the town: dense columns of troops moving down the main street to the wharf and embarking on board the ships which moved down the harbor and formed in a kind of crescent at considerable distance from the hill.

most of the next day was spent by those ships in beating up nearer to our post – the wind being a head: we continued our work incessantly in compleating the redoubt, being urged to exertion by a full expectation of being attacked by the enemy's troops we had seen embark on board the ships; we had no time to spare for reflecting on and counting the cost of the issue of the expected battle. we did not work literally with arms in our hands, but they were lying by our sides, and it is presumed that every one ardently wished for the opportunity of shewing the enemy what freemen would do when contending for their just rights. No one needed stimulating to the performance of his duty as every one possessed the inclination.

As night approached an uncommonly severe South East rain storm came on with very high wind, and in that elevated situation, surrounded by the sea, it was felt in all its force, but the severity of the storm did not stop our work, which we pushed forward with the utmost alacrity. The next morning presented to the view of the enemy a regular fort, far advanced to completion – and to our view their ships below apparently in a very disorderly condition: the day passed without any thing worthy of particular notice. You may form some faint idea of our situation; thoroughly drenched by the copious rain, exhausted by severe exertion and want of refreshment, & of course without cover.

At evening we broke ground on Nook, or Nuke point, a small hill very near the water oposite South Boston. The enemy could plainly hear the sound of our entrenching tools, on which they opened and continued an incessant cannonade with a general direction towards this point. I counted the number of discharges up to about 1500 during half an hour and then left off counting; this firing was continued through the night, and the morning shewed a novel sight; the ground all around where the work had been carrying on appeared as if it had been plowed irregularly, and a very great number of cannon balls were picked up; but strange as it may seem there was but a surgeons mate and two privates killed during the night.

1. *Diary of Samuel Richards, Captain of Connecticut Line War of the Revolution 1775–1781*, published by his great grandson (Philadelphia, 1909), 24–27. Hereafter cited as *Captain Richards' Diary*.
2. Richards' date should be March 5, not the "6th."

THOMAS CUSHING TO ELBRIDGE GERRY ¹

[Extract]

Watertown March. 6. 1776

. . . am glad to hear you have more Powder arrived at the southward, wish we had a larger quantity here – General Washington Wrote to the Committee of Council the last week and Informed them of his

Intentions in a few days of taking Possession of the Heights of Dorchester & desired we would send him Twelve or Fifteen hundred of our Militia, The Committee of Council accordingly ordered six Regiments to be ready at a minute's Warning to repair to the Lines at Roxbury & Dorchester, upon receiving Notice for that purpose from any of the General Officers; They accordingly repaired to the lines the fourth Instant & as they belonged Chiefly to the County of Suffolk Brigadier General [Benjamin] Lincoln went at the Head of them; on the night of the 4th Instant a large detachment of our army under General [John] Thomas took possession of two Hills in Dorchester they lie about half way between the late Governor Shirleys House and the Castle, The Enemy at Boston never Attempted to Molest them, but on the Next day they fired a Number of Cannon but did no Mischief, This is an important acquisition especially as it was obtained without the loss of a Man –

The Ships are going on with the utmost Dispatch ²

I remain [&c.]

Thomas Cushing

1. Mason-Franklin Collection, YUL. Gerry was a Massachusetts delegate in the Continental Congress.
2. The two Continental frigates building at Newburyport.

THOMAS CUSHING TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Dear Sir

Watertown March 6. 1776

I have not been favour'd with any of your's Since my last: I yesterday engaged Ten or Twelve Tons of Iron & am to give Thirty Six pounds lawfull Mony p Ton for it, this is a very high price but it cannot be got under that price, at Newbury Port they Sell it for £40 p Ton – I hope to hear soon from you About the Cannon – pray write me particularly What the Congress are doing: do you expect the Commissioners from England Soon; we hear from Boston they were to sail immediately after Christmast – a Large Detachment of our Army under Genl [John] Thomas on the Night of the 4th Instant took possession of two Hills in Dorchester About half way between the late Govr [William] Shirley's House & the Castle; a valuable Acquisition, especially as it was obtained without the loss of a Man – The Enemy never came out or Any way Molested our Troops, untill the Next day they attempted to disturb them by firing some Cannon at their work but did No Mischeif – General Washington the last week Informed the Committee of Council of his designs & desired them to furnish him with about 12 or 15 hundred of our Militia, we accordingly ordered six Regiments to be ready, at a Minute's warning, with their Arms & Ammunition & three days provision to repair to the Lines at Roxbury & Charlestown, upon their receiving Notice for that purpose from any one of the General Officers, they had Notice on Monday the 4th Instant & accordingly immediately march'd to the Lines & as the Most of them were Sent from the

County of Suffolk, Brigadier General [Benjamin] Lincoln is there at the Head of them –

Mr John Brown writes me that at Providence they framed one of the Vessells before they received the Drafts, by which means the large[r] Vessell will be built differently from the plan you sent them, it differs I hear 4 or 5 Inches in the dead rising – It was too late to alter it without great Expence and delay, I hear she is so flatt that It is feared she will not be a good Sailor – I hear a Vessell of about 200 Tons & 14 Guns loaded with Provisions & stores for the Men of War at Virginia is on Shore at Cape Cod, I hope these Stores will be suitable for our ships – I wish this news may be true ² I remain with respect [&c.]

Thomas Cushing

1. William Wilson Corcoran (Autograph Album), VHS.

2. The transport *Friendship* which went ashore March 1, 1776 was seized by militia.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Centurion*, CAPTAIN RICHARD BRATHWAITE ¹

March 1776

Moored off Boston

Tuesday 5

AM Employed occasionally.–

First part Fresh Breezes & Cloudy, Middle & Latter fresh Breezes & Squally with rain, PM Mann'd & Armed 3 Gun Boats, with 1, 12 Pounder 15 Men & 2 Petty Officers each; to facilitate the Landing of a Body of Troops Embarked onboard 4 Transports, destined on an Expedition against the Rebels.

Wednesday 6

AM struck Yds & Topmasts, at 7 Up Ditto. at 10, 2 of the Gun Bts returned, the third was oversea & lost with One 12 Pounder & 50 Rounds of Ammunition.

Fresh Gales & Squally Weather, Clear'd the 2 Gun Boats & sent them on shore – Empd Sweeping for the 12 Poundr. lost in the 3d Gun Boat,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/177.

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

[Providence] Wednesday Evening March 6. 1776.

Meeting in being according to adjournment –

Voted. That the sum of One Hundred & Ninety Seven pounds three shillings & Two pence ½d be paid Mr John Smith out of the Committee's Treasury being the Amount of his Accompt –

Reckoning [blank]

Meeting adjourn'd to Fryday Evening –

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Albany March 6th 1776.

Sir. Instead of one hundred and twenty Sleds to convey the Cannon and provision from Fort George Tyconderoga &c to Canada, with the utmost Efforts only seventy six could be procured, the great Scarcity of Forrage and Danger of going at this advanced Season deters them. The winter here is entirely broke up, and I believe Hudsons River will be clear of Ice in a few Days: It may be best therefore that the Remainder of the Troops from New Jersey and Pennsylvania should embark at New Windsor or still lower down, if Craft can be procured.

Only one Company of Colo: [Charles] Burrel's Regiment is gone past here; I greatly fear that the Remainder will not be able to pass the Lakes on Ice unless a sudden Change in the Weather takes place: some Horses and one Man have already been drowned on Lake George and Lake Champlain – It would be happy for us if the Lakes immediately opened, as I have got Matters in such a Way that I can immediately send on the Troops by Water but should the Lakes become impassable in any Way, I must of Necessity detain the Troops at this place until they open, as well to save the Expenditures of what pork we have at Fort George as that they cannot be quartered there.

The Sleds that left this, with the last Pennsylvania Company I am this Moment informed are returned not being able to proceed further than twenty Miles from this: Hudsons River being broke up there but as yet impassable.

on the 28th Ult: I sent General Wooster something above £2000 in Specie, which I have collected on my Notes payable in like Money on Demand.

We are greatly distressed for Money for the Currant Expences of the Day I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 37–39, NA.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK CONGRESS ¹

Sir I take the Liberty to remind You of the Necessity of forwarding without the least Delay the Naval Stores which I did Myself the Honor to request of You in my former Letters.

A heavy rain has fallen within these two Days & broke up Hudson's River as far down as Halfmoon, a few Warm Days I hope will clear the river of Ice in all Its Extent. –

Please to order up ten Set of Pump Boxes; I fear It will be impossible

to find Clothing at this Place for Colo: V. Schaick's Regiment, I wish therefore that what can be procured may be sent up the soonest possible. –
I am, Sir with Esteem & Respect [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

Albany March 6th, 1776

1. Harry Ackerman Autograph Collection, Hollywood, California.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, 10 HO. A.M.

6 Mar. 1776.

Mr. Nichols Low attended and informed the Committee [*sic* Congress] that a vessel was arrived with about 1,500 lb. of gunpowder, consigned to him for sale.

Ordered, That Mr. [Joseph] Hallett and Mr. [Thomas] Randall be a committee to agree with Mr. Low about the price of said powder, and purchase the same in behalf of this Congress.

Mr. Hallett and Mr. Randall reported that Mr. Low demanded £30 per cwt. for his powder, with permission to export produce at the rate of £40 for each hundred weight. The Congress directed Mr. Hallett and Mr. Randall to purchase the gunpowder as cheap as they can agree; but if Mr. Low should insist on £30 per cwt. for the purchase money, that he be allowed to export produce only to the same amount.

Die Mercurii 4 HO.P.M. March 6th, 1776.

Mr. [Robert] Benson (one of the Secretaries) informed Congress that he had waited on Genl. [Charles] Lee with the regulations for supplying the ships of war and the Governor's ship with provisions. That Genl. Lee was pleased to give for answer, that he was to resign the command here to Lord Stirling this night, but that if he was to continue he would not consent to supply them with any provisions, as they were at open war with us; that he hoped Lord Sterling would be of the same opinion; that his instructions from Continental Congress were, to use every means in his power for the defence of the city.

In Provincial Congress, New-York, March 6th, 1776.

Gentlemen – The bearer Major Wm. Malcolm, is going, by order of this Congress, to execute a commission of very great importance to the public service; the secrecy with which it is necessary this business should be conducted renders it altogether improper for him to carry the requisite assistance from hence; he will therefore call upon you for such assistance as he may want, which we beg you will afford him; And

We are, gentlemen [&c.]

By order.

To the Committees of Inspection and Observation
in New-Jersey

New-York, 6th March, 1776.

Sir – The Provincial Congress of this Colony having appointed us a committee to concert measures for carrying into execution their resolve of the 5th inst. for the dismantling the light-house at Sandy-Hook; we, reposing especial trust and confidence in your abilities and zeal in the common cause, have made choice of you for the execution of that important enterprize. We enclose you a certified copy of the resolve for that purpose, and desire you will conform, as nearly as may be, to the strict letter thereof. You will please to call upon the committee of Middletown, or such other place in New-Jersey as you shall judge most proper, for the assistance you shall think necessary. Upon your arrival at Sandy Hook you will endeavour to take the glass out of the lantern, and save it if possible; but if you find this impracticable you will break all the glass. You will also endeavour to pump the oil out of the cisterns into casks and bring it off; but if you should be obstructed by the enemy, or not be able to procure casks, you will pump it out on the ground. In short you will use your best discretion to render the light-house entirely useless.

We are, sir [&c.]

Pierre Van Cortlandt,
Abm. P. Lott,
John Sloss Hobart,

To Major Malco[l]m

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 340, 341, 342.

Constitutional Gazette, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 1776

New-York, March 6.

We are informed by a Captain of a vessel from Rhode-Island, that last week Capt. [James] Wallace landed his Marines on Conanicut in the evening, and began to burn the buildings, but being discovered by one of the Centinels, a number of our people concealed themselves behind the walls and fences until they came near them; but the commander thinking it unfair to fire on them without giving them notice, called out, "Who comes there," when he heard Wallace order his men to make ready, upon which our party instantly fired among them, and killed and wounded 30 of Wallace's people; among the slain was an officer of Marines and the Drummer, who was killed by Wallace's side, which was plainly seen by the light of the houses on fire. Those that were not wounded of Wallace's party retreated on board the ship with greater haste than they landed.

Wednesday last [February 28] Wallace and his fleet went down the Bay to Rhode-Island, on which they gave him a cannonading as he passed, and on Saturday he returned again, when they paid him the same compliment.¹

1. This was printed the next day in the *New-York Journal*, followed by the editor's insertion: "[*Constit. Gazette.*] [*The above article seems to want confirmation.*]"

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, March 6, 1776

As several of the marine committee are absent,

Resolved, That their places be supplied by Mr.[Samuel] Huntington, for Connecticut, Mr.[Jonathan Dickinson] Sergeant, for New Jersey, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, for Virginia, and Mr. E[dward] Rutledge, for South Carolina ²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 185-87.

2. George Read to Caesar Rodney, March 6, 1776: "The state of the publick business in Congress has been such that I cou'd not leave this place with Propriety for these two days past tho' truly little has been done in them particularly the Marine Committee is so wanting in Attending Members that for 2 Evenings past we could not procure a sufficient Number to proceed to business, it is proposed to supply some vacancies this day if Congress shall be prevailed on to attend to it," Rodney Papers, HSD.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday 6 March . . . the Marine Comee was filled up, (Sergeant for N Jersey) ² . . . [William] Hooper just returned from Boston says that Capt Manley with 5 or 6 Privateers, are laid up for Want of Powder (Manley soon got out again) ³

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

2. Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant.

3. The parenthetical sentence was added later in the month.

JOHN HANCOCK TO THOMAS CUSHING ¹

Dear Sir,

Philada March 6th 1776

I Rec'd your Letter by Mr Avery, & this Day your's by Mr Osgood wherein you mention the Rect of the plans, & express a Surprize at Receivg no Letter, I am to inform you that the Plans were Sent by Col [John] Bull, by whom I not only wrote you but Sent you Twenty five Thousand Dollars, & at same time committed to your Care the Plan for the New Hampshire Ship; I am surprized that I have no Accott of the Rect of them; I have this Day Rec'd a Letter from Col Bull Acquainting me of his arrivall, & that he should Deliver his Charge to you the next Mornng I hope however soon to hear from you respecting these matters. I shall dispatch Mr Avery the 8th inst with some Money, & give you every particular with Respect, to Boats, Masts, Cables &c, & every other matter that the Committee Determines upon respectg the Ships, I am waiting for the Committee, I am always Ready, but you know the Mode, & I must Submitt, I have however call'd a meeting of the Committee tomorrow Eveng when I will have these things Settled, & then Dispatch Mr Avery to you with the Result. In the mean time I must most earnestly entreat and Beg of you that you exert every nerve in forwarding our two Ships, & that you Employ as many Men in every Department as can possibly work & be of Service in expediting them, in short spare no Expencc in forwarding them, for inter nos some here who are not very friendly to you & I, (& of our province you know who) begin publickly

In CONGRESS, March 6, 1776.

Resolved,

THAT any goods, wares and merchandizes, except slaves and empty casks, other than shaken or knock'd down casks for molasses, may be exported from the Thirteen United Colonies, by the inhabitants thereof, and by the people of all such countries as are not subject to the King of Great-Britain, to any parts of the world, which are not under the dominion of the said King: Provided that no vessel be permitted to export any greater number of shaken or knock'd down molasses casks than the same vessel is capable of carrying when they shall be filled with molasses.

Resolved,

THAT any goods, wares and merchandize, except such as are of the growth, production and manufacture of, or brought from any country under the dominion of the King of Great-Britain, and except East-India Tea, may be imported from any other parts of the world, to the Thirteen United Colonies, by the inhabitants thereof, and by the people of all such countries as are not subjects to the said King, liable however to all such duties and impositions as now are or may hereafter be laid by any of the said Colonies.

Resolved,

THAT nothing herein contained shall be understood to prevent such future commercial regulations as shall be thought just and necessary by these United Colonies or their respective legislatures.

Resolved,

THAT no slaves be imported into any of the Thirteen United Colonies.

Resolved,

THAT it be recommended to the Assemblies and Conventions in the several Colonies to appoint proper officers at convenient places in their respective Colonies, to take bonds in adequate penalties, for observing the regulations made by the Congress, or Assemblies, or Conventions, concerning trade, and for securing the observation of such parts of the Association as are not inconsistent therewith, and that the obligor shall within eighteen months after the departure of the vessel, produce to such officers, a certificate under the hands and seals of three or more reputable merchants residing at the port or place where the cargo shall be delivered, that the same was there unladed, and take manifests upon oath of the cargoes exported and imported, and keep fair accounts and entries thereof, give bills of health when desired, grant registers shewing the property of the vessels cleared out, and sign certificates that the requisites for qualifying vessels to trade have been complied with, and that the fees of the said officers be stated by the respective Assemblies, or Conventions:--Provided always that no prosecution upon any of the said bonds shall be commenced but within three years after the date thereof.

Resolved,

THAT all goods, wares and merchandize, except such as are made prize of, which shall be imported directly, or indirectly from Great-Britain, or Ireland, into any of these United Colonies, contrary to the regulations established by Congress, shall be forfeited and disposed of agreeable to such rules as shall be made by the several Assemblies, or Conventions, and shall be liable to prosecution and condemnation in any Court erected, or to be erected, for the determination of maritime affairs in the Colony where the seizure shall be made.

By order of the Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

to Say that the Massachusetts Ships will be the last finish'd, that they are in no forwardness, &c, I want to Counteract them, in order to which you must Exert yourself, & I must Repeat to you, that no Emolument to any particular person must prevent the ordering as many people as can possibly attend, Dispatch & not profit is the Object, & pray attend to this Night & Day; do write me often, & particularly of the Scituation of the Ships that I may have Authority to Contradict the Reports of our — And at same time give me an Accott of what is passing with you, all the particulars of the Assembly, & in short every Circumstance of News; how stands the Military appointmts how were Mr P — Letters Relish'd — I have order'd the Two hundred pieces of Duck to be Sent you by Land, Mr Avery will inform you further, as I have given him a Letter to New York to Mr [Francis] Lewis on that Subject, I also Refer you to Mr Avery for some Anecdotes &c, as to Mr A — G & myself With Respect to his Allowance to Mr Avery I leave it to you, I would have him reputably paid, but do justice between him & the publick & Charge it in your Accott — I shall direct your Reimbursemt of the 50 Dollars you was so kind to advance to Sprigs for me with Thanks. I wrote you by one of Mr [Thomas] Mifflin's Deputies, whose name I forget, a few days ago, hope you will Receive pray Acknowledge the Receipt of my Letters, and by all means Remember the mention I made of my Brother, pray do something for him —

I See you were to have an oration on the 5th March, do send me one when printed. —

I have got to 11 oClock, & must Refer to mine by Mr Avery, for further particulars, in mean time beg my best Respects to your Family, and am [&c.]

John Hancock

Inclos'd is one of Doctor [William] Smith's orations —

Inclos'd is a Letter to Mr Sharp of Salem, about Selling my Ship that lies at Salem, it is open for your perusal; Seal it, and I ask your particular Attention to this matter, do See that the Letter be carefully deliver'd, & Aid this for me, & pray Receive the money & forward it to me here as soon as you can or an order on me from Warren — I Rely on your good offices. —

The inclos'd letters for Mr Lowell & Mr Bant pray let be carefully Deliver'd —

L. USNAM.

ELBRIDGE GERRY TO JAMES WARREN ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia March 6. 1776

Dear Sir An Express goes off in a few Hours for the Camp & affords just Time to hint a few Things which I beg You Will communicate to the honorable House

It is of great Importance that your Militia should be well armed & equipped & Powder is essentially necessary — without it what will be the Distresses of the Sea Coast Frontiers & how can they defend themselves? I have heard of my Vessel in the Service of the Colony & am apprehensive of her being detained at St Antonio in Spain, I saw a Letter from the Master

to the Commander of a Ship arrived in this place, & find that Capt Johnson was waiting for his Crew, which had been dispatched from Bilbao by Messrs Guad — [Joseph Gardoqui and Sons] ten Days before & ought to have arrived in two or three at most. He was very uneasy & intended to get another Crew if his own did not arrive soon, & I have since heard a Rumor that the Vessel is detained wch there is Reason to fear. she had on board four hundred & thirty barells Powder, or in other Words twenty one Tons & an half & should she arrive will clear for the Colony seven thousand five hundred Pounds lawful estimating the powder @ 5/ p pound which is low — but this a trifling Consideration compared with other Advantages — five Tons were ordered to Cambridge abt a Week since from the Jerseys since which twenty seven Tons & an half have arrived here wth about five Tons Saltpetre & 300 stand arms . . . News is just arrived of five Tons more Powder imported into North Carolina, & each Colony looks out for itself as the Times require it —

The Congress have this Day preferred General [John] Thomas & made him a Major General; he is ordered to proceed without a Delay to Canada & General [Charles] Lee is to go to the southern Colonies —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 269–71a. Warren was Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

WILLING, MORRIS & CO. TO SAMUEL BEALL¹

Philadelphia March 6th 1776

Sir Upon the recommendation given of you by the Virginia Delegates, and in consequence of the Agreement made by Mr J.H.Norton Mr C.M.Thruston & yourself with the Committee of Safety of Virginia for Importing Gun Powder, we have agreed to join you in the said Importation by adding an equal Sum to what those Gentlemen & yourself advance for the Execution of this Adventure, you inform us you are possessed of good bills of Exchange to the Amount of Nine hundred & one pounds 8/5 Sterling to be applied by you in the purchase of Powder to answer the Contract you have made, we therefore deliver you herewith bills of Exchange amounting to Nineteen hundred & one Pounds 17/11 Sterling to be joined to your said Stock and employed by you for the same purpose, consequently Mr Norton, Mr Thruston & yourself are one half concerned in this Undertaking, and we hold the other half, unless it shall so happen that any of the said bills delivered you by them or us may be protested, and in that case the party who furnished such protested bills must be so much less interested in this Adventure, this point being clearly understood & agreed between us, you are now to take your passage on board the Brig *Rachael* Capt. Francis Pilgrim Isherwood for Bourdeaux in France and we deliver you herewith a Letter of Recommendation to Messrs Sam: & J H Delap an eminent Mercantile House in that place; before you mention to them what is your business, it may be best to know their political Sentiments respecting the American Dispute, if they are friendly to our Cause you may trust them safely, if they are not it may be best to find out some good House that is, in this

Matter you had best consult with and be advised by Mr Silas Deane who has promised me to afford you any Assistance he can

Your first business must be to discover if the Quantity of Powder you want can be had reasonably at Bourdeaux, if it can the next thing is to obtain freight for it to Martinico, and if that can also be obtained we think your best Method will be to purchase directly the whole Quantity that can be obtained for the Money or bills you have, if you have an Opportunity ship to the Amot of one or two to three hundred barrells by such Vessells as may be coming hither direct, taking bills of Loading for the same Consigned to us, one of which Bills of Loading with an Invoice & letter of Advice send us by each Vessell and if we are fortunate enough to receive the whole or any part of what you ship it shall be sent down to Mr Norton immediately –

The remainder of your purchase if made in France we advise you to ship immediately on board some good French Vessell at the lowest freight you can obtain for the Island of Martinico and take your passage with it but in this case Messrs Delap or whoever transacts your business must recommend you to a good House in Martinico, and the Powder by bill of Loading Invoice & suitable letter must go consigned to such House, another letter to be kept by you must explain the design and recommend you to their Assistance you must also write a letter to us informing that you have taken your passage for Martinico (not mentioning Powder) and desire we should write to you under Cover of that House mentioning their Firm –

If you cannot effect this business at Bourdeaux but can do it at any other port in France, Messrs Delap will give or procure you letters to proper persons at such port or ports as may be needful, or should it be best to ship part of the Powder from one Port & part from another, they will procure that to be done and you can take your passage in one of the Vessells – Should you find that this business cannot be well transacted in France, you had best proceed for Holland, we give you herewith a letter of Introduction to Messrs Geo: Clifford & Teysett of Amsterdam,² but we don't know their political Creed respecting America, therefore you had best proceed cautiously with them also, and for fear of disappointment obtain letters from Messrs Delap to some good Dutch Houses in Amsterdam & Rotterdam, and we think you will certainly have it in your power to prevail with some of them to ship your whole quantity of Powder by one or more Vessells for St Eustatia Consigned to a good Dutch House in that Island you going with it or with some of it and giving us Advice as before, but to prevent Mistakes in case you go for St Eustatia call on Messrs Robert & Corns Stevenson Merchants there for any letters we may have lodged there for you and we think this Powder may as well go for their Address – Should you fail of obtaining the business to be done in Holland, you must obtain proper letters to good Houses in Hamburgh Dantzic or any other suitable place in Europe and from some of them you certainly will obtain the Powder and proper Newtral or foreign Ships to carry it to, Martinico or St Eustatia, therefore we shall take it for granted that you will succeed, and expect you will be in one of those Islands in five

or six Months from this time, and we will send one or two small Vessells to St Eustatia about that time to wait your Orders, therefore if you go to Martinico or any other Island you must immediately after your Arrival give Notice to Messrs Robert & Corns Stevenson to send the Vessells over to you from St Eustatia –

We think it best you should Invest the whole Amount of your Money in Powder rather than in any of the other Articles mentioned in your Agreement with the Committee of Safety, because the price of this is fixed and those are not, but if you cannot get Powder we agree that you should Invest this Money in Arms, Salt Petre & a proportion of Sulphur say $\frac{1}{4}$ th as much Sulphur as Salt Petre and some Jesuit's Bark or if you cannot Invest the whole Money in the Articles already mentioned, you may invest the rest in such coarse linens & woollen Goods as you judge will best answer in America and bring them in the Mode pointed out for the Powder –

If any difficulty arises about negotiating your bills we think you had best indorse them to Mr Delap let him negotiate them & wait until they are accepted after which he may establish you a Credit in Holland for the Amount if you are obliged to go there or further – We are Sir [&c.]

Copy

1. Papers of Robert Morris (Correspondence 1775–1829), Accession 1805, LC.

2. *Ibid.*, letters of introduction written for Beall.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety

[Philadelphia] 6th March, 1776.

By order of the Board, Robert Towers, Commissary, was directed to deliver Capt. [Robert] Whyte, 12 pieces of Sail Cloth.

Resolved, That Capt. [William] Brown, be ordered to raise fifty able bodied Men for the Marine service of this Province.

That he be careful to enlist none but healthy Men, not under Sixteen years of age.

That he be allowed ten shillings per Man in Lieu of his recruiting Expences, and ten shillings per Week, for the subsistence of each Recruit, until they are provided for by the Commissary.

That he pay the greatest attention to the behaviour of the men while in quarters, and see their quarters discharged, at least once every week.

That no bought indented servants or apprentices be enlisted without the consent of their Masters, in writing.

That the Company consist of one Captain, two Lieutenants, two Sergeants, two Corporals, one fife, one Drum, and fifty Privates.

That a sum not exceeding twenty Shillings, be advanced to each Recruit.

That £200 be advanced him for the Recruiting service.

By order of the Board, an order was drawn of John M. Nesbitt, in

favour of Capt. William Brown, for the sum of £200, which is directed to be charged to his company of Marines for the Recruiting service.

Resolved, That Joseph Willson be appointed First Lieutenant to the Armed Boat *Congress*, in the Room of — [John] Mitchell, appointed the 16th Feb'y last, he never having appeared to receive his Commission.

That the following Gentlemen be appointed Second Lieutenants to the different Armed Boats, opposite their Names, vizt.:

James Fletcher,	to the armed Boat	<i>Washington.</i>
Henry Martin,	to the	<i>Dickinson.</i>
James Carson,	to the	<i>Chatham.</i>
Philip Buck,	to the	<i>Congress.</i>
John Wilson,	to the	<i>Ranger.</i>
Adam Boyd, appointed	to the	<i>Burke.</i>
James Brown	to the armed Boat	<i>Camden.</i>
William Lysle,	to the	<i>Bull Dog.</i>
Nicholas Fitzsimons	to the	<i>Warren.</i>
Robert Pomeroy,	to the	<i>Handcock.</i>
Samuel Snowden,	to the	<i>Franklin.</i>
James Johnson,	to the	<i>Experiment.</i>
Laughlin McNeil,	to the	<i>Effingham.</i>

Resolved, That Capt. Thomas Reed be appointed Second in Command in the Naval Armaments of this Province, and Captain of the armed Ship now building by direction of this Board.

Resolved, That a survey be made of the Channel between Reedy Point and the Pea patch.

Resolved, That the Commodore be desired to employ an experienced Pilot, and send him with all possible dispatch, with two discreet and capable Officers, in two of the Armed Boats down the River to Reedy Point, to sound the narrowest part of the Channel there, and take an accurate survey of the depth & breadth of the said Channel, with the various soundings across the same, for the information of this Board.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 505-06.

CAPTAIN CHARLES ALEXANDER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF
SAFETY¹

Gentlemen

Your Memorialist Understanding That A Captn for the Floating Battery is not Yet Appointed, and he being in the Service, Would be Glad to be Appointed by your Honorble Board; to the Command of the Above Battery Which will be esteemed A favor by — Gentlemen [&c]

Philadelphia March 6. 1776

Charles Alexander²

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, HSP.

2. Alexander was captain of the Pennsylvania galley *Chatham*.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Special Meeting of the Committee 6 March 1776

The Committee of Observation took into Consideration the following Letter from the Council of Safety

Annapolis 5 March 1776

We have just recieved intelligence, that a large Ship, supposed to be the Forty Four Gun Man of War, and two Sloops, are on their way up the Bay – Their Destination is not known, but as they may intend for your Town, we send off this Express, that you may be on your Guard and make all the Preparations in your Power for your Defence

We are with Respect Gentm Yr most Obedt Servts

Danl of St Thos Jenifer
Chas Carroll

T. B. Hand
Jas Tilghman

Upon Motion Resolved, That a Boat be sent down immediately to reconnoitre, and bring Intelligence respecting the Man of War &c as soon as possible, & that Capt Nicholson be requested to order his Tender on that Service, which he complied with –

Resolved, That an Express by Water, and another by Land be sent immediately to Elk to hasten down the Powder & the small Arms belonging to this Province, and that it be directed to Mr Henry Hollingsworth with a Request to him to forward them either by Land or Water, as he shall judge expedient & William Stenson was accordingly dispatched by Land, and Joseph White & Joseph Gotro onboard Capt Hollingsworth by Water –

Resolved, That General Andrew Buchanan be requested to provide Expresses to be kept in Readiness to be dispatched upon any Emergency within the Circle of his Jurisdiction, and that if the Council of Safety do not pay the Expence, that this Committee will do it –

Resolved, That Capt George Woolsey & Wm Hugh Young collect all the Gunflints in Town and render an Accot of the same to this Committee, & that they be lodged with Capt Woolsey

Resolved, That it is necessary to have the Publick Records of this County immediately packed up in Chests, in order for their Removal to a Place of Safety –

Resolved, That no Vessells depart this Port without the further Orders of this Committee & that Capt Nicholson be requested to see this Order carried into Execution –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

CUMBERLAND DUGAN TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Baltimore 6th March 1776.

. . . I have a Brig laying in Boston – New England that will carry abot twelve hundred barrels of flour, a fine vessel & well found, have a good man as master for her that can be much depended on as to conduct and attach-

ment to our cause I would perpose either selling her or chartering to you, which if we could agree would have her order'd round immediately, and as she is a small vessel and counted a very fast sailor, do think we could get her round with considerable safety, for if the Kings Ships were in our Bay of which she could hear at the Capes, must then go into Chincoteague, Sinna-puxent, or some other inlet there—Youl please take this into your consideration and give me an answer in two or three days, when I expect to be with you in Annapolis for that purpose, — as also to see what is to be done with the rest of your flour in my hands. And am Gentn [&c.]

Cumb^d Dugan.

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

CALVERT COUNTY COMMITTEE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Calvert County March 6th 1776.

At Mr Thomas Cleverly Dare's on the Clifts. Whereas a man of war supposed [to] be twenty guns or upwards & two tenders the one a sloop the other a schooner both armed vessels have anchored off this shore yesterday afternoon (the man of War abt 6 miles off the tenders close in shore within one mile) with design as is suspected that is Inimical to this neighbourhood having taken a new england vessel yesterday noon at the mouth of this river—The Committee consisting of the following. Gentn vizt Col Ben Mackall Major Jas Wilkinson Messrs Sam Hance, Edwd Reynolds Walter Smith, Kenzy Johns, Dr Jas Gray & Dr E Johnson & Mr Jas Heighe. Mr Hance in the Chair

E. Johnson Clk.

Resolved that this time of emminent danger the Colonel of this County be empowered & he is hereby empowered to station any number of the Militia of this County as he shall think proper not exceeding one hundred men to watch the motions of the said vessels & to repell any fear from them, & to empower the Commanding officer or Officers of the said guard to contract with any person or persons to supply with provisions the said Guard: —

Ordered that the Clk do inform the Honble the Council of Safety of these proceedings by post or express directly for their orders herein: —

Signed p order.

E. Johnson clk pro tempore: —

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

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday, 6th March, 1776.

A Warrant to Capt. James Baron for £117.12.0 for the pay of his company of militia for the month of November last.

Same to Capt. James Baron for £ 113.13.4 for the pay of his company of militia from 1st to 28th January last.

Same to same for £ 5.11.6 for pay of himself and men on board the *Liberty*.

Same to same for use Capt. Richard Barron for £ 59.2.8 for the pay of himself and men on board the Boat *Patriot* to 25th February.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 109.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Wednesday, March 6, 1776.

Mr. President laid before the Congress the following copy of the letter, written by their order, to Georgia:

South-Carolina.

Charles-Town, March 5, 1776.

By Authority of Congress.

To the Honourable the Council of Safety for Georgia.

Gentlemen,

Your letters of the 1st and 2d instant, and your resolutions, order, and proclamation of those dates, were laid before the Congress, transfusing a general and perfect joy. – And the Congress, sensible of the vast importance which your exemplary conduct must be of to the American cause, unanimously voted their thanks; and I have the honour thus to transmit them to you, for your having decisively taken the noble, politic, and vigorous resolution, That the vessels in the ports of Savannah, ready to sail, contrary to the interest of America, shall be forthwith unrigged and unruddered; and that, rather than the enemy shall possess those vessels and your capital, all shall perish in a noble conflagration, lighted by yourselves – an instance of heroic principle, not exceeded by any, and equalled but by few, in history.

Your conduct, in citing such of the inhabitants of Savannah, as had abandoned their possessions in that town, to return to its defence, under penalty of being deemed to have deserted such property, and of being excluded from any support towards obtaining an indemnification for any loss they may sustain by a general conflagration, received the highest applause, as being worthy of imitation – The policy and justice of the measure are equally conspicuous.

In short, the Congress feel the greatest satisfaction, from their having anticipated your call for assistance; it is sufficient that we know our friends stand in need of our aid. We hope, that our forces under Col. [Stephen] Bull, will fully accommodate your necessities: And you may rest assured, that we shall continue to afford the friends of America, in Georgia, every support in our power.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen [&c.]

William-Henry Drayton, President.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 85–86.

HENRY LAURENS TO WILLIAM EWEN¹

Dear Sir. —

Charles Town 6th March 1776.

The Inclosed Letter is from our Congress which Mr Drayton Sent here last Night in answer to yours which I laid before the Congress yesterday Morning — I have paid your several expresses the following sums to enable them as they pretend to pay their expences on our Road.

£25. to Rodolph Strohacker & Jenkin Davis — £ 12., to Thomas Herman & a further Sum about £ 18., — for Expences himself & Horse during the time he was detained in Charles Town —

I ardently wish to learn the arrival of our Militia at Savanna & that you have been enabled to oppose the landing of Troops. —

I am with great regard [&c.]

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 198, 199.

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., AND MAJOR JAMES GRANT TO
COLONEL LACHLAN McINTOSH¹

On Board the *Hinchinbrook*, March 6, 1776.

Sir: Your letter of the 5th March came to hand this morning, about half an hour ago; and we must observe, that the gentlemen whose release you desire were aboard ship at the time that you signified to Mr. Demeré that, if the vessels and troops were withdrawn to Cockspur, without annoying the people of the Province, these gentlemen were authorized to receive any propositions that might be made. And, in a subsequent letter, you intimated that there should be a cessation of hostilities, and not a single shot fired unless we annoyed you. On this ground we set out, and are resolved religiously to observe the conditions mentioned. We will proceed to Cockspur without offence to the Province, if we are not fired on, and are to expect the same punctual performance of your engagements. But after our arrival at Cockspur, (as we are determined to act up to our declarations on coming here,) if you, any gentleman, or gentlemen, properly authorized, will come down and suggest a plan that can accommodate all parties, by a release of the ships now at Savannah, and their masters, we give you our word of honour that you, or them, shall be perfectly safe, and return when they please, as this method seems most likely to bring matters to the issue that you wish for. In the mean time, if hostilities commence, they must be imputed to the people of Georgia, not to us, as we are determined to act up to the proposal made to us.

As Mr. Demeré is in a ship that has fallen down the Back-River, his letter shall be conveyed to him, and his answer sent on shore. We are, sir, [&c.]

Andrew Barkley, James Grant.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 601.

RAYMOND DEMERÉ TO COLONEL LACHLAN MCINTOSH¹

On board the *Hinchinbrook*, March 6, 1776.

Dear Sir: I was this morning sent for by Captain Barkley and Major Grant, who presented me with your letter of yesterday to them: in answer to which, I must observe, that, when you authorized Mr. Roberts and myself to declare to those gentlemen that a cessation of hostilities should cease until the vessels got down to Cockspur, I did not imagine it implied that we should have liberty to return. I therefore particularly request you will do nothing till we reach Cockspur. By that time you can consider what is best to be done; and everything in our power will be exerted to bring matters to some favourable issue. With regard to Captains Inglis and Wardell being detained, I most earnestly wish they may be included with the other masters of vessels, to have the liberty of sailing with their ships. I imagine Captain Barkley and Major Grant will expect those gentlemen are entitled to the same indulgence as the others; and as I am now very confident no hostilities are meant against the Province, the detention of those vessels may only aggravate matters, and their enlargement may be productive of something very agreeable in the event. I have just to conclude, with my usual esteem and regard, dear sir, [&c.]

Raymond Deméré.

P. S. I have just had intimation of some intrenchment being thrown up at or near Mr. Bryan's Plantation. If so, I sincerely wish it may be stopped, as it can answer no good purpose. I would rather suffer every inconvenience from my confinement than any further hostilities should be commenced; for I would, in that case, think myself partly the cause.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 601-02.

7 Mar.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Hope*¹

Islands Shoals
W B N 3 Miles

Remarks on bd the *Hope* Thursdy the 7th March
1776

at ½ Past 7 [A.M.] Saw a Sail to the SE Qr out all Reefs & up T-G-yds & Give Chace at 8 OClock Came up wt the Chace found hir to be the sloop *John*,² from Virginia wt flour bound to Cape Ann took hir in Posesion, Do Saw a Schooner to the N E Md Sail & Chaced at Noon Came up with hir found hir to be the Schooner *Polley*³ from So Carilina wt Rice, Intimenticos N W 7 or 8 Lgs⁴

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1823.

2. The sloop *John*, Coes Gardner, master; Daniel Rogers, owner; from Virginia for Ipswich, with flour, Indian corn and wheat, sent into Boston, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

3. *Ibid.*, the sloop *Molly*, rather than the schooner *Polly*, as listed. James Lovitt, master and owner; from South Carolina for Piscataqua, with rice and indigo, sent into Boston.

4. Mt. Agamenticus, elevation 691 feet.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT ¹

March 1776 Cape Anne N N W 8 or 9 Leagues. –
 Thursday 7 at 6 AM Weigh'd and came to Sail – Chac'd a small Schooner
 to the Etward, fird several Shot at Ditto, but would not
 bring her too, having got in Shore

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

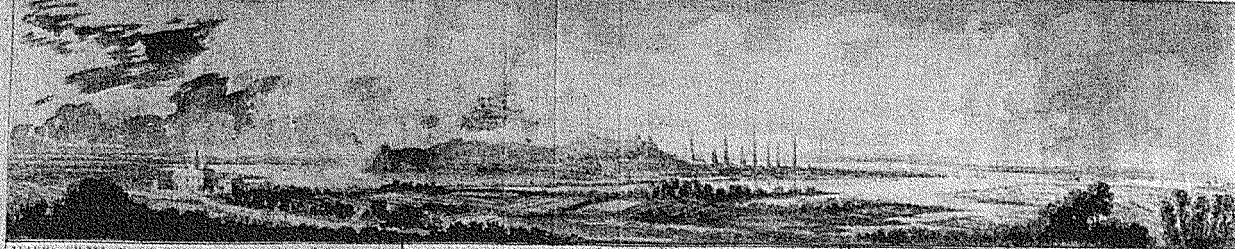
Cambridge March 7. 1776

Sir, On the 26. Ulto I had the honour of addressing you and there mentioned that we were making preparation for taking possession of Dorchester Heights. – I now beg leave to Inform you, that a Council of General Officers having determind a previous Bombardment & Cannonade expedient & proper in order to harrass the Enemy and divert their attention from that Quarter, on Saturday Sunday, and Monday nights last, we carried them on from our posts at Cobble Hill, Letchmore's point & Lams Dam – Whether they did the Enemy any considerable & what Injury I have not yet heard, but have the pleasure to acquaint you that they greatly facilitated our Scheme, & wou'd have been attended with success equal to our most sanguine expectations, had It not been for the unlucky bursting of Two Thirteen & three Ten Inch Mortars, among which was the Brass one taken in the Ordnance Brigg ² – To what cause to attribute this Misfortune I know not, whether to any defect in them, or to the Inexperience of the Bombardiers. – But to return, on Monday Evening as soon as our firing commenced, a considerable detachment of our men under the command of Brigadier Genl. Thomas crossed the Neck and took possession of the Two Hills without the least interruption or annoyance from the Enemy, and by their great activity and Industry, before the morning advanced the Works so far, as to be secure against their Shot – They are now going on with such expedition that in a little time I hope they will be compleat, and enable our Troops stationed there, to make a vigorous and Obstinate stand – during the whole Cannonade, which was Incessant the two last nights, we were fortunate enough to lose but two men, One a Lieutenant by a Cannon Ball's taking off his thigh, the other a private by the explosion of a shell which also slightly wounded four or five more.

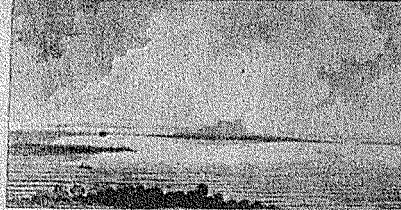
Our taking possession of Dorchester Heights is only preparatory to taking post on Nuke Hill and the point opposite the South end of Boston – It was absolutely necessary that they should be previously fortified in order to cover and command them – As soon as the Works on the former are finished and compleat, measures will be immediately adopted for Securing the latter and making them as strong and de[f]ensible as we can – their contiguity to the Enemy will make them of much Importance and of great service to us.

As Mortars are essential and Indispensably necessary for carrying on our operations & for the prosecution of our plans, I have applied to Two Furnaces to have some thirteen Inch ones cast with all expedition Immaginable;

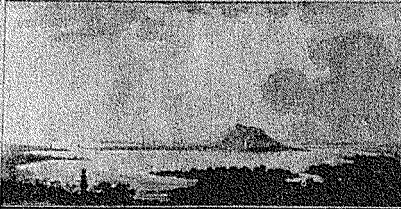
A VIEW of *BOSTON*, the Capital of *NEW ENGLAND*, from *Col. HATCH'S* Height, near the Road to *DORCHESTER*.



A VIEW FROM *DORCHESTER NECK* (See A.)



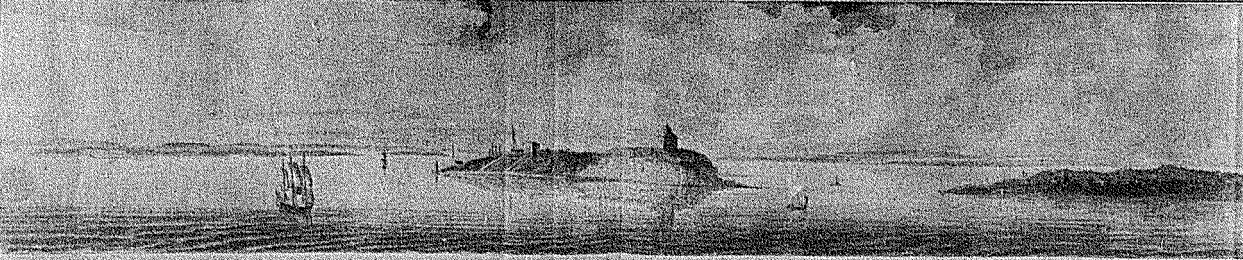
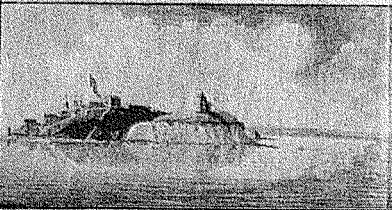
A VIEW FROM *CHARLESTOWN* (See B.)



A VIEW of *CASTLE PINNACLES* (See C.)



A VIEW of *CASTLE OF THE ALBATROSS* (See D.)



A VIEW of *CASTLE OF THE ALBATROSS* (See D.) from the Harbor, looking out to the *HARBOR*.

This Plate is from the Original of the Author, and is not a Copy of any other.

and am encouraged to hope from the Accounts I have had, that they will be able to do It – When they are done and a proper supply of powder Obtained, I flatter myself, from the posts we have just taken & are about to take, that It will be in our power to force the Ministerial Troops to an attack, or to dispose of 'em in some way that will be of advantage to us – I think from these posts they will be so galled and annoyed, that they must either give us Battle, or quit their present possessions. I am resolved that nothing on my part shall be wanting to effect the one or the other.

It having been the General opinion that the Enemy wou'd attempt to dislodge our people from the Hills and force their works as soon as they were discovered, which probably might have brought on a general Engagement, It was thought advisable that the Honble Council shou'd be applied to, to order in the Militia from the Neighbouring & adjacent Towns – I wrote them on the Subject, which they most readily complied with; and in Justice to the Militia, I cannot but Inform you, that they came in at the appointed Time, and manifested the greatest alertness and determined resolution, to have acted like men engaged in the cause of Freedom.

When the Enemy first discovered our Works in the morning, they seemed to be in great confusion, and from their movements to have Intended an Attack. – It is much to be wished, that it had been made – The event I think, must have been fortunate, and nothing less than success and victory on our side, as our officers and men appeared Impatient for the appeal, and to have possessed the most animated sentiments and determined resolution –

On Tuesday Evening, a Considerable number of their Troops embarked on board of their Transports and fell down to the Castle, where part of 'em landed before dark; One or two of the Vessells got aground and were fired at by our people with a Field piece but without any damage – What was the design of this embarkation and landing I have not been able to learn; It would seem as If they meant an Attack; for It is most probable that If they make one on our Works at Dorchester at this time, that they will first go to the Castle and come from thence – If such was their design, a violent Storm that night and which lasted till Eight O'Clock the next day, rendered the execution of It impracticable – It carried one or two of their Vessells ashore, which have since got off –

in Case the Ministerial Troops had made an Attempt to dislodge our Men from Dorchester Hills, and the Number detached upon the occasion, had been so great as to have afforded a probability of a successful attack's being made upon Boston, on a Signal given from Roxbury for that purpose, agreeable to a Settled and concerted plan, Four thousand chosen men who were held in readiness were to have embarked at the Mouth of Cambridge River in Two divisions – The first under the Command of Brigadier General [John] Sullivan – The Second under Brigadier General [Nathanael] Greene, the whole to have been commanded by Major General [Israel] Putnam – The First division was to land at the powder House & gain possession of Beacon Hill & Mount Whoredom – The Second at Barton's point, or a little South of It, and after securing that post, to join the other division

and Force the Enemies Gates and Works at the Neck for letting in the Roxbury Troops – Three floating Batteries were to have preceded and gone in Front of the other Boats, and kept up a heavy Fire on that part of the Town, where our men were to Land – How far our views would have succeeded had an opportunity offered for attempting the execution, is impossible for me to say—Nothing less than an experiment cou'd determine with precision— The plan was thought to be well digested, and as far as I cou'd judge, from the cheerfulness and alacrity which distinguished the Officers & men who were to engage in the Enterprize, I had reason to hope for a favourable & happy Issue.

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 509–12, NA. Washington continued this letter on March 9.
2. *Nancy*, captured by Captain John Manley.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO COLONEL JOSEPH REED ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge, March 7, 1776.

I am sorry to hear of your ill-fated fleet. We had it, I suppose because we wished it, that Hopkins had taken [Henry] Clinton, and his transports. How glorious would this have been! We have the proverb on our side, however, that “a bad beginning will end well.” This applies to land and sea service.

1. John C. Fitzpatrick, ed., *The Writings of George Washington* (Washington, 1931–1944), IV, 379–84. Hereafter cited as Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Chatham*, CAPTAIN JOHN RAYNOR ¹

March 1776

Moored at Boston

Saturday 2

Mode & fair at ½ past 11 P M heard the report of several great Guns & saw a shell that was thrown into the town by the rebels soon after the Garrison began to heave shells & Shot from which time it Continued (Occasionally) with the rebels until

Sunday 3

5 A M & with our Garrison till 7. Got the ships Company all under Arms, bent the topsails, Jibb & foresail & recd on board Water

Monday 4

Do Wr at 9 P M the Canonading & Bombarding as before & Continued until 5 A M recd a twelve Pounder likewise Beer & Water the Carpenters employd as before read the Articles of War &c

Tuesday 5

Do Wr at 7 P M the Canonading & Bombarding as before & Continued untill 5 A M at 10 Unmoord & hove into ½ a Cable on the best Bower & fired Evening & Morning Gun –

The first part Mode & Cloudy the latter Strong Gales & Squally at 1 P M veerd away & moord Ship at 5 sent the Gun boat away Mann'd & Arm'd put a twelve pounder into

a Schooner sent her away with two Officers & a party of Men² at 11 Struck lower Yards & top gallant masts
 Wednesday 6 at 3 A M hard gales & heavy Squalls of rain struck the topmast at 5 More Moderate at 8 swayed up lower Yards topmasts & top gallant Masts
 Fresh Gales & Cloudy Wr
 Thursday 7 at 8 A M Cleard Hause unmoord & hove into 1/2 a Cable on the best bower at 10 rear Adml Shuldham Shifted his flag to H M Ship *Centurion* at 11 Weighd the best bower Anchor which was foul of the *Adventure* Store Ships Cable Hung the Ship by a Hawser whilst Clearing the Anchor Mode & Clear at 1/2 past 12 P M got the best bower Anchor Clear & Made Sail at 1 Came too in King road & moor'd Ship a Cable each way Castle William W B N the Light House E S E 1/2 E Long Island SBE & Spectarcle Island SWBS dce 1/2 a Mile.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

2. Gunboat and schooner were sent to support the attack upon Dorchester Heights which failed to materialize because of the storm.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

Plymouth, March 7, 1776

I am in a poor situation to give you intelligence. I have but a very imperfect account of the military operations. The bombardment and cannonade of Boston begun on Saturday last, [March 2], and our army took possession of Dorchester Hill on Monday or Tuesday night, without any difficulty, and have strongly entrenched. What is to be next I know not. I presume you will have every particular from Head quarters. Whether Howe has a design to evacuate Boston or not is to me very uncertain, but some circumstances look like it. Where he will go if he does, is equally uncertain. Can Administration, with all their stupidity, view with indifference the French force in the West Indies, or is not that true? If true, it must be important to them or us. No prizes lately taken. A ship of 300 tons from Boston to New York, mounted with the carriage guns, thirty men, some coal, 7000 cannon ball, and a few other articles, lately run on shore on the back of the Cape, the ship bilged, and everything on board taken possession of and secured by our people.² I can give you no particular account of the three regiments for Canada from those governments, but I dare say they are gone. Every thing was favourable when I last heard. I want to hear from your fleet, their destination, success, etc. I want to hear the character, the business etc. of the Baron de Woedke, Knight of Malta, who passed through this town in his way to Congress, with letters to Dr. Franklin, etc....

1. *Warren-Adams Letters Being Chiefly a Correspondence among John Adams, Samuel Adams, and James Warren* . . . (Boston, 1917-1925), I, 209, 210-11. Hereafter cited as *Warren-Adams Letters*.

2. The transport *Friendship*; see Captain George Talbot's letter of March 3, 1776, to Admiral Shuldham.

JAMES WARREN TO ELBRIDGE GERRY¹

[Extract]

My Dear Sir

Plymo March 7th 1776

I am greatly Obligated to you for your favour of the 6th of Feby which found me at Home sick & Confined, but had the Intended Effect it really made my Heart Glad. the want of powder you & I have often bitterly Lamented and if the pleasure of having it, is to be in proportion to the pain we have felt for the want of it, we may have a right to rejoice on its Arrival. I wish I could in return give you An Acco of the Arrival of the Brig from Bilboa, but I hear nothing of her lately, I am in a poor situation to give you Intelligence from our Colony I left Watertown before the Court rose sick, & have been Confined to my House ever since I got home. . . when are we to Expect measures more Capital. is this Spring & Summer, & the precious Moments thereof to be spent in treating and Negotiateing with the Agents of the British Admn from whence we can derive Nothing but [illegible] disunion poverty & oppression, or shall it be spent in Treating with foreign Embassadors, settleing an Extensive & Lucrative Commerce from which we may derive Union, Security, Riches, & Freedom. your Principles, & Love for your Country will lead you to regret the time spent in the first & to wish to be Employed in the last. you have to Encounter all the Subtlety & arts high and low of the 39 Commissioners, & at the same time the Moderation, the Timidity, the Interests and prejudices of many among us. if the Union of the Colonies is not Injured by this measure of Admn I think we shall have little to fear from them in future. I thank you for forwarding us a Pamphlet which has made so much Noise to the Southward. it is really a most Excellent thing. I Admire every part of it. Surely there never was A Book, in which were to be found A Title & subject more strongly Connected by Nature & Reason. it has done most Eminent Service. it has Convinced, Converted & Confirmed in every place, & has prepared us for the Grand decisive measure my Soul has longed for. —² we hear the Fleet has been gone sometime I am very Anxious to hear from them. do mention [illegible] Success they meet with in your Next.³ no prizes taken [illegible] our Armed Vessels are Building with all Expedition. I hope we shall have 5 or 6 of our 16 Gun Sloops at Sea by the first of May . . .

J W

1. Elbridge Gerry Papers, MassHS.

2. Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*.

3. Continental Fleet under Esek Hopkins.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

[Extract]

Albany March 7th 1776.

The heavy Cannon from New York are at poukepsie and preparations were making for transporting them by Land, which would occasion a vast and needless Expence, as they could not be sent from this place, if they were now here, nor from Fort George until the Lakes open — One of the Com-

mittee who had them in Charge called upon me this Day for my Advice; which was to leave them on Board of the Vessel, and to come up the River as the Ice should give Way. There is a prospect that the River will be navigable in a very few Days.

I have just received Accounts from the posts above that the Slay-men refused to carry the heaviest Cannon I ordered from Fort George &c.

The Expence of Ferriage and the Transportation by Land, from hence to Fort George runs so amazingly high, that I propose to have the provisions carried partly by water; which will not only make some abatement in the Expence of Transportation, but lessen the Charge we are at in maintaining the Roads . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 41-43, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Jovis, 10 HO. A.M.

March 7th, 1776.

Mr. [Jacobus] Van Zandt, seconded by Mr. [Comfort] Sands, moved in the words following, to wit:

I move that a letter be wrote to the Continental Congress giving them a true copy of [the state of] this city and Colony, occasioned by the stoppage of provisions to the ships of war by order of General Lee.

The same being considered and unanimously agreed to,

Ordered, That Mr. [Thomas] Smith, Mr Van Zandt and Mr. [Leonard] Gansevort, be a committee to prepare and report a draft of such letter, with all convenient speed.

Mr. Jacobus Van Zandt informed the Congress that the money he has already received towards lading the ship *Rosamond*, on Provincial account, is insufficient for the purpose, and that he wants the sum of £ 167 19s. to complete the lading of the said ship.

Ordered, That Peter Van Brugh Livingston, Esqr. as Treasurer of this Congress, advance to Mr. Jacobus Van Zandt the sum of one hundred and sixty-seven pounds nineteen shillings to complete the lading of the ship *Rosamond*, Wright Southgate, master; and that the said Treasurer takes Mr. Van Zandt's receipt for the same.

A letter from Major-General Lee was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

New-York; March 6th, 1776.

Sir - I have just received an uncertified paper, the purport of which seems to imply that the men of war and Governor Tryon are to be supplied as formerly with provisions. Subsequently to this order of the Provincial Congress, the Continental Congress have instructed me to put the city in the best state of defence possible. I am so unfortunate as not to be able to discover how furnishing the enemy with the necessaries of life can contribute to this end; it certainly must open the means of their receiving every sort of intel-

ligence which ought to be withheld from them, for I cannot myself conceive, that the oath of the port master should bind his boat's crew. It is true they are to be restrained from going on board, but I defy human cunning to prevent, (when they are once alongside,) the conveyance of a letter. I must entreat, sir, that the Congress will not suppose that I am aiming at an authority superior to theirs in thus giving my opinion, and raising objections to any thing they have resolved. I respect them as the true representatives of the people and proper Legislature of the Province; but, sir, the information I have received from Cambridge, and the orders I have received from the Continental Congress, will justify me in most humbly entreating the Congress not to enjoin me to assent, (so much against my conscience,) to any intercourse of any kind with Mr. Tryon, who must be considered as a most dangerous enemy.

There is one thing further I would submit to the wisdom of the Congress, whether it will be prudent to suffer a single man (in our present circumstances) to remain in the city, who will not enter into an engagement to take up arms in defence of the common rights. I took the liberty to address a letter to you hinting a measure somewhat related to this scheme, but was not honoured with an answer. I am, sir [&c.]

Charles Lee.

P.S. . . . I must now inform you, sir, that in consequence of the last instructions from the Continental Congress, to put this city and its environs in a state of defence, I have ordered Colonel [Andrew] Ward, as a previous measure, to secure the whole body of professed Tories in Long island. When the enemy is at our door, forms must be dispensed with; my duty to you, to the Continental Congress, and to my own conscience, have dictated the necessity of the measure. If I have done wrong, and I confess the irregularity, I must submit myself to the shame of being reputed foolish, rash and precipitate. I must undergo the censure of the public, but I shall have consciousness in my own breast that the most pure motives of serving the public cause, uncontaminated by pique or resentment to individuals, have urged me to the step. There is now a ruffian under guard, one John Greg, who attempted to murder the sentinels on their posts the other night.

I beg to know your pleasure on the subject. As to the affair of the sentries firing on the boats, I never heard till this moment that they had repeated a misdemeanor so contrary to the orders they had received. I can only say that I am very sorry that my orders have been so little respected, and that if I can find out the culprits they shall be severely punished. I am, sir [&c.]

Charles Lee.

To the President of the Provincial Congress at New-York

Colonel [Alexander] McDougall, who brought in the letter from Major-General Lee, informed the Congress that he had some conversation with Lord Stirling on the subject of keeping up a uniformity, and preventing any interfering in the orders given by this Congress and the commander of the troops stationed here, and his lordship was ready and desirous, as soon as Major-General Lee was departed, to confer frequently with a committee of this Congress for that purpose.

Ordered, That Mr. Smith, Mr. [Abraham] Yates, Mr. Van Zandt, Colo. McDougall, Mr. [John Sloss] Hobart, Colo. [Pierre] Van Courtlandt, Mr. [Leonard] Gansevort, and General Ten Broeck, be a committee to confer with Lord Stirling on the subject of a communication between the ships and the shore, the firing of the centries on the boats passing and repassing, and the subject of apprehending and sending into confinement in this and another Colony, sundry inhabitants of this city and Colony, without the knowledge of, or application to any committee of this Congress.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 342-43.

COLONEL ALEXANDER MCDUGALL TO JOHN JAY¹

[Extract]

Head Quarters [New York] 7th March 1776

. . . The Sloop we are fitting out is ready² but wait to know from the Congress what pay you allow the officers & saylors on board the smalest Continental Vessels, and the description of the Continental Colours. I beg you to furnish me with a Copy of these without delay, as the Public Service suffers, without regarding at whose expence the armament is to be. Send me also, a sample of the Pikes made at Phila I am in Great Haste [&c.]

Alex^r McDougall

1. John Jay Collection, CUL. Jay was a New York delegate in the Continental Congress.

2. The sloop *Schuyler*.

New York Packet, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1776

New-York, March 7.

We hear by a Gentleman from Rhode Island, that the *Macaroni* privateer had taken a transport ship from London; it is said that there were found on board orders for General Howe only to act on the defensive, till further orders.

New-York Journal, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1776

For Ireland and Glasgow, The New Brig *Hannah*, John M'Naughton [McNachtane], Master, will sail in ten days. — For passage apply to Walter and Thomas Buchanan and Company, or the Master on board the vessel lying at Lupton's Wharf.

This vessel has the best accomodations for cabin or steerage passengers.
New-York, 7th March, 1776

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

March 1776 Moor'd in Graves End Bay.
 Thursday 7th Mode Breezes and Cloudy. PM our Boats Brought in &
 Anchd here the Brigg *Diligence* from [New] Providence,²
 . . . Fir'd two Guns to bring Vessels too.³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.
2. According to Shulldham's prize list of May 23, 1776, PRO Admiralty 1/484, the *Diligence* was sent in on March 17. This was obviously an error; she had a cargo of "Melasses Fruit &ca," was owned by a Mr. Barnard, and was bound for New York. She was sent to Halifax where she was condemned, the record indicating her destination had been Elizabeth, New Jersey, rather than New York, Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769-1777, N.S. Arch.
3. Shulldham's prize list also records the sloop *Betsey*, Alexander Gardner, master, from Philadelphia for Egg Harbor in ballast, as a prize that day of the *Phoenix*. She was sunk.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday 7 March An Applicatn made by the Jersey Delegates in Favor of a Demand of Michael Kearney was comd to the Comee on Gen Washingtons Letters, Ld Stirling had seized Kearneys Shallop and made Use of Her in taking the *Blue Mountain Valley* the Shallop being afterwards taken by the Enemy, the Prayer is for Compensation out of the Ship.²

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. See Journals of the Continental Congress of this date and March 19, 1776.

JOHN HANCOCK TO THOMAS CUSHING ¹

Dear Sir Philadelphia March 7, 1776

I wrote you of yesterday's Date by an Express under Cover to General Washington, when I inform'd you every Circumstance that Occur'd necessary for your Go[v]ernment as to the Ships. I hope soon to hear of your having Rec'd my Letter & the Twenty five thousand Dollars as well as the plans all which I Sent under the Care of Coll [John] Bull & that I shall soon have a Rect for the money. I have been oblig'd to Detain Mr Avery longer than I intended, owing to the urgent Business of Congress & the necessary attendance of the Members in Congress, which has prevented the Meetings of the Marine Committee & of Consequence Retarded their Business, which has Delay'd Mr Avery. I now inclose you the Dimensions of every thing necessary for your Guidance in matters respecting the Ships & other Appurtenances, what further Occurs to you necessary, let me Know & the Directions shall be transmitted you. I now Beg you will Set every Wheel in Motion, employ every Man that can be usefull in the different Branches, procure every Necessary that can be obtain'd with you, the Deficiencies Acquaint me of, & I will Endeavour to Supply them from hence, in short Exert every Nerve to promote Dispatch, let the heads & Galleries for the Ships be neatly Carv'd & Executed, I leave the Device to you, but by all means let ours be as good, handsome, strong, & as early Completed as any that are building here or in any of the other Colonies, for your reputation &

mine is at stake, & there are not wanting those who are fond of prejudicing both. I have order'd Two hundred pieces of Duck from New York Set the Sail Makers at work. Iron I hope you will find with you if not let me know as soon as possible, & I will send some, tho' at the present there is none to be purchas'd in the City owing to the badness of the Roads.

I send you by Mr Avery a further Supply of Money in Bills & Dollars, the Bills I took to oblige the Gentlemen, please to Return them immediately to me if not honour'd, & if paid Send me a Receipt for the whole Sum, & Employ the Money in the Service of the Ships for the Publick Accott - The Bills & money as follows, Vizt

William Barrell & Jona Miffin Junr Bill on	
Thomas Miffin of this Date for	Dollars 6000
William Barrell on Joseph Barrell do date	1000
Andrew Cabot on Capt George Dodge of } Salem do date	4000
The above Bills you will find Inclos'd	11000
In Continental Bills deliver'd to Mr John Avery	19000
	<hr/>
	Dollars 30000

Do be Carefull to Engage good Blockmakers & let every Article be well Executed.

In writing my several Letters to you previous to this Date, I had not time to take Copies I must therefore Beg at your Leisure you will please to favour me with exact Copies of all together with the first instruction deliver'd you on your leaving Philada this as soon as you can.

I was in hopes of being able to Send you the Dimensions of Rigging &c, but the Committee are not Ready, however if you are Ready before you hear from me, do not wait, but Employ the best Judges and follow their Advice, I however Inclose you the Estimate of the Report with respect to Cables & Anchors, the other smaller Cables & Anchors necessary Determine with you if you do not hear timely from me.

I have nothing New to Communicate. Do write me often & give me every Occurrence. I hope you will Send me my Commission as Major General that I may Appear in Character I assure you this Appointmt pleases me, I think I know a little of the Duty, & on my Return I will Endeavour under the Direction of your Board to put the Militia upon a Respectable footing, I will not be wanting.

My utmost Exertions shall never be withheld for the Good of my Colony, whenever they can be usefull they shall be Employ'd in the Service however Dangerous, and I Defy Malice itself to Contradict the Sincerity & uprightness of those assertions.

I beg to be Remembred to all Friends. The Inclos'd Letters I Beg you will order to be Deliver'd, that to Mr [William] Bant is of Consequence, I therefore Request your particular Care of it.

Mrs Hancock Joines me in best Respects to your good Lady, & Family & I am [&c.]

John Hancock

1. *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, XL, 484–86.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Philad. March 7. 1776

My dear General

I have now the Pleasure of informing you that a Vessel long expected from France & Holland arrived a few Days ago with 25 Tons of Powder—300 Stand of excellent Arms & 1500 Weight of Salt Petre. — We are hourly in Expectation of further Arrivals, but we must now soon expect some Ships of War in our River which I fear will cut off all further Enterprizes of the like Nature.

We have Accounts from Virginia that Clinton was arrived at Hampton but seemed to be waiting for his Reinforcements— Nothing farther new therefore from that Quarter — We have not heard a Syllable from our Fleet for a considerable Time but expect Intelligence every Hour —

Upon the Arrival of the Act of Parliament authorizing the Ships of War to seize all American Vessels & condemn them as lawful Prize, Application was made to Congress by several Persons for Letters of Marque & Reprizal but they could not feel bold enough — tho many of the most timid & those who have hanker[e]d so much after Reconciliation seeing so little of a Spirit of that Kind in Great Brittain have come off very much from those Sentiments the Result of old prejudices & new Fears.

1. *Washington Papers*, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety

[Philadelphia] 7th March, 1776.

At a Special Meeting of the Committee.

Resolved, That the Commodore order down to-morrow to Fort Island, three of the armed Boats that are in most readiness, where they are to remain 'til they are relieved by others, while they are down the River the Men are to be quartered at the pest House in the Rooms not occupied by Capt. Procter's Company, until sufficient Barracks on Fort Island are built.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 507.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee Thursday 7 March 1776

Resolved, That a Breast Work be immediately thrown up at the Point below Jesse Hollingsworth's, and that the Money in Mr Moale's Hands be appropriated to defray the Expence attending it

The Committee are Unanimously of Opinion, and do direct, that all the light Vessels in the Harbour be immediately carried down to Whetstone in order to be sunk in the Channel, to prevent the Vessels of War from coming up, and Messrs Isaac Griest, Capt William Chace, Capt Thomas Moore, George Woolsey & David Stewart, together with Major Gist are appointed for that Service –

Resolved, Than an Express be instantly to Phila to the Congress for an immediate Supply of Powder and Lead –

Several Expresses arrived with Information of the Man of War & her Tenders being past Annapolis, & standing up the Bay, and also that she is at the Mouth of the River –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Thursday 7 March 1776.

Ordered That Col. John Weems immediately march his Battalion to South River Ferry and quarter them there, Part on this, and Part on the other Side of the Ferry, and should the Man of War and her Tenders attempt any Landing there, that he be ready to repel them.

Ordered that a Copy of the above Order be immediately dispatched to Col. Weems by Express.

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

No 32.

Gentn The Man of War of what particular Force we know not, and her Sloop or Schooner Tenders are now, we are certainly informed, up as high as South River. We are not certain that they may put into this River; they have in Tow a Provision Vessel they seized in the Bay, If there be any Vessels loaded in your River, we would have you fall on the best Expedients you can, to secure them – apprise Captain [[James] Nicholson or the commanding Officer of the Ship *Defence* of the Intelligence directly; you will acquaint us as soon as you can with any Measures you may think necessary for your Defence, that may be in our Power, and we will forward them with all Expedition.

[Annapolis] 7th March 1776.

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO COLONEL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD ¹

No 33.

Sir A ship of War and two Tenders have just hove in sight – we request therefore that you will immediately repair to this City and order Captn [John Hawkins] Stone to march up with his Company as expeditiously as he can – the Captain will call at Upper Marlbro' on his Way hither and receive

such public Arms, as may be collected there by the Committee of Observation for Prince Georges County.

[Annapolis] 7th 1776.

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

No 35.

Gent The Man of War with her Tenders have passed by this Harbour and are standing up the Bay, we presume for your Town.

[Annapolis] 7th March 1776

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO COLONEL THOMAS DORSEY ¹

No 36.

Sir The Man of War and Tenders are gone past the Mouth of the Severn, and are bound, as we believe, up the Bay to Baltimore-Town – You are therefore to march immediately to Baltimore Town with your Battalion, and endeavour to repel any hostile Attempts, that may be made – should any Powder or Lead be wanted, you may be supplied from Major Gaither's.

[Annapolis] March 7th 1776

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

JENIFER & HOOE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Port Tobacco March 7th 1776.

Captain Conway arrived opposite the mouth of Port Tobacco Creek about 2 o'clock this morning & it being calm & an ebb tide he came here for orders about eight o'clock – I sent him on board again immediately to proceed up the eastern branch of this river till his vessel was fast on ground & then to deliver the powder to the Committee of Bladensburgh if I am not there without loss of time. The letter from Mr [Richard] Harrison would have sent by express instantly, but Colo Ware informs me he is pushing for Annapolis & I concluded it would be as soon at hand by him – Mr Harrison writes me that Mr Wicoff of Martinicoe has consigned some medicine to Jennifer & Hooe for sale, I have not recd any directions from him about them, nor even an invoice, it seems his brothers at Philadelphia are to furnish directions about them, & if I find there are such as the province will want, shall delay the sale till I advise you thereof. I imagine Conway will be at Bladensburgh by this evening & some time tomorrow I shall be there to receive your orders respecting the further destination of the vessel & the disposal of the powder – There came with Capt Conway a French Capt & 6 sailors by which means after he clears our coast, going out, the E. Men of War cannot seize him, as he will show F. Colours, F. papers & a french crew. I scarcely had time to ask either of the Capts any questions, thinking it unsafe to let the vessel lye here a moment, but if I find the frenchman tollerably in-

telligent I will bring him up from Bladensburgh to Annapolis. as Mr Harrison seems to think he may be a servicable man, if encouraged. Scott it seems is seized, but Mr Harrison has hopes of getting the vessel & cargo again, under some little disadvantages. Capt Conway says there is a great many troops in Martinico, the E frigates & Tenders are watching every Island, he fell in with one but gave her the slip in the night. I am Gent [&c.]

Jenifer & Hooe.

1. Letters to Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO LIEUTENANT JOHN ORDE, R.N. ¹

You are hereby required and directed to proceed to Sea immediately with the Tender, *Lord Howe*, under your commd and cruize off the Mouth of the River Delaware, placing yourself in the best manner you can to intercept any vessels going in or coming out of Philadelphia, which you are to Seize and detain, and send round to Norfolk.

And whereas I have ordered the *Kingsfisher* Sloop to the Same Station, you are, while you may happen to be together, to put your self under Captain Graeme's command, and to use your utmost endeavours to procure as many Pilots for the River Delaware and the Coast as you possibly can.

You are to continue on this Station for ten days, when you are to return and join me here, and in case of not finding the *Roebuck* in Hampton Road, to proceed again to the Mouth of the Delaware, where the *Roebuck* will in all probability be cruising, or At Anchor in Hore Kill road -

Given under my hand on board His

Majesty's Said Ship the 7th March 1776

A S Hamond

1. Hamond, Orders issued, UVL.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Raven*, CAPTAIN JOHN STANHOPE ¹

March 1776

Moor'd in Cape Fear Harbour.

Friday 1

(A M) at 8 fired a Gun as Signal for a Pilot Came out the *Faulcons* Tender with a pilot at 10 Weighed at 11 Came too in 7 ffams Cape Fear EBN the Et end of Oak Isld. NE

First middle and Latter mode at 3 weighed came to Sail Standing in for the Harbour Let the reefs out of the Top-sails got up T G yards and Sett T G sails at 6 Came too in Cape Fear harbour veered away & moored wth a whole Cable each way The Fort WNW Ball Head SbE found riding here the *Cruizers* Tender & 8 prizes.

Saturday 2d

(A M) Heeled Ship and Scrubbed betwen Wind & Water Punished Wm Norman Thos Burnfather, & Humphy Williams for Drunkenness Quarreling & fighting & Wm Mills for Dirtyness wth a Dozen Lashes each

First part mode middle and Latter Light airs and fair
Anchd here the *Genl Gage* and Armed Sloop and the *Faulcons* Tender

Sunday 3. (A M) Came in and Anchd here the *Lady William* an
Armed Schooner Cleaned the Ship Fore and Aft
First middle and Latter mode Cleared Hause

Monday 4 (A M) Sailed the *Lady William* Came on board 7 regula-
tors who had escaped from the rebels² The people empd
making points &ca

First part Calm middle and Latter fresh breezes and Hazy
sailed the *Genl Gage* with the above men on board up the
River to His Majestys Sloop *Cruizer*

Tuesday 5 (A M) saw 2 Vessels in the Offing at 10 heard a Gun
Ansd it The people as before sent a Schooner wth the
Pilot over the Bar run a Shore the *Lady William* sent a
Stream Anchor and Cable to heave her off

First part fresh breezes and Cloudy middle hard Gales wth
rain Thunder and Lightning Latter fair Struck Lower
yards and T G Masts The Schooner returned not being
able to get over the Bar there being to much Sea.

Wednesday 6 (A M) Found — Jacquais & — Briggs seamen missing
supposed to have got off in the Night by swimming ashore
Fired a Shot at a House where the Rebels resorted

First middle and Latter mode breezes and fair Supplied
His Majestys Sloop *Scorpion* with 1 barrel of pease and 1 of
Oatmeal 1 Firkin of Butter The people empd Occasionally

Thursday 7. (A M) at 5 unmoored and hove into 1/3d of a Cable Bt Br
at 7 Let the reefs out of the T S weighed and made Sail
Standing out of the Harbour In Company The *Lady*
William the *Hellen* Sloop and the *Pensacola packet* at 9
Ball Head Et 4 miles at 10 Cape Fear E b N at 12 The
Cape bore NEbN & Ball Head N1/2Et dist 3 or 4 Leagues

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/771.

2. The term Regulators was earlier applied to those who resisted Governor William Tryon in 1773. The men here alluded to were Tory militia-men who had probably escaped after the battle of Moore's Creek bridge on February 27, 1776, when the Tories were routed by the Provincial militia under Colonel James Moore.

WILLIAM EWEN TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., AND MAJOR
JAMES GRANT¹

[No. 3] Savannah, in the Council of Safety, March 7, 1776.

Gentlemen: We have been privy to several letters which have passed to and from Colonel McIntosh, Messrs. Demeré and Roberts, and yourselves; and we find by yours that you consider that we consented the merchant shipping should go down to Cockspur, with the troops; whereas the most cursory review of the letter which appertains to that matter, will at

once evidently show you, that the troops and armed vessels only were meant; and we now declare to you, that none others were intended. Indeed, a moment's reflection will further demonstrate this; for you and all Great Britain know, that we have made, and are yet pursuing, a commercial opposition to the acts so much complained of, and which have roused this large Continent into arms.

We abhor the idea of infidelity, and have, therefore, forbore to avail ourselves of the advantages which your situation, for several days past, put in our power, until we should have an opportunity of having the misapprehension explained. We will now forbear any virulent expressions, but we deem the detention of Messrs. Demeré and Roberts a breach of that good faith which the parent country has been so much famed for keeping inviolate.

We knew the troops were on board the merchant shipping some hours before they went, and, relying on the common faith of the civilized part of the world, expected that you would have permitted them to return, and have made what might pass between you and them the groundwork of an explanation; and by that means have prevented any hostilities.

In one of Colonel McIntosh's letters to Messrs. Demeré and Roberts, he authorized them, in case you should withdraw to Cockspur, as before we have explained, then to receive any propositions you might make; but this never can be construed into an assent on our part to your detaining them.

The merchant shipping, also, we consider as appertaining to this Province, and, of course, under our cognizance; and the attempt to take them away by force justified the opposition. The capture, also, of the vessel with goods, we conceive, cannot be justified upon any principle whatever.

From these premises, gentlemen, you will readily conclude that we expect two things: the one is, the return of our citizens, and the other the withdrawing your troops from on board the merchant shipping, and carrying them and the armed vessels down only to Cockspur.

That you may not be deceived, we now make this declaration: We expect a return of our citizens to the place from whence they were taken, by twelve o'clock to-morrow, with your assurance, upon your honour, to withdraw without any attempt to land in either Province, as soon as wind and tide shall permit; and in case you shall refuse or neglect compliance, we shall consider either as a breach of the cessation you desired. And we declare further, that your treatment of our three citizens, now in your power, will be our criterion of conduct towards all those men who now are, or may be in our power.

The laws of retaliation have suggested to us the propriety and expediency of arresting and confining the King's officers; several of whom we have accordingly taken and confined; but these men, upon the return of our friends, and not before, shall be enlarged.

By order of the Council of Safety:

William Ewen, President.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. John*, LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT¹

March 1776 Anchord off Saint Augustine Barr East Florida
 Thursday 7 Lost sight of the Sloop Saw the Land bearing from NNW
 to SW distance 7 Leagues Bent now buoy Ropes to the
 Anchors others lost in [New] Providence Harbour
 Fresh Gales and clear Wr At 1 (PM) found the small
 bower Cable the Outward end much Rubd and wore and
 unfit for service cut off 15 Fathom — Bent the Cable At
 past came to Anchor off St. Augustine Barr in 8 fathom
 Water, the Bacon WbS the Fort W $\frac{1}{2}$ N 4 Miles off shore —
 Fird to make a Signal for a pilot, three 3 pounders at 2 P M
 recd him on board — Found riding here, 2 Pacquets from
 Falmouth Sent a Letter to Governor [Patrick] Tonym & to
 the Commanding officer in Georgia Weighed & came to sail
 past the Barr & Anchord in St Augustine harbour

I. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT, R.N., TO GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN¹

Copy of a Letter from Lieut Grant

Sir

St John 7th March 1776

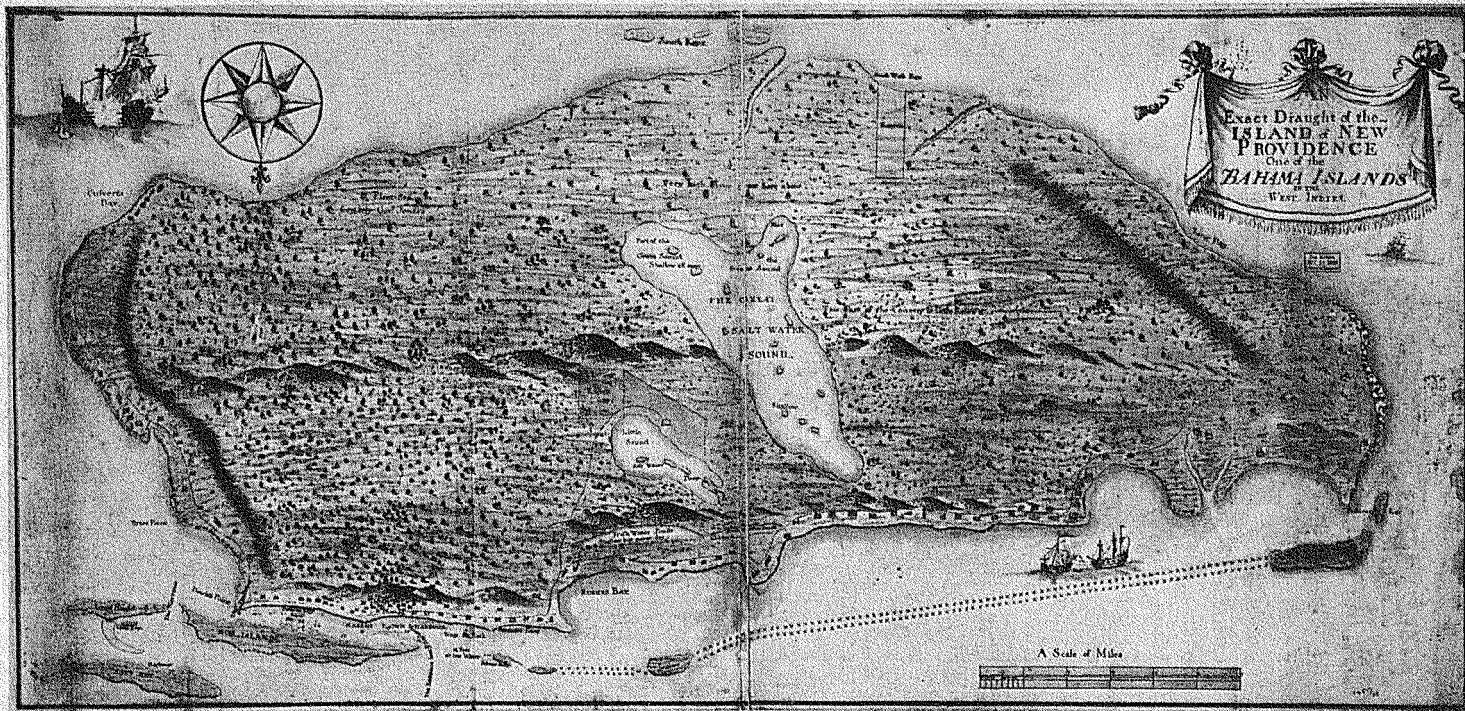
I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that His Majesty's Schooner under my Command is arrived off this Bar in three Days passage from New Providence, and that on Sunday last [March 3] an Armament consisting of eight Sail of North American Vessels Vizt. two Ships two Brigs three Sloops and one Schooner arrived at that place and landed Troops supposed to the Number of four or five hundred Men and that day got immediate possession of Fort Montagu &ca and sent a Message to the Governor and Council, that they were come to take the Powder and destroy the King's Schooner: I have brought off the Powder in a Sloop Chambers Master who I parted Company with last night, and expect him to appear in sight every Minute — I have on board the Schooner 43 Barrels of Do — I was much hurried all that day and left the People at [New] Providence in great confusion — I wish the powder to be got out with all convenient Speed. — And I doubt not but you may expect a Visit from some of the Rebel Vessels as I imagine they are in pursuit of me. —

I cannot be more explicit at present as the Boat is waiting: We are in some distress having come away incomplete in the Schooners Repairs, Stores and Provisions — I beg leave to observe to your Excellency that the [New] Providence People don't act with that vigour I expected — (Meaning some of the common people only) I have the honor to be [&ca.]

(Signed) W^m Grant

[Endorsed] In Govr Tonym's (No 5) of 8th March 1776

I. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 439-42.



PETITION OF JOSEPH HINSON TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

To Esek Hopkins Esqr Commander in Chief of the Continental Fleet –
 The Petition of Joseph Hinson
 Sheweth

That your Petitioner is Master of the Brig *Christianna*, off and from St Thomas's (an Island subject to his Danish Majesty) bound to New Orleans in the River Mississippi and put into this port about a fortnight past in a leaky Condition; That he obtain'd leave of the then Governor and Officers of the Customs of these Islands to repair his Vessel but was oblig'd to Warehouse his Goods under Restriction of Exporting them again they being all foreign Manufacture and prohibited by the Laws then in force – Your Pétitioner therefore humbly prays your leave by a written Order for the disposal of said Goods to enable him to Repair his said Vessel and prosecute his Owners intentions therein & as in duty bound will ever pray &c

Bahama Islands

Joseph Hinson

New Providence March 7th 1776 – ²

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. *Ibid.*, the same day Hopkins acted favorably on the petition.**8 Mar.**STATEMENT OF JOHN RICH REGARDING CAPTURE ¹

This May Certify that I John Rich of Magerbagawayduce With a Permit from the Committee to Sail to marblehead Second Day of Febery the Third Day Arived at Bothby Lay there at that Harbor thirtwen Days the Seventwen Day Came out in Morning about eaight Clock about Eaight Clock at Night I See the Light on the Island Shooles I Run for Cape and Being very Dark and Came In Full of Snow I Could Not See the Land and the First Land I See was in Boston Bay the Wind Blowing Fresh About NEBN I Could Not Carri But Littel Saile about Half a Hour Before Day Came a thoart of a man of war he ordered me to Run For the Light House he Run with [me up] to the Light And then Held the wind and Stood of to See Again I Whent In and a man of War Ordered me to Come to Anker under is Starn And the Boat Came and put Hands a board the Sloop and my Self and Hānds they Carried on Board the Commondore and We Stay tow Days there then orders Came to the Commondore to Put us on board the Sloop Again and Bring her up to Boston Town and a man of War Went along with us Same Time

Lincoln [Lincoln] ss March 8 1776

the persons who Sign this Representation
 have made Solemn oath to the Truth of it.

This done before me. –

W Crawford

John Rich
 Seth Blodget Junr
 David Daley

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 338.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO JOHN ADAMS¹

Dear Sir

Head Qrs 8th March 1776. —

Monday Night [March 4] Two Thousand men under the Command of Brigadier General [John] Thomas took Possession of Dorchester Heights; a vast Quantity of Materials being previously Collected, especially, Chandiliers, & Fascines, our Troops were soon coverd, & long before day, began to Break Ground to thicken their defences against The Enemys Cannon: — To Conceal our design, & divert the Enemys Attention, a very Heavy Service of Cannon, & Mortars, began to Play upon the Town between ten, and Eleven, Saturday night; from our Three Fortified Batteries at Cobble Hill, Letchmeres Point, and Lambs Dam; this was continued all that night, and the two Succeeding; The Enemy return'd The Fire constantly, but always ceased as we did in the Mornings. Our Shot must have made Great Havock amongst the Houses; as I am confident they Swept the Town, what Loss, otherwise suffer'd by the Enemy, we are Ignorant; as neither Townsman, nor Deserter, has yet come in to acquaint us! Monday morning at Sun rise, expecting The Enemy would attempt to Force our New Works upon the Heights, everything was prepared for their proper Reception; and a large Body of Troops were drawn up near Cambridge River, with Orders upon a Signal Given, to Embark on board the Flat Bottom'd Boats, and in Two Divisions push into Boston; but the Enemy disappointed us by remaining Sullen & Sulkey in Boston. suffering Our Works upon the Heights to be carried on without any other molestation, than now, & Then, a Feint Cannonade upon Dorchester Neck; & even this, ceased with the day; for neither side have since Fired a Shott at each other! by monday morning our Redoubts will be Finish'd, & Baracks for 600 Men; so all that Peninsula; may now be called Ours, as the Cannon on the Heights Commands the whole of it; The behaviour of The Enemy since Monday strongly indicates their intention of removing from Boston; as their Heavy Cannon, Powder, &c has been seen, & heard, Transporting from Bunkers Hill, and the upper parts of The Town; to the Wharfs next the Shiping, for several days past; & this morning a Quantity of Beding is Observed putting on board Transports at the Long Warf: — before we are quite ready to advance our Batteries upon Dorches[te]r point, I suspect the Enemy will Embarque. a few days will shew if am, or am not mistaken; I was disappointed in not receiving yo[ur] High Mightyness's Act of Independency by the Last Post.

The Middle way, the best we sometimes call,

But 'tis in polliticks no way at all;

shew this immediately to my Worthy Friend T. Johnson,² & remember I have begun to fullfill my Promise to You I am Dear Sir [&c.]

Horatio Gates

1. Silliman Papers, YUL.

2. Thomas Johnson, Jr., a Maryland delegate in the Continental Congress.

CAPTAIN ENOCH LINNELL'S AFFIDAVIT¹

I Enoch Linnel of Eastham Mariner of lawful Age Testify that in the Month of February A. D. 1775 being then Master of the Sloop *Unity* of Thirty Tuns Burthen Value one hundred and twenty Pounds Lawful Money — Bound from Salem to Eastham with a Cargo on Board of one Hundred sixty Six pounds seventeen Shillings and seven Pence three farthings lawful Money Value as may be seen per Invoices and Accounts I now have in Possession

As I lay at Ancor in Cape Cod Harbor there came in an Armed Schooner — Greaves Capt. and — Dawson Master² — They immediately seized my Vessel and Cargo and carried her into the Port or Harbour of Boston and after detaining me there about four Weeks they pretended to lybel the Sloop She was condemned and I lost the whole Vessel & Cargo of Value two Hundred Eighty six Pounds seventeen Shillings and seven Pence three farthings lawful Money.

Enoch Linnel.

£286. 17. 7. 3.

Colony of Massachusetts Bay.

Barnstable ss The Eight Day of March A. D. 1776
the above named Enoch Linnel Personally appeared
and made Oath to the Truth of the abovewritten
before me

Thomas Paine Justice of the Peace

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 274.

2. Probably H.M. Schooner *Diana*, Lieutenant Thomas Graves.

SELECTMEN OF BOSTON TO THE CONTINENTAL ARMY COMMANDERS¹

As his Excellency Genl Howe is determined to leave the Town with the Troops under his Command, a Number of the respectable Inhabitants being very anxious for its Preservation & Safety, have applied to Genl [James] Robertson for this Purpose, who at their Request has communicated the same to his Excellency Genl Howe, who has assured him that he has no Intention of destroying the Town, unless the Troops under his Command are molésted during their Embarkation, or at there Departure by the armed Force without, which Declaration he gave Genl Robertson Leave to communicate to the Inhabitants. If such an opposition should take Place, we have the greatest Reason to expect the Town will be exposed to entire Destruction. As our Fears are quieted with Regard to Genl How's Intentions, we beg we may have some Assurances that so dreadful a Calamity may not be brought on by any Measures without. As a Testimony of the Truth of the above, we have signed our Names to this Paper carried out by Messrs Thomas & Jonathan Amory & Peter Johannet, who have at the earnest Intreaties of the

Inhabitants through the Lieutt Governór sollicitcd a Flag of Truce for this Purpose ²

Boston
March 8th 1776.

Signed. John Scollay Tho^s Marshall
Tim^o Newell Sam^l Austin

1. John Hancock Papers, III, LC.

2. See Washington's letter of March 9, 1776 for handling of the letter.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir.

Chatham Boston 8th March 1776 -

Herewith I transmit to you Copies of Two Letters I received since my last of the 26th. past from Captain Parker at New York, and Captain Wallace at Rhode Island, with their Intelligence and information of the State of these Colonies; And I am now to inform you, Sir, that on the Morning of the 4th instant we observed that the Rebels had the preceding night taken post on the heights of Dorchester, and had thrown up so extensive and strong a Redoubt that it was supposed not less than Ten or Twelve thousand Men could have been employed in perfecting it in so short a time; This was so alarming and I presume unexpected an Event from the Advantageous situation of this Post, commanding the Town and Harbour of Boston, that General Howe Ordered an Attack to be made upon it that night, and Two thousand Troops were Embarked and in readiness for that Service, but the Wind blowing too fresh for the Boats to Row ahead the Expedition was laid aside, and the next day the 5th Orders were issued for the Army to prepare to embark with all the dispatch possible, which the very distress'd Condition it is in for want of Provision makes absolutely necessary, for 'till I gave Orders a few days ago for a Months Supply out of the Naval Stores, it had not then more than a sufficiency for Fourteen days, and except a Supply arrives very speedily for both Services, the Consequencé must be fatal. We are now using our utmost efforts and attention in Embarking the Ordance and other Stores, and preparing for Evacuating this Town and Harbour to proceed to Halifax, the nearest and most likely place of refuge for an Army under such necessitous and Singular Circumstances, where I shall Convoy it with part of His Majesty's Squadron under my Command, leaving all the Force I can spare for the protection of the Supplies intended for this place.

On the representation of General Howe of the small importance the Ships under Captain Wallace's Command are now at Rhode Island, and the very few I have to protect our Supplies from falling into the hands of the Rebels, especially on our leaving Boston, I have Ordered Captain Wallace to send two of them (the *Swan* and *Bolton* Armed Brig) to Cruize in the track of any Vessels bound here, and to see them in safety in their way to Halifax, The *Glasgow* I have Ordered to New York and from thence to the Southward with General Howe's and my Dispatches, and the *Rose* I have Ordered to Halifax to clean and refit.

I likewise herewith transmit to You Copy of a Letter from Captain [George] Talbot of the *Niger*, informing me of the loss of the *Friendship*

Transport which General Howe had sent with his dispatches to New York, and on board which, on the Generals Application to me, I had Ordered a Petty Officer and Ten Men from the *Chatham*, and the same number from the *Centurion*, to assist the Master in the Navigation and defence of her upon that Service, all which I am sorry to acquaint you are become Prisoners to the Rebels, to whom they were obliged to fly and submit, to save their Lives when the Vessel was Wreck'd.

Captain Parker having acquainted me of the Death of Mr George Clephan Purser of the *Asia* on the 24th January last, I have Appointed Mr Edward Bragge my Secretary to Succeed him in that Employment, which I hope their Lordships will be pleased to confirm him in. I am Sir [&c.]

M:Shuldhham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS¹

March 1776 [In Nantasket Road]
 Friday 7 AM [Unmoored] and Came to Sail Out of Nantasket Road,
 [sic 8] Boston Light SWbW 5 or 6 Leagues at 1 P M made a
 signal to the *Fowey* in Marble Head Do fired a gun and
 made the Signal for all Cruizers at 3 Spoke HM ship
Fowey, bore away and Set Studding Sails at 7 Hauld down
 Do 1/2 pt 8 Came too in Nantasket Road with the S.Br in
 3 f. Veer'd 1/3 of a Cable
 Saturday 8th AM Recd on bd some water found Lying here the *Renown*.
 [sic 9] Anchd here the *Hope* Brig & *Tryal* Schooner wt 2 Prizes
 Little wind with Calm & Cloudy Wr
 PM Heeld Ship & Scrubbed recd on board some water
 Anch here the *Lively*.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.

2. The *Nautilus* had been sent out hurriedly to recall all cruisers and was followed into Nantasket road by three which had been operating in Massachusetts Bay.

INVENTORY OF WASHINGTON'S SCHOONER *Harrison*¹

Inventory of the Stores belongen to the United Colonies from on Board the Schooner *Harrison* at Plymouth 8th March 1776

4 Carredg Guns	4 pounders
4 Swivells	
1 Ditto	belongin to one of the Privs
1 Ditto	Swivel
2 Kow hornes	
5 Kags of Powder	55 lb
1 Ditto	27
27 Carterages	37
1 Kag with ditto	4

- 3 Pouch Kags
- 8 Carterage boxes
- 1 Powder horn
- a Number of Fuzs
- Gun Tackless & Brichings
- 1 Graplin Iron & Pendant
- 8 Quire of Papper for Carterages
- a Parcell of Slow match
- 8 Large Canisters fild with Shot
- 33 Swivell Ditto
- 50 Shot for the Swivells
- 36 Langrige Ditto
- 83 4 lb Shot
- 6 Duble hd Ditto
- 7 Starr Ditto
- 2 Single grape
- 35 lb Musqt Boles
- 10 Emty Canisters
- 6 Gun hand Spicks
- 19 Spears
- 5 Spunges & Rammers
- 4 Ladles & wormers
- 5 Swivell Ditto
- 1 Ditto worm & Spoon
- 2 Single wormers
- 1 Ditto & Rammer
- 1 Ram Rod
- 7 pr of hand Irons
- 2 Crow bars, 17 pr Shears, 10 Primen Wires
- 1/2 Pint measure - 3 Sheep Skines

Ship & Boatswains Stores

- 1 Square Sail Yard 1 Ditto boom & Sail With Block
& Riging thare unto belongg
- 1 Main top mast Top sail yard & Crostick
Ditto & Sail with all the Riging belonging to it
- Main Top mast Stay Sail
- 12 Ships Oars. Part of 3 quiles of Riging. 3 Small blocks.
10 Leading Trucks. 6 Iron thimbles 2 Ditto with Hooks.
4 Skins of marlin. 1 Palm. 6 Sail Needles. 2 Cod Lines
- 6 Lanthorns. 6 Worter hhds 11 Ditto bbls

Carpenters Tools

- 2 Ougers. 1 Adds 1 broad Axe
- 2 Chesels. 1 Gauge 1 pr of Compass
- 1 Cholk Line. 1 Two foot Rule
- 1 Iron Square. 2 Nale gimblits

2 Files. 2 hand Sawes. 2 hammers
1 Bung & Tap borer Chist & Lock

Cabben & Cook Stores

1 Tea Kittle. 2 Iron pots
1 brass Candle stick 2 Pewter platters
5 Ditto Plats. 1 Iron Ladle & Flesh Fork.
1 Earthen Coffey Pot. 1 Punch Bowl.
1 Black Jack. 1 Sugar box
1 pr Stilyards. —

Errors Exceptd p
Tho^s Doten²

[Endorsed] Inventory of Stores taken from on board the *Harrison* Armed Schooner & now under the Care of William Watson of Plimouth
March 1776

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 139, LC.
2. First Lieutenant of the *Harrison*.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, MARCH 8th, 1776

New-London, March 8, 1776.

By Capt. John Chapman from the West Indies, we learn that Capt. Jabez Perkins, Jun. and Capt. — Brown, from this Port, also Capt. Alex. Boyd from this Port, but last from Virginia, are taken and carried into Antigua. The English Men of War examine all the vessels they meet with, and have lately carried into Antigua two French Vessels, where they were condemned.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO NATHANIEL WOODHULL¹

Sir — Albany, March 8th, 1776.

I am honoured with yours of the 4th instant. The Continental Congress have resolved that Capt. [Jacobus] Wynkoop should be employed upon the lakes under Commodore [William] Douglass. Whether the latter gentleman means to engage in the 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 that 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 &c.

Ph. Schuyler.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 364.

AN ESTIMATE OF CANNON BALL AND BALLAST FOR THE CONTINENTAL
FRIGATES BUILDING AT POUGHKEEPSIE¹

The following is a Copy of a proposal made me by Jno Griffiths a Partner to Saml Patrick to which I acqui[e]sc'd March 8, 1776

An Estimate of Ball and Ballast for the ships of War building in New York Province vizt

Ballast at the lowest Computation	150 Tons	Pig Iron a	£ 8. p	Ton
Grape Shott	10 Tons	a	£20. p	Ton
Ball from 4 lb to 32 lb	50 Tons	a	£15. p	Ton
20 Cannon of 9 lb by the end of May		a	£28. p	Ton

finished, proved, & delivered any where on Hudson River

The Ballast can be delivered in the Month of April The Balls and shott in May, provided the order be given soon as Flasks & other utensils will be necessary to cast the Ball & shott. – wooden patterns turned must be procured and the Number of Tons to each Size Specified.

In consequence thereof I gave the Following orders & agreed for

30 Tons of 12 pd Shott	a	£15 p	Ton
20 Tons of 9 pd do	a	£15 p	Ton
4 Tons of 4 pd do	a	£15 p	Ton
6 Tons of Grape do	a	£20. p	Ton
20 Cannon of 9 poundrs, finish'd &c	a	£28 p	Ton
150 Tons Pig Iron for Ballastg both Ships	a	£ 8. p	Ton
of which 50 Tons are delivd at the ships & paid for by me			

F. Lewis

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS, enclosed in Francis Lewis to Robert Treat Paine, May 20, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 10 ho. A.M.

March 8th, 1776.

Ordered, That Mr. [Thomas] Randall and Colonel Ten Broeck be added to the committee to confer with Lord Stirling, on the subject of a communication with the ships of war, &c. and that Mr. [John Sloss] Hobart and Mr. [Leonard] Gansevoort be excused from attending the said committee.

A letter from Capt. Joseph Smith, setting forth his distress, and offering his service to his country particularly in any marine department, if there is or should be a vacancy, was read and filed.

Ordered, That the said letter remain on file to be taken up if an opportunity should offer in which his services will be useful.

The committee who went to confer with Lord Stirling on the sundry matters given to them in charge, as appears by the entry thereof in the minutes of yesterday, reported that they had conferred with Lord Stirling; that he had given the following information to them, which he had received this morning, to wit:

“That a brigantine came into the Hook yesterday evening and came to anchor under the stern of the *Phoenix*, and that the people on board gave three cheers; that four sail of large vessels are in the Hook, a snow in the

offing; that by another person advice was received from Nassau island, that six or seven top sail vessels are in the Hook."

Thereupon,

Ordered, That Capt. [Anthony] Rutgers and Capt. Randall be a committee to despatch a proper person to the Narrows by land, and another person in a whale boat to the Hook to make discoveries, and return and report to this committee with all possible despatch.

The said committee reported as to the matters given them in charge, that they had settled a plan with Lord Stirling for supplying the ships of war and Governor Tryon's ship with provisions, (subject to the approbation and confirmation of this Congress) in the words following, to wit:

In order to prevent any obstructions to the supply of provision and other necessaries being furnished to the ships of war and the Governor's ship, pursuant to a former order of this Congress, it is

Resolved and Ordered, That whenever provisions or supplies are to be furnished to either of the said ships, the port master appointed by this Congress shall go with the said provisions or supplies, and see the same delivered on board the said ships, and that he take with him only such persons as are necessary to navigate the boat or boats, carrying such provisions and supplies, or such person or persons as shall have the special permission of the Congress or Committee of Safety, countersigned by the General; and that the said port master and all the navigators of the said boat or boats be under oath that he or they will not disclose any matter whatsoever on board of the said ships relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of this Colony. That he the said Port Master will not suffer any of the men that he carries with him in the said boat or boats to go on board either of the said ships, and that he will not carry or suffer to be carried, any letters or papers to or from the said ships, but such as he shall be first satisfied contain no intelligence of a public nature.

That this supply is to take place and be continued on condition that there be no obstruction given to any boats or vessels bringing provisions, provender or firewood, to this city.

The Congress agreed with their committee in this part of their report and confirms the same.

The said committee farther reported that as to the firing of the sentinels on the boats coming to and departing from this city, they had, in conjunction with Lord Stirling, settled and agreed on such orders with him, to be issued to the troops by Lord Stirling, as will prevent that inconvenience for the future; and that Lord Stirling will, towards evening, transmit to this Congress a copy of such orders, and requested a copy of the regulations for supplying provisions to the ships by them above reported, if the same should be agreed to and confirmed by this Congress.

Ordered, That one of the secretaries prepare and certify a copy of the said plan or regulations agreed on; for supplying the ships of war and Governor Tryon's ship, with provisions, and transmit the same to Lord Stirling. And,

Ordered, That another copy be prepared for the port-master, and that he attend here at five o'clock to receive instructions.

The said committee farther reported that as to the other matter given to them in charge, to wit, the apprehending and sending into confinement in this and a neighbouring Colony, sundry inhabitants of this city and Colony, without the knowledge of, or application to, this Congress, and that the reasons thereof, that Lord Stirling had assured them that the like should not happen in time to come; that he informed them that John Gregg was apprehended, and is now confined in the guard house at the barracks, for having, in the night time, attacked the sentinels on duty at their posts, and that he submits his trial and punishment to the Congress; That Governor Tryon's two servants and his linen will be sent to his ship by the first provision boat; that the seamen who lately came from the ship *Dutches of Gordon*, and were apprehended, desire that they may not return on board; . . . That his Lordship assured them for the future any persons apprehended, shall not be sent out of the Colony, but their cases respectively, (if any be apprehended,) shall be referred to this Congress. That he farther declared that it was not his wish or desire to interfere with the civil government or police of the city or Colony, but on the contrary to harmonize with and aid the civil government. . . .

Die Veneris, 4 ho. P.M. March 8th, 1776.

Capt. Rutgers and Mr. Randal informed the Congress that from various informations which they have obtained, (the particulars whereof they mentioned,) they have good reason to believe that the report of a number of top-sail vessels being at Sandy Hook, is false. But they have notwithstanding despatched Capt. McIlroy to the Narrows to make discovery, and that this Congress may expect his information this evening.

Christopher Duyckinck, who was sent to apprehend some pilots late of this city, and now in the service of the ministerial navy, being at the door was admitted. He says those pilots came on shore, but with a boat with armed men for their protection; that they came on shore frequently in that manner; that they had been three times on shore, since he went to endeavor to apprehend them; that without the assistance of 25 or 30 men, with muskets, he thinks it is not probable they will be apprehended; that he thinks that number, with three or four days' provision and properly armed and lodged, may effect the taking of them; that a brigantine, having on board rum, sugar and salt, was taken yesterday evening; that Francis James, the pilot, went out in the vessel that seized and took her, and was active therein; that the *Phoenix* has a number of boats about her.

Ordered, That Colo. [Alexander] McDougall give such directions as he may think necessary, for apprehending the said pilots, and that that matter be committed solely to him, and Duyckinck take his directions.

Capt. McIlroy, who was sent out at noon by Capt. Rutgers and Capt. Randall, returned. He was brought near the chair. He says that there is not any topsail vessel below, but a brigantine which belongs to one Barnes of Elizabeth Town and which is seized by the *Phoenix*; ² that four sloop rigged vessels (one of them very small) lie near the *Phoenix*; that a person informed him that he had seen five sail off of the Hook, that two of them were brigantines.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 346, 347, 348.

2. The brigantine *Diligence*, Alexander Robinson, master Mr. Barnard, owner, with molasses and fruit, from New Providence for New York. The prize was sent to Halifax, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484. The Halifax Admiralty Court records state she was bound to Elizabeth, rather than to New York, and that her cargo consisted of "cyder, cotton, molasses and salt," N.S. Arch.

LORD STIRLING TO COLONEL MATTHIAS WARD, LONG ISLAND ¹

Dear Sir:

Head-Quarters, New-York, March 8, 1776.

I write this letter to you in the utmost confidence of secrecy, and therefore no man but yourself is to see it. It is absolutely necessary to prevent the present communications between the ship *Phenix*, which lays off the west end of Long-Island, below the Narrows, and the people of that part of Long Island; but more especially to take or destroy a certain Frank James, a pilot, who now assists Captain Parker, commander of the *Phenix*, in decoying and taking vessels of great importance to the cause we are engaged in. There are some other pilots serving him in the same way, whose names I am not informed of, but are well known to the bearer, Mr. Christopher Duyckinck, who, with three or four other guides, will attend you for the purpose hereinafter mentioned.

I must desire you will pick out of your regiment two of the most alert officers, and two parties of about twenty men each, to be supplied with twenty rounds of ammunition, and three days' provision, and order them to proceed with the guides, to the place they will show them, to conceal themselves as much as possible from the people of the country, and to take such stations as are most proper for effecting the purposes above-mentioned; and to take and secure or destroy those pilots, or any persons belonging to the man-of-war. It will be best that the two parties march from your quarters to-morrow evening, a little before moon-rising, so that they may arrive at their station before daylight; and it will be absolutely necessary that the officers of each party consult with, and put the utmost confidence in, the guides assigned to them. When the parties have taken their stations, they, if possible, should prevent any boats from leaving without firing, or by any means alarming the man-of-war or the country; and the shortest way of effecting this will be, for single men about daylight to examine the shore, and with their hatchets to cut a hole or two in the bottom of all the small boats they find there, and to remove to some secret place the oars, paddles, or sails. You will see the necessity of this matter being con-

ducted with secrecy, and alertness, and I doubt not you will choose your men accordingly.

I am [&c.]

Stirling.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 131.

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON TO CHARLES CARROLL, SR.¹

[Extract]

Dr Papa

[Philadelphia] Friday morning. 8th March 1776

... If we take Quebec, of wh we have hopes: I think it will not be very difficult to draw the Canadians into the union on certain terms: I am sure it is their interest to unite with us, and The Congress is disposed to make it their interest and to convince them of this disposition. . . .

By General Washington's last letter to Congress dated 26th Febry he seems to be of opinion that Howe is preparing to evacuate Boston & to shift the scene of war: they have removed two mortars from Bunkers hill & have shipped several pieces of ordnance & baking large quantities of biscuit & getting ready the transports & men of war, as if a voyage was intended - Washington writes he shall dispatch the light troops as soon as the enemy quits Boston & will follow himself with the rest of the army to N. York where he conjectures they will attempt to land & take possession of that city. I do not think they will entirely abandon Boston: they will probably keep in it a garrison sufficient for its protection, & with the rest of the troops endeavour to gain N. York & wait there the arrival of more forces from Europe. . . I suspect, as Clinton is arrived in Virga, a vessel of war will be sent to Baltimore or to Annapolis - . . .

1. Carroll Papers, MdHS.

JOSIAH BARTLETT TO JOHN LANGDON¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia March 8th 1776.

I have just now procured the dimensions of masts yards &c which I enclose to you. The length and bigness of cables and weight of anchors is not determined on but hope to bring it with me in the few days. Yours of the 26th ult is now come to hand enclosing a sketch of the harbor of Portsmouth for which I thank you. . . .

P.S. I have sent the 15,000 dollars to the care of Mr. Thomas Cushing.

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

In Committee of Safety

[Philadelphia] 8th March, 1776

It being represented by the Commodore that Pilot Boats can be employed to more advantage in sounding the Channel at Reedy point, than the

Armed Boats, and that he can employ skilful persons to effect that service without sending any of the Officers of the Boats; it is

Resolved, That the Commodore hire pilot Boats, and employ such skilful and trusty persons to do that business, as he shall judge proper, & send them down immediately.

The Congress sent the following Resolves to this City, Viz't:

In Congress, 23rd Feb'y, 1776.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to Return to the Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania, the arms borrowed of them for the use of the Continent.

In Congress, 6th March, 1776.

Resolved, That the Secret committee be directed to return to the Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania, the powder borrowed of them.

Extract from the Minutes.

Sign'd Charles Thomson, Sec'y.

Resolved, That Mr. Robert Towers, Commissary, apply to the Secret Committee of Congress for the powder & arms mention'd in the above Resolves.

Upon application of Mr. Robert Morris for the payment of sundry merchandize ship'd by the Committee for importing Powder, arms, &ca., for the use of this Province, on board the Brig't *Dolphin*, Jno. Prole, M'r, By order of the Board, an order was drawn on Mr. Jno. Nixon and others, the Committee of accounts, for £2038 3 7½, in favour of Robert Morris, Esq'r., being the amount of the Invoice of said Goods.

Adjourned to 6 O'Clock.

The Secret Committee of Congress having applied to this Board to lend the arms intended by Congress, to replace those lent sometime past, did after deliberation,

Resolve, That the Secret Committee be inform'd, that the season of the year is now arriv'd when all our Vessels for the defence of the River should take their stations, and they are greatly unprovided with arms; the association in a deplorable situation from the like cause, and the province in general extremely stripp'd of arms, to supply the Neighboring Colonies; that these are the principal Reasons that influence the determination of this Board, and such as they hope will be allowed to have weight with the Secret Committee.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 507-09.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee Thursday 8 March 1776 -

Resolved, that the Schooner *Resolution* be fitted out as a Tender for the Ship *Defence* on the present Emergency, and that Capt William Waud be Captain, Capt Thomas Moore 1st Lieutenant, Capt George Wise 2d

Lieutenant, & Capt William Paddison Master – Messrs Robert Purviance, George Woolsey, & David Stewart be directed to carry this Resolve into immediate Execution – ²

1. Baltimore Committee, L.C.

2. In the Maryland State Archives is a "full estimate of the *Defences Tender*." It tabulates the estimate as follows:

First Cost of the Hull	£150
Carpenters Bill in preparing do	25
Rigging, Cables, and Anchors	50
Combose Smiths Bill	16
Sails &ca	90
Painter and Joiners Bill	10
	<hr/>
	£341

RECEIPTS RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

[Baltimore]

Recd 8th March 1776 of Captain James Nicholson Fifty four Shillings for nine days work of one able rigger at Six Shillings p day, recd the above for James Galloway by

Mary X Galloway
[mark]

£2.14

1. *Account Book, Ship Defence Papers*, MdHS.

BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Baltimore 1 o'Clock Friday] Morng [March 8, 1776]

Gentlemen. We are much obliged for you information – We yesterday sent an Express to Phila to forward our Powder & small Arms, and also to the Head of Elk to prevent it coming down by Water. – Capt Nicolson's Guns are just now arrived, & alongside, & he will be in a very good posture of Defence by Sunrise tomorrow – We have hove up a Brest Work at Fells point near the Ship and shall get several Cannon mounted on it by 8 oClock – Major [Mordecai] Gist & the Regulars are all Marchd to Whetstone to intrench to night – The Militia are coming in. No Commissary is in Town to furnish Provisions, we have therefore directed some Beef & Bread to be provided. We have just got information that the Ship of War is at the Mouth of the River with her Tenders, the Ship came to an Anchor, but the Tenders kept under Sail. We fear Mr [Jonathan] Hudsons Ship will fall into their Hands as she is aground near North Point, three Vessells went to lighten her, but seeing the War Vessels they woud not stay. We want money & hope you will send us immediately what you may think adequate to the present occasion – We shall take every measure we think necessary for our preservation And are Gentsn [&c.]

Sam^l Purviance Junr Chairn
Jn^o Cockey
Will^m Aisquith

Wil^m Lux
John Moale
And Buchanan
W^m Buchanan

[P.S.] Mr Usher just now a[r]rived from the H[ea]d of [Elk & brings] us advice of 36 Bls powder & 12 Chests of Arms being arrivd there & being put on board a Pilot Boat wh we sent off Express yesterday, & who had our Orders to run into Gunpowder or Back River in Case any Appearance of Danger, We are Gentl Yours &c

Sam^l Purviance Junr

I. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER¹

[Baltimore, March 8, 1776]

Dear Sir:

I did not know until I had finished the Inclosed that the Bearer did not intend to call on Mr. [Charles] Carroll as that Letter represents our present Situation I thout it as well it should go forwd to you. I hope in God by tomorrow Night to furnish you a good accot of the Tenders & Hudsons Ship, & that the issue of this affair will reflect some little Honour on the Spirit of Maryland.

At 3 oclock yestd our Militia Companies in Town were paraded at the Commee Room when at the very Inst a false allarm came from the Point that the Ship of War's Boats were standing up to cut off[f] some empty Vesls we had collected & got ready to sink across the River at Whetstone in case the Ship should come up before we could get our Breast Works & the Ship Defence compleated. A deputn of the Comee were appointed to sit & give all orders before the Allarm spread, but such was the Ardor of the Militia that not a Man wd stay in Commee Room with me but Mr. [Thomas] Harrison; The Ardor & Spirit of our Inhabitants has convinced Me They will behave bravely. I never was better pleased than at their Conduct on the Allarm,

I am convinced we shall in a very short time have our Town in a very respectable State of Defence, & that will be convinced tht care of us will not be thrown away in our [case]. I never saw the Barrister² in better Spirits than yesterday, He was immediately at the Point on the Allarm being spread – Capt Saml Smiths whole Company as I believe are gone Volunteers on board [Captain James] Nicholson³ & many others wd have gone had he Room or Service for them – By a Proposal wh our Commee offered betwn 3 & 4 oClock yestd of giving 8 Dolrs p week for Two Weeks to any brave Sailors who wd Instantly go on board we in less than half an hour got near a Dozen brave Fellows & several Masters of Ships to go on board & in half an hour after had the Ship under way. – And several others offer to go in the Schr. I found this bold Stroke absolutely necessary as the Ship was really poorly off for Sailors & the Capt seemed to have no great dependce on his Marines – Your Letter with the Thousd Pounds by Capt Hyde I recd before Sunset. – I hope you will be perfectly easy abt yr Safety at Annapolis. Im certain Nicholson will at least give the *Otter* a Convoy past yr port. – For Gods sake let not the Contts of My Letter to the Barrister be made too pub-

lic, lest any Intelligence should be conveyed to Capt. Squire ⁴ to apprize him of our designs.

I am Dr Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Purviance Junr

1. Red Book, XXIV, Md. Arch. Purviance was chairman of the Baltimore Committee. Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer was chairman of the Maryland Council of Safety.
2. Charles Carroll.
3. Commander of the Maryland ship *Defence*.
4. Commander of H.M. Sloop *Otter*.

CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER, TO COLONEL THOMAS DORSEY ¹

Sir I left the Council of Safety yesterday in the afternoon after the man of war & her Tenders had passed the mouth of our River, if any place is in Danger of an immediate attack I think it will be the Town of Baltimore and on talking with their Committee of observation I find they have men enough but they are very badly armed I think therefore it will be proper that you march your Battalion or all the companies of men in it that have serviceable arms with all expedition to this Town, unless you have express directions from the Council of Safety to go with your Battalion to some other place they will confirm this order of mine I am &c.

Balto Town March 8th 1776.

C. C.

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

CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER, TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Baltimore Town March 8th 1776

There was an immediate want of a surgeon for the ship *Defence*, neither the Surgeon we had thought of or his Mate being here, I therefore directed Doctr [Frederick] Weisenthal to appoint Mr [John] Coulter or some other, and to get all the lint Bandage &c he could, for the payment of which he should have an order —

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

DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER TO CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER ¹

[No 44]. Annapolis Ten oclock at Night Friday [March 8, 1776]

My dear Barrister:

Mr Eddis is this moment returned from the *Otter* sloop of War and brought a letter from Capt Squire to the Governor, a copy of it I send you. As I expected So it has turned out that the man of war was detained threë or four hours and in all probability will not be before Baltimore Town 'till seven or eight oclock in the morning. I therefore send you this express to apprize you and the Committee of Balt Town that the *Otter* has 18 guns, one of the Tenders six guns and 4 swivels and the other armed with swivels only. The Capt is to send a flag in to demand the ship *Defence*. I wish with all my heart our stores were out and the ship at the bottom of the

sea. Eddis left the man of war at 4 oclock, about which time Hudson's ship was taken. The Committee of Balt Town being apprized of these particulars will take their measures accordingly. Squire behaved politely to Middleton when in distress and was he to come here in peaceable times I should be glad to shew him the Civility due to a gentleman but I think he will have better luck than I expect he will meet with if he purchases much provision in Annapolis. The Vessel burnt off the Mouth of Severn Squire says was done without order and done by an inconsiderate midshipman. She was worth but little and had only two barrels of Flour in her I believe.

Sir.

We inclose you an order for Capt [George] Stricker's Company to march down to Baltimore Town instead of coming to Annapolis if you think it necessary. When the man of war leaves Balt Town and Comes down this way you will be pleased to order them to Annapolis. Nothing new has happened since writing you last night. Stricker has already been ordered here your express may be directed to meet him.

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN J. PITT AND MR. J. MIDDLETON¹
In Council of Safety [Annapolis] – March 8. 1776. –

You are requested to keep a good Look out in the Bay near the Mouth of this River and see that no Vessell pass out of the harbour or from below towards the Mouth of Potapsco unless they have Licence so to do from the Council of Safety. –

1. Executive Papers, Box 6, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE CALVERT COUNTY COMMITTEE
OF OBSERVATION¹

No 37.

Gentn We approve very highly your Conduct and the spirited Behaviour of the Militia – The Man of War and Tenders are past this Harbour and we apprehend are bound to Baltimore, but as there is no determining precisely their Destination, and as possibly they may return more speedily, than we imagine, and attempt a Landing in your County, we recommend it to you to keep up a constant Guard to watch your Coast – We thank you for your Information relative to a Place for the Station of the Troops for your County and request you will immediately provide the Houses at Drum Point, or so many of them, as may be necessary for the said Troops, as we have ordered their Station there.

[Annapolis] March 8th 1776.

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

CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE, R.N., TO GOVERNOR ROBERT EDEN ¹

Sir

Otter Sloop Chesapeake Bay 8 March 76.

I have just now recd Yours of this date & have by Mr Eddis sent some Pamphlets I reced for you my intention on my return was to have called at Annapolis & sent them on shore by a Flag of Truce as well as to Purchase fresh Provisions - I am sorry to find by your Letter that the People of Annapolis Should be under any Apprehensions from their Town being burnt or beat down, I must beg Leave to assure you Nothing of that Kind will happen from Me; I am on a Cruize here in Order to procure fresh Provisions for the Kings Ships, and when ever I can be supplied with it shall most readily pay the Market Price I expect being at Annapolis in a few Days - I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

M^r Squire

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.

JOHN A. THOMAS TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Leonard Town 8th March 1776.

Gent. On Tuesday last [March 5] in the afternoon I received advice that three armed vessels were in and near the mouth of Patuxent, that one of them had taken a vessel laden with Flour bound to Casco Bay - On the above notice (as soon as it was possible) We marched down to the mouth of Patuxent but before we could do any thing we were obliged to borrow all the arms from one Company of the militia and those but very indifferent indeed so bad that twould be cruel to set men to work with them the company from whom I borrowed the arms are at this moment in the greatest want of them, as we have certain intelligence of a man of War a large armed sloop being at this time riding in Potomac.

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

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1776

Williamsburg, March 8.

We have intelligence that the jail distemper rages with great violence on board lord Dunmore's fleet, particularly among the negro forces, upwards of 150 of whom, it is positively affirmed, have died within a short time, and who, as fast as they expire, are tumbled into the deep, to regale the sharks, which it seems swarm thereabouts, and no doubt keep as sharp a look-out for all such sorts of provision, as the land animals do for fresh pork, good mutton, poultry, &c.

Twelve deserters have come into Suffolk within these few days, from the fleet at Norfolk, viz. a serjeant and corporal, with five marines, and five common sailors, who all confirm the miserable situation of the people on board, occasioned by the jail fever breaking out among them; and one of the marines declared, that he firmly believed his captain would come on shore likewise, had he a good opportunity. ¹

Last Tuesday se'nnight [February 27] capt. William Deane (some time ago sent prisoner to Boston by lord Dunmore, but retaken by capt. Manly of the *Lee* privateer) had the misfortune to have his vessel seized, the sloop *John*, from Cape Anne, about six miles below York, by one of the ministerial tenders. She was loaded with 3000 bushels of salt, 1000 wt. of raisins, 500 do. of chocolate, a few boxes of lemons and candles, &c.&c. The captain, with his people, escaped in their boat; and, had it not been calm, and the tide against him, he would have saved his vessel likewise.

We have undoubted intelligence, that 60 tuns of saltpetre, 15 tuns of gunpowder, and 1300 stand of arms, are lately landed at Philadelphia, and more daily expected.

1. These deserters came mostly from the *Liverpool*. The journal records: "Feby 19 A M sent the marines on shore to Guard the Intrenchments . . . return'd the marines onbord with one man short who Deserted with his Arms &c," February 28, "sent the marines on Shore . . . Return'd the marines 3 men short who deserted to the Rebels with their Arms &c," March 1, "sent the marines on shore . . . retd the marines six men short, which deserted to the Rebels 3d of whom took their Arms." PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME,
H.M.S. *Kingfisher* ¹

You are hereby required and directed to put to Sea without a moments loss of time in his Majesty's Sloop under your command and proceed with all possible expedition to Boston, where you are to deliver the enclosed Packet to Rear Admiral Shuldhham or the commanding officer of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels there, waiting his orders for your further proceedings.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck*
Hampton Road in Virginia the 8 Mar 1776

A S Hamond

1. Hamond, Orders issued, UVL.

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

March 1776 Cape Fear S63°W 7 Leags.
Frydy. 8 at 6 AM gave Chace to a Sail in the S E Qr from George
Town to Salem without any papers
at 10 Brot too the Chace the Sloop *Adventure* ² loadd with
Rice Indigo Dear Skins & Indian Corn the masters name
Francis Boardman ³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.
2. The *Adventure*, owned by Boardman and William McKane, was sent into Cape Fear, Shuldhham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
3. From the Journal of Francis Boardman:

Memorandum of A Journal on Board the Sloop *Adventure* my Self Master Bound to George Town in South Carolina Monday January the 1th 1776 a 7 in the Eavening Saild from Mr. Bickford warft in Beverly with a fine gail of wind at NW & Clear weather Arived Safe at George Town in 29 Days our Pasage Atended with Cont[r]ary winds & hard gails of Do one thing Remarkible on the Passage we Came athaut thousands of fish Diferent kinds Lie Dead on the water in the Eage of the gulf Stream allso Lost our Small Anchoar in Coming to Anchoar off[f] North Island wich makes one part of the River Winyaw In George Town we Loded with 260

Cask of Rice Contaning 70 [t]ones Nt Rice & about 1500 lb wt of Indico Dear Skins & [&c] we Sailed the 6 of March at 8 in the morning In Company with Capt Richard Magery of Salem & Morrow of Providence the 8 of Do unhap[pi]ly was taken by the *Falcon* Sloop of war *Siron* Frigat in Site ware I Received aroud Treatment from that Damnd Raskel John Linzey Capt of the *Falcon*.

EI.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN JOINER, BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA ¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] 8th March 1776.

... the Council of Safety request you to engage Dr Blake to build Such A Boat as you have given the dimensions of, agree with him for a price & Superintend the work from beginning to end & a proper Commission will be allowed for your trouble as is customary in Such cases, make such improvements upon Capt [Thomas] Buckle's model as you Shall judge proper - from time to time draw on the Council of Safety for Money & your Bills shall be paid. -

By order of the Council of Safety -

I. Henry Laurens Letter Book, No. 10, SCHS.

South-Carolina and American General Gazette, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 TO FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1776

Charlestown, March 8.

On Sunday [March 3] a Detachment of 120 Men of the Charlestown Volunteer Companies set out for Savannah.

We hear from Savannah, that two armed Schooners and a Sloop had got above the Town through Back River, and had taken a Brigantine and Schooner lying there; that the *Syren* was arrived in the River; and that some large Vessels were in the Offing; that the Troops, said to be about 500 or 600, were in Transports near the Town; that it was expected they would attempt to land, to prevent which upwards of 1000 Georgia and Carolina Militia men were in Savannah; and that there is too great Reason to fear there will be much Bloodshed.

The Troops are said to be the 40th Regiment, and a Detachment of Marines: Majors [James] Grant and [John] Maitland are among them, also Capt. Pitcairn.

COLONEL LACHLAN MCINTOSH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir, I did myself the Honor to write to your Excely the 16th ulto which for want of Conveyance lyes here. Still, as our Continental Post is not well regulated this Length yet. - It is hardly worth troubling you with any Report of our Battalion, as I have heard from very few of our Recruiting Officers, - & we have only between 20. & 30 Men of them in Town. - but the Transactions here since that Time may deserve some Notice. - The Men of Warr at Tybee, tho' still giving out they had no Hostile Intentions against this Colony, were encouraging our slaves to Desert to them, Pilfering our Sea Islands for Provision, & our Governor broke his Parole of Honor & went privately in the Night with his Family aboard the *Scarborough* Capt. [Andrew]

Barkley, which gave us every reason to expect they Meant to Land at or near the Town, destroy it, & carry off about twenty Sail of shiping Lying in the River, - having among other Articles near 3000. Tierces of Rice on board. - between 3 & 400 of our Militia & 100 from So Carolina were all that could be got to defend an open, Stragglng, defenseless & deserted Town, with Numberless Avenues Leading to it, and those Men under no Controul or Command whatsoever. and to add to the Anxiety & Confusion we were in, our Council of Safety had not Met for some time having differed about the Meaning of a Resolve of the Continental Congress respecting the Ships Sailing the 1st of March.

In this desperate State of Affairs I Ventured to take the Command of the Militia-least the Colony should be tamely given up, tho', I must acknowledge with some reluctance - and after examining very paticularly as I was unacquainted around the Town, I placed Gaurds every where the Enemy could Land, & Am[b]ushes in the different Roads Leading to it which made the Duty very Severe & reduced our Number in Town greatly. - In the mean time the *Cherokee*, the two Transports, the Armed Vessels & Boats came up the River within 2½ Miles of Town, near where we Sunk a Hulk in the Channel of the River, & opposite to Brewton's Plantation where I placed a Detachment of 150 Men under the Command of Col. [Archibald] Bullock, expecting they woud attempt to Land there. - The Enemy were parading with their Boats for Several Days within Gunshot of our Centinels, who tho' they were ordered not to fire unless they were fired upon first, or they attempted to Lan[d,] gave them Several shot, but were not returned. -

Our Council of Safety were got together & resolved th[e] Shiping should not Sail, & ordered they should be unrigged. - The Evening of the 2d of March One of the Transport ships, the Schooner *Hinchinbrook* & Sloop *St. John* of 8. or 10. Guns each, with some B[oa]ts, Sailed in our Sight, up the North River, back of Hutchinson's Island Lying opposite to the Town of Savannah, but so far off that a Little Battery we had below the Town which played upon them could do no damage to them. - expecting the Enemy intended coming round Hutchinson's Island, & down the south side of [it] to make their Landing good at Yamacraw (a Village 3, or 400, [yards] above the Town) I had 3. four pounders carryed there, a Little Battery ertected in haste, & threw up Intrenchments. - & withdrew part of the Guard at Brewtons, without Weakening it too m[uch,] or withdrawing any of our Am-bushes on that side, Least it might be a feint to deceive us. - About the Middle of the same Night (as we were afterwards informed) The Commodore Barkley, & Majors [James] Grant & [John] Maitland with about 300. Men as it was Said, Landed on the back of Hutchinson's Island with some Howitzers & Field Pieces, and with the assistance & contrivance of all our own Sea faring People & many from the Town crossed the Island & hid themselves aboard of our Merchant Ships, which were previously Halled close to the Island, a little above our Battery at Yamacraw for that Purpose. - early on Sunday the 3d the two Armed Vessels intending to Cover the Enemy's Landing had come round the Island, & coming down on the South Side were at-

tacked by parties of Riflers ordered for that purpose, & kept Smartly Engaged on both Sides most of the Day, untill they lost the Tide & got aground.—while two Sailors (Americans) at the risq[ue] of their Lives Stole ashore & informed me, the Enëmy were hid on board our Mercht Men, & had taken Jos: Rice prisoner, who was employed to unrig them that Morning to confirm this inteligence, Messs [Raymond] Deméré & [Daniel] Roberts were ordered to go only along Side the Vessels, & without Arms to demand our fellow Citizen Mr Rice, but to our astonishment they were also forced on board & kept, which convinced us our information was true, & immediately our Little Battery of three Guns began to play upon them, which they returned and was continued very smartly with Ball, Langrage & Small Arms from both Sides for Several Hours.— Our Men were inflamed, particularly at our own People who had treacherously Joined the Enëmy against us, & were eager to board them, but we had neither Boats, Sailors or Arms proper for the Attempt, & the Oars of the few Boats we had were previously stole away. — The general cry then was, to Sett all the shiping on fire, in attempting of which many of our People shewed great Resolution & Bravery, but unfortunately the first ship Set afire (Valued at £20,000 Sterg) was so Large that she grounded before she got up to the others. — afterwards a Sloop was fired, which burnt two others, while the rest were cutting away, amidst the shot of our Riflers & Langrage & slipping higher up the River, & out of our Reach with the last of the flood in the Mean time many of the Soldiers hastily Landed on the Island in great confusion, running in the Marsh in a Laughable Manner, for fear of our Riflers tho' far past their reach, untill they got aboard of a Tire [tier] of ships higher up the River, & out of the Reach of our Guns, near the Armed Vessels. — in this manner Ten Sail of our Vessels went along with the Enemy round the upper End of the Island, a Channel never known before, with Sixteen [illegible] hundred barrels of Rice, with the Utmost anxiety & fear. — after being foiled in their scheme upon the Town, the Commodore & Majors eagerly & repeatedly Solicited a Cessation of Hosilitys, for which they [prom]ised immediately to repair to Tybee & not molest us again, which was at Length Granted them with seeming dificulty, tho' the truth was, we had [no] Means of annoying them by Water. — the rest of [the] shipping we halled close to the Wharfs, — confined [some] of their Captains for acting against us, with our [Chief] Justice & Some Councilors, untill they released [our] fellow Citizens, Deméré, Roberts, & Rice, & Sent [them] up from Tybee, where our Enemys are all now [gone.—] whether, they intend to try us again or not, I am [not] able to inform your Excely. — in this, I think they rather lost, than gained any reputation, and have done us great Honour, by being the Second Province on the Continent which they attacked, and were Shamefully Foiled. — we had in all our different Engagements but two white Men & one Indian wounded slightly. — they must have many, both killed & Wounded, tho' they ackn[owledge] but Six. — Several were seen to fall. — I have the Honour to be your Excely's [&c.]

Lachⁿ McIntosh

Savannah in Georgia March 8t: 1776

The ships of warr have taken all the Rice, 1600 Barr[s] out of the Merchant Men that so treacherously went down with them, & put it aboard their two Transport ships, without paying a farthing for it. – they claim 1/8th for “wresting them out of the Hands of the Rebels” as the Commodor’s Certificate expresses it. – but I doubt they will keep the other 7/8ths also.

His Excely George Washington Esqr Captn General & Commander in Chief [of all] the Continental Forces in America

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH ¹

March 1776 River Savanah Georgia

[Wednesday] 6 at 9 AM got up the lower Yards & topgallant masts, a boat came from town & brought Intelligence of Sevrall of the Rebels being taken fresh breezes & Clear

[Thursday] 7 at 9 AM loosed Sails to dry &c People employ’d in overhauling the Rigging and Watering the Ship Light breezes & Clear Wtr Carpenters Employ’d shifting some pieces in the main Deck.

[Friday] 8 Returnd on board Lieut Peyton and some of the people do Wth Carpenters Employ’d Caulking & finishing the work People Employ’d picking of Oakham P M returnd on board our Surgeons Mate with Thos Laremore Seamen who was shot in the thigh by the Rebels

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

A Copy of a Letter to Admiral Shuldham from on board His Majesty’s Schooner *Saint John* off St Augustine Barr dated 8th Mar 1776

Sir I have the honour to acquaint you, that His Majesty’s Schooner under my Command Arrived here this day after three days passage from New Providence, and that on Sunday last the 3rd instant, Arrived at that place Eight Sail of North American Vessels, Vizt 2 Ships 2 Brigs, 3 Sloops and 1 Schooner with an Armament, and Landed about (500 Men) that day and took possession of Fort Montagu without Opposition – I have brought off a Sloop with the Powder, and past their Fleet in the Night. I left the Governor and council in Fort Nassaw, and all Ranks of people in great distress, and I am afraid some of the Providence people are not to be depended upon – 2 Ships, and 2 Brigs lyes without the Barr, and may (I presume) be easily attacked taken or destroyed, by any two Frigates, or 20 Gun Ships of His Majesty’s – I was much hurried all that day in transporting the Schooner

from place to place, for the Good of the Service and Safety of the Province, and had no communication with the Shore only with the Governor and council – As things were thus circumstanced when I left Providence, I think it my duty to give you the earliest intelligence of that Event. I have also by the packet which is now getting under Sail, Wrote the commanding Officer at Georgia and South Carolina, and acquainted them with every circumstance I could learn or recollect According to the best of my Judgement: And I am positive the whole Rebel Fleet and Armament will fall a sacrifice if attacked I cannot be more explicit on the subject as the Vessel is under sail – I have got some of the Powder on board and am going over the Barr of Saint Augustine We are also in some distress having come away uncompleted in the Schooners Repairs, Stores, Provisions &c which we were obliged to Leave behind – I have the honor to be with respect &ca

W^m Grant

Adml Shuldham or the Commander in Chief at Boston

I. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 51c.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N.

Sir

This moment I have received the inclosed, from Lieutenant Grant of His Majesty's Schooner *St John*. –

Are you Sir, confined by the Service you are now employed on, so as to prevent, your undertaking proper measures to destroy this rebel Squadron? ² or does, the orders you are under, permit you to take such a step? –

I am sorry Lieut Grant has not been particular, as to the force of each of the Rebel Ships.

He shall be brought into this Harbour as soon as possible, the Pilot is on board of him; & a launch going to him. –

When the Gunpowder is taken out of the *St John* Schooner, he shall be prepared with all dispatch, to fall down close to the Bar, ready to push over it. –

I mention this, in case you shou'd undertake to go after this Squadron, which by Grant, may be expected on this Coast, that, he may be ready to go out and Join your Ships, If you shou'd think proper to pass along within view of this Port, and by makeing a Signal, he shall go out to you. –

I have this Instant finished my dispatches to go by the Packet, that arrived the day before yesterday from England, she will sail directly for Savannah River, I have desired him to make all possible haste to you. –

It may be necessary also, that you pass this way, in order, to know, if we have been able to procure further intelligence of these Rebels, as they may avoid you by slipping into some of our Rivers, & Lt Grant may be able, to be more particular in his information. –

I apprehend these rebel Vessels, may be come from South Carolina. –

I hope the Vessels I sent to you are got safe, and that they have been of use. – I am, with great truth, Sir, [&c.]

Pat^k Tonyn.³

St Augustine 8th March 1776.

3.o'Clock in the morning. –

Copy

1. Clinton Papers, CL.
2. The Continental fleet which had captured New Providence Island in the Bahamas.
3. Tonyn sent a copy of this letter and the one received from Lieutenant William Grant, H.M. Schooner *St. John*, to Lord Germain this date, PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 435, 438.

9 Mar.

LETTER OF AGENCY OF CAPTAIN AND OFFICERS OF H.M. SLOOP *Senegal*¹

No 16 Know all Men by these Presents that we the undermention'd as well for ourselves as for the rest of the Ships Company belonging to his Majestys Ship *Senegal* have Constituted Ordain'd & made and in our stead and place put and by these Présents do Constitute Ordain and make and in our stead and place put Alexandr Thompson Agent to the Contractors for the Victualling his Majestys Ships at Halifax Nova Scotia to be our true sufficient & lawfull Attorney for us and in our Name and stead and to our use to ask Demand, levy require recover and receive of and from all and every Person or Persons whomsoever the same shall or may concern all and Singular Sum and Sums of money Debts Goods wares merchandize Effects and things whatsoever and whersoever they shall and may be found due owing payable belonging and comeing unto us Constituent by any ways any means whatsoever respecting seizures made & sent to the Port of Halifax by his Majestys Sloop *Senegal* Giving and hereby Granting unto our said Attorney our full and whole strength Power and authority in and about the Premisses & to take and use all due means Cource and Process in the Law for the Obtaining and of recovering the same and of recoveries and Receipts thereof in our Name to make Seal and execute due Acquittance and Discharge and for the premisses to appear & the Person of our Constituent to represent before any Governour Judges Justices Officers and Ministers of the Law whatsoever in any Court or Courts of Judication and there on our behalf to answer Defend and reply unto all Actions Causes matters and things whatsoever relating to the premisses & So to submitt any matter in Dispute to Arbitration or otherwise with full Power to make and substitute one or more Attornies under our said Attorney and the same again at pleasure to revoke and generally to say, do, act, transact determine accomplish & finish all matters and things whatsoever relating to the premisses as fully amply & effectually to all intents and purposes as our said Constituent if present ought or might, although the matter should require more special authority than herein Comprisd our said Constituent rectifying allowing & holding firm and valid all and whatsoever our said Attorney or His Substitutes shall lawfully do or cause to be done in and about the premisses by Virtue of these Presents In

Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and Seals the ninth Day of March Anno Domini 1776 & in the 16th year of his Majestys Reign –

Sign'd Seal'd & deliver'd in presence of John Bayley John Dawson	W Duddingstone John Jump Geo. Rutherford	Walter Urquhart D. Innes
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[Endorsed] Receiv'd & Registred 3d Octobr 1776 –

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

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Senegal*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON¹

March 1776 [Off Liverpool, Nova Scotia]

Saturday 9 AM took a Brigg from Dominica with Malassus &c Moor'd the Brigg²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

2. According to the journal of the *Senegal*, the prize brig was sent to Halifax on March 14. She was the *Mermaid*, David Bray, master, William Freeman, owner, from Dominica for Liverpool with molasses, rum, flour and coffee, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Condemned as lawful prize June 18. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 358–69, N.S. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Exeter] Saturday, March 9, 1776.

Voted To choose a committee of this House to join a Committee of the Honble Board to confer, & consult about the Best method to secure the Powder Vessels expected soon on this Coast & to report thereon to this House as soon as may be, and that Capt. [Pierce] Long, Mr. [Samuel] Sherburne & Ichabod Rawlins, Esqr be the Committee for that purpose.

Which Committee, being joined by a Committee from the Board, viz., The Committee appointed to Devise ways and means for the security of the expected Powder Vessels, beg leave to make the following Report:

That it is advisable to send a small vessell to all the Eastern Ports to give them intelligence that two of the Enemy's Privateers are hovering about our Harbour, which we have reason to apprehend are cruising after our Powder vessels now expected; and beg them to apprise the Captains thereof, if they should go into their Ports; Likewise that a Committee be appointed to Look out for a suitable vessel to fix as a Privateer to be employed to cruise after our Enemies, and to make an Estimate of the costs and make return of their doings as soon as may be. (Signed.)

Nath^l Folsom, Chairman.

Voted To choose a Committee to look out for a proper vessel of war to guard our Coast and make an estimate of the cost & expence of such vessel, & to confer with the Captains of the Privateers now in Piscataqua Harbour

about taking the armed vessells now hovering on this Coast, and also to Dispatch a small vessell (if they think necessary) to the Eastward to acquaint the People there of the said armed vessells, and make report as soon as may be, and that Mr. [Samuel] Cutts, Capt. Long & Mr. Sherburne be the Committee for that purpose.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 82, 83.

COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF AMERICAN FORCES, NEW YORK ¹

Sir

Cambridge 9th March 1776

I have it in Command from his Excellency General Washington to Informe you that in Consequence Of his Determination to possess himself of the Height at Dorchester a Cannonade and Bumbardment was begun on Saturday Night Last on the town of Boston Continued on Sunday Night and on Monday Night a Vast Number of Shot & Shells were thrown into that town Under the Cover of Which the intended purpose was Effected on the Enemy perceiving Next Morning that we had taken post they were all Hurry and Bustle Imbarking their troops as was expected & wish'd for, to attack us but the violent Storm, which came on that day prevented them & disappointed us, who were prepared to give them a warm reception, the possession of these heights are preparatory to our forming a Fort upon Nooks hill which commands the South of Boston & to which their Shipping will be much exposed, this they seem to be well aware of, & are now making every preparation for moving off. —

Captain Erwin escaped from Town the Night before last assured us that this is their intention it is corroborated by a Message from the Select Men in that Town, to His Excellency, a Copy of which You have inclosed. —

These informations will not prevent the General from Proceeding in his advances to the Town, so that if they do not move off[f], he is determined to force them to a Battle or make that Town, so hot, that they will have but little rest therein. —

His Excellency has good reason to imagine that New York will be the place of their destination, he therefore desires that You will exert Yourself to the utmost in preparing for their reception, he has ordered, the Armed Schooners to be in readiness. to attend their Motions & give the earliest intelligence of the Course they steer by which Intelligence his Motions will be governed if they Steer West, You may expect a large reinforcement from this Army, & in all probability the main body will soon follow. You will please to communicate this to the provincial Congress or Convention, Who the General doubts not, will cooperate with You in using every endeavour to prevent their forming a lodgment, before his Excellency can come or send to Your Assistance — the fate of America depends upon this Campaign, & the

Success of this Campaign will a good deal depend upon Your exerting Yourself[f] with Vigour upon this occasion. –

I have the honor to be Sir [&c.]

Stephen Moylan A.d.C.²

1. Emmet Autograph Collection, NYPL.

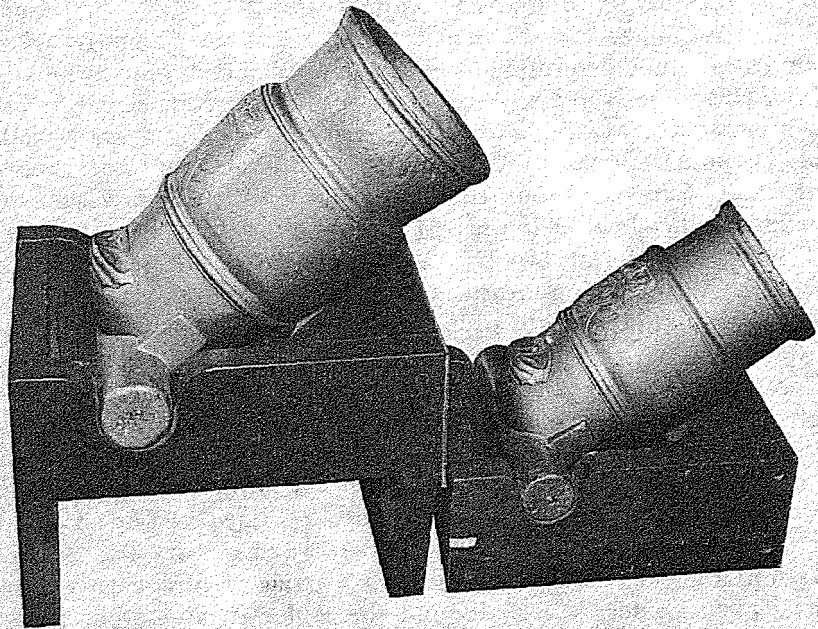
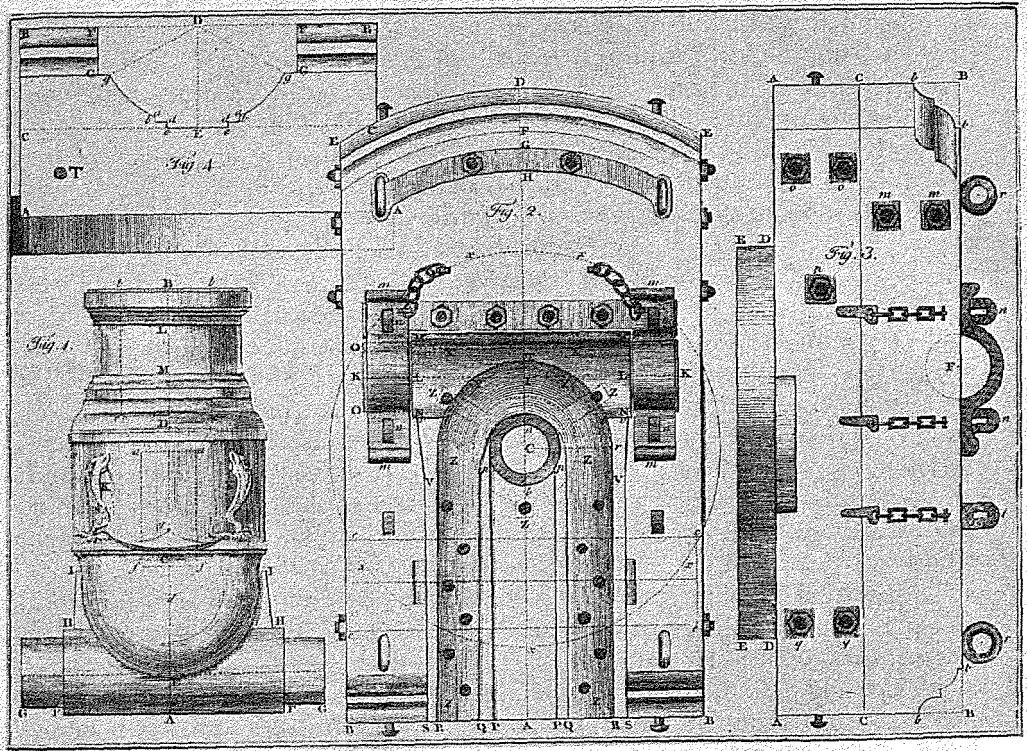
2. A similar letter was sent to the president of the New Hampshire Assembly. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 85, 86.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

[Cambridge] March 9

Yesterday evening a Captain Irvine who escaped from Boston the night before with Six of his Crew, came to Head Quarters and gave the following Intelligence – “That our Bombardment and Cannonade caused a good deal of Surprize and alarm in Town, as many of the Soldiery said they never heard or thought we had Mortars or Shells: – That several of the officers acknowledged they were well and properly directed – That they made much distress and confusion – That the Cannon Shot for the greatest part went thro’ the Houses, and he was told, that one took off[f] the Legs and Arms of Six men lying in the Barracks on the Neck – That a Soldier who came from the Lines there on Tuesday morning Informed him that 20 men had been wounded the night before – It was reported that Others were also hurt, and one of the light Horse torn to pieces by the explosion of a Shell – This was afterwards contradicted: – That early on Tuesday morning Adml Shuldham discovering the works our people were throwing up on Dorchester Heights, immediately sent an Express to General Howe to inform him, and that It was necessary they should be attacked and dislodged from thence, or he wou’d be under the necessity of withdrawing the Ships from the Harbour, which were under his command: – That preparations were directly made for that purpose as It was said, and from Twelve to Two oClock about 3,000 men embarked on board the Transports which fell down to the Castle with a design of Landing on that part of Dorchester next to It, and Attacking the works on the Heights at 5 oClock next morning: That Lord [Hugh] Percy was appointed to command – That It was generally beleivd the attempt would have been made, had It not been for the violent Storm which happened that night as I have mentioned before – That he heard several of the Privates and one or two Serjeants say as they were embarking, that It would be another Bunker Hill affair – He further Informs that the Army is preparing to leave Boston and that they will do It in a day or two – That the Transports necessary for their embarkation were getting ready with the utmost expedition – That there had been great movements & confusion among the Troops the night & day precedg his coming out, in hurrying down their Cannon, Artillery & other Stores to the wharffs with the utmost precipitation, and were putting em on board the Ships in such haste that no Account or Memorandum was taken of them – That most of the Cannon were removed from their Works and embarked & embarkg – That he heard a woman say which he took to be an Officers wife, that she had seen men go under



(Top) Plan of a mortar and mortar bed, c. 1775. (Bottom) 24-pounder and 12-pounder cohorn mortars.

the ground at the lines on the neck without returning – That the Ship he commanded was taken up, places fitted & fitting for Officers to lodge, and Several Shot, Shells & Cannon already on board – That the Tories were to have the liberty of going where they please, If they can get Seamen to man the Vessells, of which there was a great scarcity – That on that account many Vessells cou'd not be carried away and wou'd be burnt – That many of the Inhabitants apprehended the Town would be destroy'd, And that It was generally thought their destination is Hallifax –

The Account given by Captn Irvine as to the embarkation & their being about to leave the Town I beleive true, there are other circumstances corroborating, & It seems fully confirmed by a paper signed by four of the Select men of the Town, a Copy of which I have the honour to Inclose you, which was brought out yesterday evening by a Flag and delivered to Colo [Ebenezer] Learned by Major Bassett of the 10th Regiment who desired It might be delivered me as soon as possible. – I advised with such of the General Officers upon the occasion as I cou'd be [*sic*] immediately Assemblè, and we determin'd It right, as It was not addressed to me or any one else, nor authenticated by the signature of Genl Howe or any other act obliging him to a performance of the promise mentioned on his part, that I shou'd give it no Answer, at the same time that a Letter shou'd be returned as going from Colo Learned signifying his having laid It before me with the reasons assigned for not answering It a copy of this is sent.

Tonight I shall have a Battery thrown up on Nuke Hill (Dorchester point) with a design of acting as circumstance may require – It being Judged advisable to prosecute our plans of Fortification as we Intended before this Information from the Select men came.

It being agreed on all hands, that there is no possibility of stopping them in case they determine to go, I shall order look outs to be kept upon all the Head Lands to discover their movements & course, and moreover direct Commodore Manly and his little Squadron to dog them as well for the same purpose, as for picking up any of their Vessels that may chance to depart their Convoy – From their loading with such precipitancy, It is presumable they'l not be in the best condition for Sea.

If the Ministerial Troops evacuate the Town and leave It standing, I have thoughts of taking measures for fortifying the Entrance into the Harbour, If it shall be thought proper and the situation of affairs will admit of It.

Notwithstanding the report from Boston that Hallifax is the place of their destination, I have no doubt but that they are going to the Southward of this, and I apprehend to New York – many reasons lead to this opinion; It is in some measure corroborated, by their sending an Express Ship there, which on Wednesday week got on shore & Bilged at Cape Cod – the dispatches if written, were destroy'd when she was boarded – she had a parcel of Coal and about 4,000 Cannon Shot, Six Carriage Guns, a swivel or two & 3 Barrells of Powder: –² I shall hold the Riflemen and other parts of our Troops in readiness to march at a moments warning, and Govern my move-

ments by the events that happen, or such orders as I may receive from Congress, which I beg may be ample and forwarded with all possible expedition.

On the 6 Instt a Ship bound from London with Stores for the Ministerial Army, consisting of Coal, Porter & Krout fell in with our armed Vessels, four of them in Company & was carried into Portsmouth—she had had a long passage & of course brought no papers of a late date—The only Letters of Importance or the least interesting that were found I have Inclosed. —³

[Endorsed] Read [in Congress] 15 March

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 512–16, NA. Continuation of letter of March 7.
2. The transport *Friendship*.
3. The ship *Susannah*, John Frazer, master.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAMBRIDGE, MARCH 9.”¹

Captain Manly has taken another transport, 400 tons burthen, laden with peas, potatoes, pork, sour grout, 10 packages of medicine, 6 carriage guns, 4 swivels, 3 barrels of powder, &c. and carried her into Newberry.²

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, March 18, 1776.
2. The ship *Susannah*, 500 tons, John Frazer, master, taken jointly by Washington's schooners *Hancock*, John Manley, and *Franklin*, Samuel Tucker. She was carried into Portsmouth, not Newburyport.

COLONEL EBENEZER LEARNED TO THOMAS & JONATHAN AMORY AND PETER JOHANNET¹

Sir,

Roxbury March 9th 1776.

Agreeably to a Promise made to you at the Lines yesterday, I waited upon his Excellency, Genl Washington and presented to him the Paper (handed to me by you) from the Select Men of Boston.

The Answer I received from him was to this Effect—“That as it was an unauthenticated Paper without an Address and not obligatory upon Genl Howe, he should take no Notice of it:” I am with Esteem & Respect [&c.]

Ebenezer Learned.

1. John Hancock Papers, III, 191, LC.

BERIAH NORTON TO JAMES OTIS¹

Edgartown March 9th 1776

To the honol James Otis Esqr to Be Com[m]unicated

These are to in form your honr that about five oClock In the morning of the Sixth of march Instant the Sloop *francis* william furnell Prisemaster was Shipracked on the South Side of the Island of Marthers Vinyard. Sd Sloop was taken By the Ship *Phenix* of the British Navy about the 13th of December Last as Sd Prisemaster Sath, and was the Property of william Lowther Esqr Merchant in New York & Bound for Boston By the way of Newport; the Salors Being taken in to Custody and also the Vessel

and Cargo the Captors forthwith made Information to me I went to the Rack and appointed major Doggett to take An Invent[o]ry of her Cargo which is as followeth about 50 hog[sheads] tobacco 190 Barrels terpertine 3 M & 1/2 Staves 24 half hides &C and the men ordered under gard of the Sea Co[a]st Men.

the Next morning there was Information in town that there was a transport Ship at Anchor Near Nantucket Shoales I Not Being in town my Self till the afternoon when I found there was about 37 men gone off[f] to Ingage the Ship, with a Small Sloop, about 23 of our men ware those of the Sea Co[a]st under Capt Benjn Smith the [rest] ware of the militia thay Ingaged hur and after a Smart Scurmey the Capt of the Ship Being Shot thru the [torn] thie Struck to our Yanke Sloop and are Brought in the old town harbour, the Capt is in a fare way of recovery hur Cargo is about 100 Charldren of Coll, 100 Butts of Porter, 30 hoges Sower Crout Puttators and Sundry outhier Artacals, the officers and Sea men are ordered to had Quor- ters By the Sea Co[a]st Capt under the Care of Second Lieutenant James Shaw I shall Not Inlarg Any farther on the Subject as I Expect to Be at Court within 15 Days I would Jest Remind your honor that the Resolve for Removeing the restraint of our trade hath Not Been Published to My Knowledge, And as we have Sufered By it alredy I Must humbly Beg your honor to have it Published as Soon as Posable Several Persons haveing Been abliged to unlode there Vessels Alredy that was Bound here On that Acct I have only to Say that the two Gentlemen the Prise Master abovesaid and Mr James Christie Passenge[r] on Bord the Ship have Behaved them Selves with honor while in this Town – from your honos [&c.]

Beriah Norton

N.B. these Certifie your honor that Capt Richerd Wellen a worthy gentleman Lately appointed Capt of the first Company of Militia in this Regiment had the Command in takeing the Ship as Master – Benjn Smith within Named As Capt But I Expect to Be Down Soon. Yours [&c.]

Beriah Norton

The Honol James Otis Esqr President of the Honol Council At Watertown

I. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 275, 275a, 275b.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO THOMAS DURFEE ¹

Providence March 9 1776

Mr Thos Durfey ²

Sir I recd a memorandum by Mr. Read for a number of Cannon & Swivels, our Furnace is now going & makeing Cannon but as we have a Contract in part made with our Govert tho not quite settled, for a number of Guns and expect to make for the ships building here, but some of the owners not at home, and not knowing how soon you must have your Guns, puts it out of our power at this present time absolutely to determine an answer for you, but woud have you give us the longest time you Can wait by

Reeds return on saturday next, by which time we expect to be able to let you know more fully abot it. Intram [&c.]

N Brown

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.
2. Thomas Durfee, of Freetown, Massachusetts, was one of the bonders for the brigantine *Rising Empire*, a vessel building for the colony. *Mass. Arch.*, vol. 139, 120.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1776

Providence, March 9.

Tuesday Night last, in a severe Gale of Wind, two Sloops and a Schooner, belonging to the ministerial Fleet, were drove ashore on Hope-Island; one of the Sloops, is entirely under Water, and the Schooner dismasted - A Sloop of 40 Tons, belonging to Bristol, in coming up the River, ran on Coninicut Point, and sunk.

Wednesday Evening Capt. Remington arrived at Narraganset from Jamaica, he informs, that a large Ship, supposed to be a Man of War of 20 Guns, was drove ashore on the Back of Long Island in the above Gale.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NORTH KINGSTON, RHODE ISLAND, COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee of Inspection and Correspondance of the Town of North Kingstown, at the Dwelling House of John Mowry, on Saturday the 9th day of March A.D. 1776

Present

John Northup	Thomas Bisell	} of the Committee
Ebenr Shearman	William Congdon	
Charles Tillinghast	Daniel Hall	
Daniel [J]ones	John Mowry	
George Thomas	Benjamin Reynolds	

Whereas this Committe Being Credially Informed that Silvester Havens with A Boat belonging to Mr Lodowick Updike With Sundry passengers on Board, with Cyder and Other Provisions, and being Brought too, by some of the Ministerial Ships and Vessels (While on his Passage bound to Newport) the Two last Trips he made to Newport, and Said boat Plundered, or at least A Quantaty of Cyder; Butter, Fowls, Eggs Potatoes &c Taken from Said Passengers, Allowing Said Passengers Some Satisfaction for the Same, Also T[ak]ing on Board Said Ships Some passengers and M[ak]ing Inquiry and Insisting upon Inteligence, Sd C [illegible] of What is done & acting &c in the Country Against them, and More Especially the Proceeding of the last Session of [Assem]bly, and at Will and Pleasure Releasing Said Boat [and] Passengers, And again on this Present day Said Havens [with] Sundry Passengers with said boat, Attempted to Carry s[undry] Provisions to Newport, but was, in Open View of this Com[mittee] in the Narraganset Bay, Brought Two, by Some of the Mi[ni]sterial Boats who have him Now in Custody, the Con[seq]uences of Which is Not yet Known to this Committe, all which

Passing of Said Boat, in that Manner, proves Inj[uri]ous to the Common Cause of America, & No wa[ys] Beneficial to the Inhabitants of the Town of Newport or a[n]y Other of the Good People of this Colony—

And this Committe Takeing the Conduct of the Said Sil[ves]ter Havens, Together With John Case, Nathaniel Case, and Samuel Waight, Three of his Passengers, Whome this Committe Suspects, of being Instrumental, of Supplying our Said Enemies with Provisions, Which together w[ith] their Sentiments, upon matters gives this Committe Reason to Suspect that the Above Named persons are unfriendly to the Common Cause of America, therefore

Resolved that the Said Silvester Havens, John Case, Nathaniel Case and Samuel Waight, is here by Prohibited and Ordered not To pass in any of the Frigate boats — Wood Boats, or Ferry boats from this Town by any of the Said ships and Vessels, to any Other part of this Colony untill leave first Obtained of this Committe, or in manner Set Fourth in the Act of Assembly for that Purpose, at the last Session of Assembly, and that the Above Persons have Notice hereof by Some of this Committee, and that the Clerk of this Committee Send a Copy of these Resolves to his Honour the Governour, Desiring of his Oppinion, and Instruction of the Matter, Ordered that the Clerke of this Committee Write to the Committe of the Town of Newport Acquainting of them of What persons We have prohibited, as Aforesd desiring of them to Interceed & use all due means as may be thought Legal that the Commanders of the Ministerial Ships & Vessels may Not Obstruct Said boats in the manner as Above sd as the Consequence thereof may Attend to the Injury of the Inhabitants of the Town of Newport and the Other good People of this Colony —

A True Copy Examind P Geo Thomas Clk

1. Nicholas Cooke Papers, I, 24, RIHS.

DEPOSITIONS REGARDING THE SEIZURE OF THE SCHOONER *James*¹

Invo[ice] of Sundries Shipt pr Capt [John] Howland on accot & Resque of Jeremiah Clement

6 Blls Coffee (viz)

No	1	205	Tr	21
	2	198	—	25
	3	193	—	21
	4	171		19
	5	196	—	25
		<u>963</u>		<u>111</u>
		111		

	852	Neet — at /11d	£ 39. 1. 0
No	6 — 171	146 Neet — at /8d	4. 17. 4
T	— 25		

6 Bariels, at 1/9	0. 10. 6
Cartige on board 1/	0. 1. 0
1 tun pig iron	12. 0. 0
Cartige	0. 2. 0
paid Robart M[o]ntgamery for 1 ps Linnen 25 yds at 6/7	8. 4. 7
2½ pr Cent Comiston on £20: 5.7	0. 10. 11½
	<hr/>
	£65: 6: 61½

Dated N york. 1st Mo 19th 1776.

The above is a True Copy.

The above is a True Invoice of, Goods shipd by Jacob Watson on board the Schooner Called the *James*, John Howland Master which Goods was seized by Capts [Hyde] Parker [Jr.] and Vanderpoort [George Vandeput] of his Majestys Ships *Phoenix* & *Asia* and are Intirely Lost by me the Subscriber as appears by the Invoice & Letter Recd from said Watson

Jereh Clement

New London County sst Norwich March 9th 1776

Personally Appeared Mr Jeremiah Clement and gave Solem Oath to the Truth of the Above Certificate

C[o]ram

Benj Huntington, Just[ice] Peace

This May Certify that I the Subscriber was Present in New York when the Within Mentioned Schooner, *James* Commanded by Capt John Howland was taken by the Barges from the Men of Warr *Phonix* and *Asia* and am knowing to the Truth that the Same was taken and have already Given Oath to said Capture.

Levi Huntington

Invoice of Iron, Purchased of Mr Daniel Phoenix in New York, by
William Hubbard. Vizt -

1776 Jan[u]ary 94 Bars of Bloomery	
Iron wt 31 C[wt.] 2 [qr.] 9 [lb.] - a 25/	39. .9. .51½
65 Ditto [bars] of Refin'd Ditto [iron] 19. .	
2. .13. . - 27/	26. .9. .71½
Carting Ditto on Board Capn Howland	5. .0
	<hr/>
New York Currency	£66. .4. .1

I, the Subscriber Certifie & say, the above is a True Acct of the Cost of One Hundred & fifty nine Bars of Iron, shipt by me on Board the Schooner *James* John Howland Master, which Iron was seized by the Barges. belonging to his Majesty's Ship's *Asia* & *Phoenix*, Commanded by Capts Parker & Vandeput. & the amount of said Iron is a total Loss to me.

Norwich, March 9, 1776

W^m Hubbard

New London County sst Norwich, 9th March 1776

Personally appeared Capt William Hubbard and made Solemn Oath to the Truth of the above Certificate

Coram

Christ^r Leffingwell, Justice of Peace ²

1. Papers CC (Connecticut State Papers, 1775-89), 66, I, 95-98, NA.

2. *Ibid.*, 89, Governor Trumbull forwarded the depositions to John Adams and George Wythe on March 9.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Sabbati, 10 HO. A.M.

March 9th, 1776.

Resolved and Ordered, On motion of Mr. [Comfort] Sands, That the armed schooner *Schuyler*, whereof James Smith is commander, lately fitted out by Order of this Congress, be ordered to cruise on the southern shore between Egg Harbour and Sandy Hook, to protect all vessels coming into this port; and that the sloop *Bishop*, belonging to the Provincial Congress of this Colony, now in Egg Harbour, or supposed to be there, be fitted out for the like purpose; and that Mr. Sands and Mr. [Thomas] Randall be a committee to fit out and completely arm the said sloop *Bishop* and to appoint a captain and officers for the said sloop.

Mr. [Abraham] Van Zandt informed the Congress that the ship *Rosamond*, whereof Wright Southgate is master, is laded and ready to proceed to sea on provincial account, and requested a permit for the said master to apply to the captains of the ships of war for their permission to pass them and proceed to sea; and also a permission from this Congress for the said ship to sail. Whereupon the two following orders were separately made and agreed to, in the words following, to wit:

Ordered, That Wright Southgate, master of the ship *Rosamond*, be immediately permitted and he is hereby permitted to go down to his Majesty's ship *Phoenix* and his Majesty's ship *Asia*, in a boat, with such men as may be necessary to go down with the said boat. And,

Ordered, That the Ship *Rosamond*, Wright Southgate, master, with her cargo and lading, be permitted to go to sea."

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 349-50.

INDENTURE CONCERNING THE PILOT BOAT *Hampden* ¹

This Indenture, made the ninth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, between William Douglass, Andrew Van Tuyl, of the city of New-York, and Isaac Simonson, of the said city, Pilot, on the one part, and Jacobus Van Zandt, of the said city, Merchant, of the other part.

Whereas the Pilot-Boat named the *Hampden*, whereof the said parties of the first part owned a quarter part, was lately employed by order of the said Jacobus Van Zandt and others to proceed to the eastward of Sandy-Hook, for such legal purposes as the master of the said Pilot Boat was

directed to perform to do; and on the return of the said Pilot-Boat towards the city of New-York, she was seized by the commander of his Majesty's ship *Nautilus*, and detained as a tender: and whereas they (the said William Douglass, Andrew Van Tuyl and Isaac Simonson) have been paid for one quarter part of the said Pilot-Boat named the *Hampden*, the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds, lawful money of New-York; and for one quarter part of the hire and wages of the said Pilot-Boat, and the mariners employed on board of her while she was employed in the service aforesaid, the further sum of twenty-two pounds ten shillings, lawful money aforesaid:

Now, therefore, this Indenture witnesseth: That for and in consideration of the said sum of one hundred and seventy-two pounds ten shillings, to them (the said William Douglass, Andrew Van Tuyl and Isaac Simonson) in hand paid, they have sold, assigned, and delivered to the said Jacobus Van Zandt their quarter part of the said Pilot-Boat named *Hampden*; with all her appurtenances; and they do hereby sell, assign, and deliver the same to the said Jacobus Van Zandt, his executors, administrators, and assigns. And for and in consideration of the said sum of one hundred and seventy-two pounds ten shillings above-mentioned, they, the said William Douglass, Andrew Van Tuyl and Isaac Simonson, for themselves, their heirs, executors, and administrators, jointly and severally, do covenant, grant, and agree, to and with the said Jacobus Van Zandt, his executors, administrators and assigns, in manner following, that is to say: That if any sum of money, wages, hire, or other reward, shall be paid, allowed, received, or recovered for the said Pilot-Boat while employed as a tender, or while employed in his Majesty's service, or while she is detained from her owners, that they, the said William Douglass, Andrew Van Tuyl, and Isaac Simonson, or one of them, will pay one quarter part thereof to the said Jacobus Van Zandt, his executors, administrators, or assigns.

And, also, that if it shall hereafter appear that the said Pilot-Boat named the *Hampden*, was taken on account of any information given with respect to her by the master or owners of the said boat, or either of them, or by collusion, or by any deceit of the said master or owners, or either of them, that then and in such case they, the said William Douglass, Andrew Van Tuyl, and Isaac Simonson, or one of them, will well and truly repay to the said Jacobus Van Zandt, his executors, administrators, or assigns, the said sum of one hundred and seventy-two pounds ten shillings, without any delay, deduction, or abatement whatsoever.

In witness whereof, the said parties to these presents have to these presents interchangeably set their hands and seals the day and year in this Indenture first written.

William Douglass,

Sealed and delivered in the presence of us:

John Love,
Isaac Brinckerhoff.

Andrew Van Tuyl,
Isaac Simonson.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, March 9, 1776

A petition of Mr. Stephen Decatur, Master of the Schooner *L'Esperance* of the Island of Hispaniola, was presented and read, whereupon

Resolved, That the said Mr. Stephen Decatur be permitted to load the Schooner *L'esperance* of Hispaniola with the produce of these colonies (horned cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry and lumber for making casks excepted) and export the same to the island of Hispaniola and that the said Stephen Decatur do take every possible precaution to avoid all British men of war and cutters on his voyage and use his utmost endeavours to import into these colonies the powder and arms mentioned in his Memorial and proposed to be imported by him.

A petition from John Babtisto Hugonene, Master of the Tartar the *Marc Anthony* was presented and read and the same being taken into consideration

Resolved, That John Babtisto Hugonene, Master of the tartar the *Marc Anthony* be permitted to load the said vessel in which he imported a small quantity of ammunition, with the produce of these colonies (horned cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry and lumber for making casks excepted) and export the same to the island of Martinique and as the said vessel is not sufficient to carry the amount of the cargo by him imported, that he be permitted to purchase and load another vessel with produce under the exceptions before expressed and export the same to said island of Martinico and that the said John Babtisto Hugonene and the master of the vessel which he shall purchase do take every possible precaution to avoid all British Ships of war and cutters on their voyage, and that he use his utmost endeavours to import into these colonies the powder and arms mentioned in his memorial and proposed to be imported by him.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 192-96.

THOMAS JOHNSON, JR. TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Gent

Phila 9 March 1776.

Capt [James] Tibbett has this moment arrived the vessel he went out in is sold & he is in an armed vessel² he has only about 2000 lb of powder about 6 tons of lead Duck Ozns &c the vessel is on her way to the city we shall send forward the effects as well as the powder borrowed from our province by Virga which is ordered out of a very scanty Stock to be returned I am Gent [&c.]

Th. Johnson Junr

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

2. The armed vessel was the *Wild Duck*, and the vessel sold was the *Rachel*.

THOMAS JOHNSON, JR. AND ROBERT ALEXANDER TO THE MARYLAND
COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Gent.

Phila Sat Ev. 9 March 1776

Immediately on receipt of a letter from Mr [Samuel] Purviance [Jr.] by express advising us of a man of war, being in our Bay, we applied to Congress for one ton of powder which was readily granted, the delegates of Virga had sent off one ton in a waggon, this without sollicitation they offered us & we excepted & have sent their order to the waggoner to proceed to Balt. we had an order for 1875 due Maryland from Congress & this day Capt Tibbit arrived from Statia with about one Ton of powder for our province. we have dispatched the powder to Chris[tiana] Bridge as waggons are not to be had here & have wrote different Gent at the Bridge & Head of Elk to assist in forwarding the powder to Balt Town. We are Gent [&c.]

Th. Johnson.
R. Alexander.

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

MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO HENRY
HOLLINGSWORTH¹

Phila 9 March 1776.

Very soon after your Receipt of this a Ton of powder on it's way to Balt will be at the Head of Elk which pray put into two Waggons with fresh Horses and send forward as quick as may be it may possibly with the utmost Diligence, get to Baltimore Town Time enough to be of Service – you'll discharge the waggons which carry the Powder to Elk. – You will also very soon receive from Christiana about three Tons of Powder partly imported on our Account & partly [re]ceived all designed for Balto. do pray get Waggons prepared and forward it by Land with all possible dispatch. We are sr

Th Johnson Junr
R. Alexander

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

“VALESCO” TO THE NAVAL COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia, March 9]

A Card to the Committee of Congress for Naval Affairs.

The Spaniards make it a practice to erect monuments to the memory of their illustrious heroes on the Ocean. This they do by calling their ships of war by their names. This custom not only does honor to illustrious virtue, but is calculated to inspire the Commanders and sailors on board their ships with courage. I suppose, in imitation of the practice of the Spaniards, the frigates now building for the Continental service are called by the names of *Montgomery* – *Warren* – *Macpherson* – *Hendricks*, &c.? Would not this be better than the many gasconading and ridiculous names which disgrace the

lists of the English and French navies—Such as the *Invincible*—the *Terrible*—the *Mercury*—the *Phoenix*—the *Otter* and the like.—I leave it to the Congress to determine the rank of the officer—or the nature of the service which shall intitle a man to the honor of having a ship called by his name. The honor should be registered, in order that families may ascertain their glory from it hereafter.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, March 9, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a., 9th March, 1776.

Robert Towers, Commissary, was directed to deliver Capt. Robert Whyte, or his order, 16 pieces of light sail Cloth.

Resolved, That Capt. Samuel Davidson be appointed to the command of the Floating Battery.

Resolved, That Mr. Jno. Mitchell be appointed Commissary of Provisions to the Artillery, and the Naval Armaments of this Province, and that he be allowed 6s per week per Man, he supplying them with such Provisions as is set forth in an advertisement from this Board of the 1st instant, to commence the 11th instant, to the 11th of June.

Resolved, That Capt. William Richards, Capt. Nath'l Falconer & Capt. Thomas Reed, be fully empower'd to fix signals for giving alarm at Cape Henlopen, and at such other places on either side of the Bay and River Delaware, as they shall judge proper, and also to engage for Men and Horses to be in readiness to convey intelligence by Land, and to do every thing necessary to effect the said service, and draw orders on this Board for such sums as shall be requisite to carry the same into execution.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 509, 510.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1776

Philadelphia, March 9, 1776.

FOR CORK, the ship *Chance*; she will sail with all expedition, is an exceeding fine sailer, but two years old, and has good accomodations for passengers. For passage apply to JOSEPH CARSON in Market-street.

OLIVER WOLCOTT TO MATTHEW GRISWOLD ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia 9 March 1776.

I am glad to hear of the Attention given to procure a Marine Strength—it will I beleive be Very Usefull—the continental Fleet has been out for some Time I think We may Shortly expect to hear from it—The Manufacturing Arms and G Powder are objects which cannot be too much attended to, if every American was well furnished with the Means of Defence I should think We might be almost a Match for the World—G. Powder is Manufacturing here continually—Very soon they will in this Colony

make five Tons Weekly—Twenty seven Tons of G. Powder, one of S Petre and 500 stand of Arms have within a few days arrived. A Petition lies before Congress from a large Number of Merchants of this City requesting Letters of Mark and Reprizal—the matter has not yet been discuss[e]d—The Business of Congress seems continually to encrease So that no Recess is tho't of at this Time—The persevering Crewlty of the british Administration is such that I fear We are to expect no further Benefit from what We have heretofore fondly called the Mother Country . . .

The Military Division of the Colonies I beleive Sir you must have heard of, and a further establishment of General Officers—Genl [John] Thomas is Ordered to Canada—Genl Lee is going to the Southward—Genl Clinton it is said has just touched at Virginia but has now left it but I do not tell this for a certainty . . . I am Sir [&c.]

Oliver Wolcott

1. YUL. Wolcott was a Connecticut delegate in the Continental Congress. Griswold was deputy governor of Connecticut.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. TO CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER¹

Baltimore 5 OClock Satd Mornng [March 9]

Dear Sir I am obliged to you for Mr Jennifers Letter. I am so perfectly easey about the Ship of War disturbing us that I shall not on that Score awaken Any body till mornng—

The Elk Ridge Battalion came in late this evening, I was raised at One OClock to Receive a Letter from Coll Lee which I sent off at that Hour by a Person who woud convey it directly to Capt [James] Nicholson—I let him know that the Committee had determd to fit out the Schr we talked of I hoped to have her ready to Sail by 2 OClock & that our main design in it was to strengthen him with a fresh Reinforcemt of Hands shoud he be weakend by taking & Manning any of the Tenders or Hudsons Ship—I thout it of much Importce that Nicholson shoud immediately know of our Intention to strengthen him—I recommd to him to tow all Night in Order if possible to be up or nearly so with Hudsons Ship before day light, lest the Tenders seeing him coming might have time to escape him.—I am perfectly satisfied from every thing I have heard of the *Otter*, that Nicholson is very capable of taking her, if he can be so lucky as to catch the largest Sloop of which I think there is the greatest probability.—

I have not a doubt we can have the Schr ready in the time I mentd & to have her well Mand with brave Fellows. I am [&c.]

Sam^l Purviance Junr

[P.S.] The Brass Field Peices for Virga are come, & I shall detain them at least One day till the Matter is nearer Issue

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee 9 March 1776 –

The following Letter was sent to Capt Nicholson –

Sir – Baltimore 9 March 1776 – I am directed by the Committee of Baltimore to inform you, that, should the Tenders escape you, before you get down to Mr Hudson's Ship, and join the *Otter*, it is their Opinion, it would [be] improper for you to attack them all together, and that if you think there is a Probability of their coming to attack you, it would be most adviseable for you to return to Whetstone Point or Fells Point, to be ready to protect the Town, & remain there, until you are properly enabled to attack the whole united Force – All the Vessels at Whetstone are getting Ballasted, & will be ready for Sinking, when you see a Necessity for doing it – P Order of the Committee

S. Purviance Chn

The Committee having recieved Information by Paul Miller that the *Otter* Sloop is aground on the Bodkin Shoals, & that Capt Nicholson desired a Reinforcement of Men, Major Gist is directed to dispatch empty Vessels to lighten his Ship to be under the Direction of Capt Nicholson – A letter from Capt Nicholson was just reced informing them of retaking Mr Hudson's Ship, & desiring Vessels to be sent to lighten her, but that being already done, which he could not know, when he wrote, the Committee thought it needless to send more –

9 oClock P.M.

An Express just arrived from North Point with Information, that the *Otter* & her Tenders & Prizes had left the Mouth of the River, and stood down the Bay, on which William Adams was instantly dispatched with an Express to the Council of Safety, giving them the Information –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. FOR THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO BENJAMIN GRIFFITH ¹

Sir. I fancy from what I hear that you mistook the directions I gave you. They were only that you should get the vessels ready for sinking and not to sink them immediately. I would not have them sink 'till you are ordered to do so by Capt Nicholson. And are &c

[Baltimore] March 9th 1776.

1. Executive Papers, Box 2, Md. Arch.

CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER, TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER ¹

My dear Major. I wrote to the Council yesterday morning wh I hope they have received since that yours of yesterday evening came to hand at three oClock this morning I immediately dispatched it to the Committee of Balt Town and Mr Purviance tells me he wrote you an answer, We got the ship

Defence into the river this morning and she has retaken Mr [Jonathan] Hudsons ship and now lies in the river a little below her, under no great apprehension I fancy of the *otter*. We had intelligence this afternoon that [Matthew] Squires had run on ground on the Bodkin Point, I hope it may be true, if it should prove so we may perhaps add one more ship to our stock. We are getting a Tender ready but will mount 8 or 10 carriage guns 3 pounders she with the *Defence* will I think be a match for the *otter* and her Companions – I am Positive Nicholson & his ships Company think so, a set of finer or more spirited fellows I really never saw, & if we can, as I hope we shall, get the tender ready by to morrow mornng they will push for an engagement & I really am not in much doubt of success. I cannot conceive that the council of safety can be prejudiced in the opinions of the Gent of Baltimore by any insinuations against their conduct by Mr Ruben or any other person, I have not heard them say a single word against the Governmt sending Mr Eddis on board the *otter* (tho I confess I wish some other person had been pitched upon) on the Contrary I believe they think the delay occasioned by that step was advantageous to them, I am sure I think it was very much so, I really had myself extremely fatigued with this Constant Hurry of Business, Indeed I am almost ready to sink under it, however I will push for Annapolis if possible the [moment] things are settled here. I am sincerely [&c.]

Charles Carroll.

Mount Clare March 9th 1776.

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

BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Baltimore 9 oClock Saturday Night [March 9]

Gentlemen We have just received an Express from Capt Nicolson that he had retaken Mr Hudsons Ship with every thing onboard safe, And that he was taking out some of the Flour in the retaken Vessells, 5 in Number, and we also sent 2 Vessells more to lighten her, so that we hope to have the Ship up tomorrow – We have also two other Expresses who left North Point at 4 OClock & Sunset with Advice that the *Otter* stood down the Bay with her Tenders & 4 Prizes about 4 oClock, as she has been disapointed here, its probable she may call on you, & therefore we Send you the quickest intelligence; as this Meneuvre may be a feint to deceive us, we shall not relax a moment in making every preparation to repel their Attempts. We are fitting out a Schr of 8 Guns which will be ready by 12 oClock tomorrow to assist Capt Nicolson in Case of Need. . .

We have the Honor to be Gentn [&c.]

Will^m Lux.
And Buchanan
John Moale

Jn^o Smith
W^m Buchanan

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

No 38

Gentn We received your Letter just now and are glad to hear the Ship *Defence* has got her Guns, and that some of the Powder and Arms we expected, had arrived at the Head of Elk, we doubt not your doing every thing for the best in ordering them down—our Commissary is not in Town, we request you will appoint one pro Tempore and take Care that Nothing may be wanted in the Provision-Way that may be thought necessary, and to put you in Cash, have sent you by Captn [William] Hyde £ 1000 Currency. — Our Information before your Letter came to Hand was that the Ship anchored short of the Mouth of Patapsco, but that the Tenders went forward; we have some Companies out to guard the Shore on this side of Patapsco & as low as the Mouth of Magoty [Magothy]-River, as yet we have received no Intelligence this Morning we can depend upon from that Quarter. —

We doubt not your exerting yourselves on this Occasion for the public service and your own Preservation, Mr [Charles] Carroll is on the spot, and will order Powder and Lead from Major Gaither's, should any be wanted—we Yesterday ordered Colo Thomas Dorsey to march with the Elk Ridge Battalion—and are making all necessary Dispositions to prevent their Landing, in Case they should return to Annapolis. We are &c.

[Annapolis] March 9th 10 o'Clock 1776

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES LLOYD
CHAMBERLAINE ¹

No 39.

[Annapolis] March 9th 1776

To Brigadier-General Chamberlaine ²

Sir A Ship of War and two Tenders went past this Harbor Yesterday Afternoon on their Way, we imagine to Baltimore Town. — We apprise you of this that you may immediately order your Battalion to hold themselves in Readiness to march at a Moments Warning — You will make the best Preparation in your Power, and as the Communication may be cut off between the two Shores, which may prevent our giving particular Instructions and as some Efforts may be made to land among you with a View of getting Provision, we desire you will order and direct them, as Exigencies may require and endeavour to repel any hostile Attempts, which may be made within your District — Mr Thomas Smyth is now at Chester Town and we request you will advise with him occasionally. —

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

2. Brigadier General of the militia of the Upper Eastern Shore District. Similar alerts were sent to other militia commanders.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

No 43.

Gentn At 8 o'Clock on Tuesday Night [March 5] our two Pilot Boats returned to this Place with Intelligence that a Man of War and two Tenders were pushing up the Bay; that in the Mouth of Patuxent River they made Prize of a New-England Vessel, and that we might hourly expect them off our Harbours. We immediately dispatched Expresses to Baltimore Town, and other Parts of the Province with Orders for the Militia to hold themselves in Readiness to march. – The high Wind all Day on Wednesday prevented these armed Vessels proceeding up the Bay. – Yesterday half past three post Merediem they hove in Sight and pushed fast up the Bay, having taken several small Vessels on their Way. – The Ship, which we imagine to be the *Liverpool*, came to an Anchor last Night off [f] the Mouth of Patapsco River, the Tenders kept under Sail. – early this Morning the Ship weighed and we presume, proceeded up Patapsco to take or destroy our Ship *Defence* and a large ship loaded with Wheat & Flour by Permission of the Congress – Whether the Ship *Defence* with a Battery hastily thrown up, will be sufficient to defeat this hostile Attempt, we cannot say, but we are confident if a Landing is attempted either at Baltimore Town or this Place, that the Enemy will be defeated. We are &c.

P.S. 9 o'Clock P:M: we have this Moment received certain Intelligence that the Man of War is the *Otter* Sloop with two Tenders, one of six Carriage-Guns and the other, Swivels only. – that they have taken the Ship loaded with Wheat and Flour, which unluckily happened to be aground at the Mouth of Patapsco & that they are proceeding up the River to take or destroy the Ship *Defence*. – fresh Provisions also we beleive is their Object. We are &c:

[Annapolis] 9th March 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch. This date the Council also alerted the Alexandria, Virginia, Committee.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE¹

March	Point Lookout bore SSW 6 or 7 Miles
Monday 4	Light airs and inclinable to Calms. At 3 P M weighed & came to sail, saw a Schooner to the Westward. Made the Signal for all Cruizers with a Gun. Sent the <i>Edward</i> in Chace. At 6 P M New Point Comfort bore N W. At Midnight anchored with the small Bower in 5 fam Off Watts Island.
Tuesday 5	At 7 A M weighed & came to sail, the Tender <i>Edward</i> in company. The first part mode & cloudy, the midl & latter strong Gales, at 1 P M saw a Sail in the Mouth of Patrixet River, sent the Tender after her. At 4 P M anchored

- with the B Bower in 7 fam, at 6 the Tender joynd us with a Schooner prize.
- Wednesday 6 At 7 A M found the Ship drive, let go the small Bower & brought her up. Lowered the lower yards & struck T Gt. Masts. Departed this Life Peter Theorson Seaman. Opened a Cask Pork, contents 110 short 6 pieces. Light breezes & fair.
- Thursday 7 At an Anchor off[f] Chester River [Maryland] At 5 A M weighed & came to Sail in Company with the Tender & prize. At 8 the *Samuel* gave chase to 2 Sail under Poplar Island. At 10 sent the Gigg in chase of a small Sloop going for the Eastern Shore. At 11 saw the People leave the Sloop. At 1/2 past the *Samuel* returned with a Schooner Prize, as did our Gigg with the Sloop. Little wind & fair. At 5 anchd with the best Bower in 5 fam off the Mouth of Chester River, & veered to 1/3 of a Cable.
- Friday 8 Sent the Tenders in Chace of a Ship going up Patruzet River. Sent the Pilot Boat in chace of a Sloop on the Western Shore. The first part little wind & hazy. At 4 P M weighed. At 5 found the Ship to strike, found her on one of the Knowles 10 foot water. At 10 a small breeze from the N W. Loosed the Topsails & Foresail & braced them back. At 10 blowing fresh got the foremost Guns aft, & turned all hands on the Quarter Deck; at 1/2 past she lifted & got off, & came too with the B Bower in 1/4 last 4.
- Saturday 9 At 8 A M carried out the Kedge, weighed & warped further out, anchored 1/2-4, saw two ships above the Narrows.² Attempted to get the Ship under weigh, but found from the Pilot's ignorance it was impossible. At 11 the Tenders joynd us, & brought onboard a Pilot, who inforemed us that all the marked Trees were cut down, & that chains were across the Rivers; likewise that large Guns were fixed on the Point. Found the two Sail to be Privateers who got under weigh, & were working up. The above Pilot took charge of the Ship.³ Departed this life Richd Jackson, Drumr Mode & cloudy. At 2 P M weighed & came to sail, and run down the Bay, the 2 Tenders & 5 Prizes in Company. At 6 Anchored off Anapolis in 4 fam

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

2. The ships were the Maryland ship *Defence*, James Nicholson, commander, and the ship belonging to Jonathan Hudson, which the *Defence* had just taken from the tenders.

3. This was as far north as the *Otter* came on her foray up Chesapeake Bay.

CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE, R.N., TO GOVERNOR ROBERT EDEN ¹

Otter sloop off Annapolis 9th March 1776

Sir, His Majesty's Sloop under my Command being in Want of fresh Provisions am to desire that she may be supplied by the Inhabitants of Annapolis for which I shall most readily pay the Market Price and as I am well informed that a new England Vessel loaded with Corn and Flour is up the River, must hope the Inhabitants will not molest the Tenders in endeavouring to get her out. I have the Honor to be Sir, [&c.]

M. Squire

1. Naval Papers, MdHS.

GOVERNOR ROBERT EDEN TO CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE, R.N. ¹

Sir

Annapolis 9th March 1776

Your Letter of this day I immediately communicated to the Council of Safety as without their concurrence and that of the Country people who are at this time assembled here in great numbers, there would be much difficulty and no less danger in supplying his Majesty's Ships - By the request of those Gentlemen I have the honor to inform you that I have given them the copy of your application to me & am to request you to send your Boat ashore with a flag at 9 o'clock to morrow morning against which time they will prepare an Answer to your application - I am &c

Signed R. E.

1. Naval Papers, MdHS.

VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Williamsburg March 9th 1776.

Gentlemen: - The great length of Potomack River from its mouth to Alexandria where men of war can go & the probability of some attempts being made by the enemy in that Quarter make it prudent in our opinion to erect beacons or signals for communicating intelligence of their approach up the river in a more speedy manner than can be done by land. We have therefore appointed Colonel [Hugh] Mercer of the third & Colonel [William] Peachey of the fifth regiment to examine the river & fix the different posts & mode of continuing these signals, but as we are aware that the course of the river will make it necessary that many of them should be set in your province, we hope you will approve the measure & name Commissioners on your part to co-operate with the above named Gentlemen in effecting it. We hear of no more naval arrivals & the former quiet as to depredations on shore & up the river confining themselves to seizures in the Bay when they have an opportunity. We have had no intelligence of General Clinton since he went out: - We are Gentlemen [&c.]

Edm^d Pendleton, P

1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch. Pendleton was chairman of the Virginia Committee of Safety.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

A Journal of the Proceedings of the Squadron of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under my Command, from the date of my Dispatches to the Commander in Chief, sent by the *Kingsfisher* Sloop to Boston the 9th March 1776 from Hampton Road in Virginia.

Stations	}	<p>The <i>Roebuck</i> cruising within the Capes.</p> <p>The <i>Liverpool</i>, laying in Elizabeth River as a protection to the Governor, the Lines and the Fleet.</p> <p>The <i>Otter</i> Sloop and <i>Liverpool's</i> Tender, with a small Sloop armed and manned by the <i>Roebuck</i>, sent to the head of Chesapeake Bay in quest of two Rebel Privateers.</p> <p>The <i>Otter's</i> Tender, sent as a Convoy to a Vessel carrying Arms and Ammunition to Governor Martin at Cape Fear.</p> <p>The <i>Roebuck's</i> Tender, at the mouth of the Delaware, chiefly in quest of Pilots for the River.</p>
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1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

DEPOSITION OF PETER SIMON ¹

Wilmington District, North-Carolina.

Peter Simon, of Rhode-Island, maketh oath on the holy evangelists of Almighty God, that he was on board a vessel bound from Dominica to Ocracock, and taken off Hatteras by the sloop *General Gage*, George Stibbles master, and brought into Cape-Fear about the twenty-fifth of February. That Captain [John] Collett ² was on board the said sloop when this deponent was taken, and was very communicative with him, shewing his papers and instructions, and informing what route he was to take, &c. That the said Collett said, he expected to find General Clinton here with fifteen or sixteen hundred men, and that the General was to be reinforced in April with nine thousand. After this junction, they were to march to Cross-creek, by way of Waggamaw, and there join General [Donald] M'Donald. That there was only a sufficient number of men for a garrison to be left at Boston, and that twenty-five thousand men were to be landed in the Jerseys, between Philadelphia and New-York, in flat-bottomed boats, and that if they could not possess New-York, they were to destroy it. That the said Collett declared, that he would kill man, woman and child, reserving all the young ladies for his private pleasures. That the night before last, this deponent, with several other persons, made their escape, and came up to Wilmington; and farther saith not.

Peter Simon

Sworn to before me, the ninth of March, 1776.

William Purviance.

John Cooke, Secretary.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 2, 1776.

2. Former commander of Fort Johnston near the mouth of the Cape Fear River.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

By the Council of Safety
[Charleston] 9th March 1776.

Ordered that Mr. [Alexander] Elsinoure & in case of his absence a proper person to be appointed by Capt. [Simon] Tufts forthwith to conduct & pilot the Ship *port Henderson* from Rebellion Road to a Safe Mooring place under the Command of Fort Johnson where the Ship is to lye till further orders –

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 200.

HENRY LAURENS TO CAPTAIN JOSEPH TURPIN ¹

Sir – State House [Charleston] 9 March 1776.

From your application for orders to go to Sea in the Brig: *Comet* we take for granted that the Vessel is in all respects in proper condition for meeting an equal Armed force, & therefore think it necessary that you Should forthwith proceed in the Said Brigantine over the Bar & that you should Stretch up on the Coast as far Northward & Southward as will admit of your return within the Bar this Evening or to morrow – when we shall expect your report. – We recommend to you the Security of our Pilot Boat & of any friendly Vessel on the Coast & that you will not expose your Vessel & Men to the danger of encountering an unequal Match

Inclosed you will find the Signal, which will be made of any Vessel of the Continental fleet which you will reserve entirely to yourself.

We repose an equal confidence in your discretion to guard against a hazardous attack & your bravery to defend your Brig: to the last extremity if you cannot avoid one. the honour of the American Arms as well as your own will in Such an event be at Stake. We wish you success.

By order of the Council of Safety

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 199, 200.

DIARY OF MAJOR BARNARD ELLIOTT ¹

[Charleston March 9, 1776]

Signals – Light house and Sullivans Island have exactly the same Colours to make Signals with, namely, a Small

- Narrow blue Pendant
- Broad blue ditto or Flagg
- a Small red Pendant

Light house only makes Signals,

Sullivans Makes & repeats signals excepting when any sail is seen to the northward of the Island in that case and that only a Signal will be kept standing till the Vessel or Vessels so seen comes so far to the Southward as to be Open to the Town & no longer

When a Sloop or Schooner	} Is Seen	{	The Narrow blue Pendant
When a Brigg or Snow			The blue Jack or flagg
When a Ship or 3 Masts			Red Pendant



The
HARBOR
of
CHARLES TOWN
in
South Carolina
from the View of J. J. Muller (Capt on his Majesty's Ship the "Albatross")
with
A VIEW of the TOWN
from the South Shore of Ashley River.

Scale
 in
 Miles

The Soundings in this Chart are in Fathoms and in Feet unless otherwise stated.

And if more Vessels than One are seen the Signal for the largest Vessel will be kept standing as long as it is above directed. Johnsons Fort will hoist the Old common blue Fort Flagg, or Jack when a Coasting Schooner or Sloop is Seen at the Flagg Staff two thirds up, If not coasters the same Flagg will be hoisted quite up, in both these cases this Flagg will be hoisted and lower'd as often as there are Sloops or Schooners seen at intervals of about five Minutes each, If One, two, or three Brigantines, are seen as many small White Pendants will be hoisted on so many long Poles, so as to be seen by the People of the Town. If One, two, or three Snows, as many small blue Pendants in like Manner, If One, two, or three Ships, as many Red Pendants, If more than three Ships, Briggs, or Snows, are seen, If Briggs for instance and there are spare Signals of the other two Sorts the Spare Signals are to be placed between the white Signals which are used for Briggs, and so of the rest. The Small Pendants are to be kept Standing till the Vessels are either out of sight or else come in and pass the Fort. Whenever any of these pendants are hoisted a Jack with a White field & Red Cross will be hoisted at the same time quite up at the Flagg Staff, If Merchant Men. If Men of War the New Provincial Flagg will be hoisted & lowered as many times as there are Men of War seen. Whenever any of the foregoing standing Signals are made a small pendant will be hoisted & kept standing on the Barracks at Col: [Christopher] Gadsdens Wharf, as long as such standing Signal is kept up either at Johnsons Fort or at Sullivans Island; Observe all other Signals that may be seen besides the Above, will be mostly Signals made and repeated or Answer'd between the Light house, Sullivans Island, & Fort Johnson upon the first discerning of any Vessels.

N B. A Gun will be fired from the Battery at Col. Laurens's Wharf and at the same time a Jack or Flagg hoisted on the Barracks at Gadsdens Wharf is a Signal for all Officers and others in the Provincial Service who are in or near Town to repair immediately to their respective Posts.

(Sign'd) Christopher Gadsden.

I. SCHS. Elliott was in the 2d South Carolina Regiment.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Hinchinbrook*, LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER ELLIS

March 76
Friday 1

Running up Savannah River to the Town
at 9 AM Weigh'd and Came to sail Running up to Savannah

Light Airs with Calms at 3 PM Came too with the small Br in 3 fms Moor'd the schooner with Kedge Anchor & hawser Employ'd fixing the Boarding Netting & starting the Water to lighten the Vessel

Saturday 2

AM Unmoor'd Savannah Town W b S.

Light Airs with Calms

PM at 2 Weigh'd & Came to Sail Came on board a party of Marines from the *Cherokee* and five Seamen

- from the *Scarborough* with Capt [Andrew] Barkley Running up the back River to Savannah at times Empd in Warping up - at 9 Got a Ground, carried out the Kedge Anchor and hawser Employ'd Gittg the Vessell off Came on board Several of the Marchantmens boats with the hands to assist and several of the Inhabitants Seaz'd a Sloop with bale goods on board sent the boats to take a brigg found her aground took out 2 Barrels of Flour with seve[ral] other things at 6 PM hove off at 8 Weighd and dropt farther up at 11 Weighd and Came to Sail Got a ground
- Sundy 3 Saw Several of the Rebels under arms fired severall guns and small arms at them Carried out the Kedge Anchor had 5 men Wounded by the Rebels Calms with Light airs the Vessel aground and the Rebels firing at us with Small Arms PM heard Several Guns fired by the Rebels at the Merchant ships the Rebels set fire to some of the Marchantmen at 4 hove off Let go the Grappling hove up the Kedge Anchor . . . Dropt lower down Let go the Kedge Anchor in 2 fms Carried out a Rope & made fast to the shore Came onboard the flat bottom boat from the *Symerter* [*Symmetry*]
- Mondy 4 AM sent the flat bottom boat with Marchants mens boats to Assist gittg their Vessel down the River Let go the small Bower & Weighd the Kedge Anchor Carried out the Kedge Anchor & Warp'd Lower down Mode Breezes and Cloudy Wr PM Employ'd fixing the boarding Nettgs
- Tuesday 5 AM Came down Several of the Merchant Ships with the Troops on board Employd Variously Let go the Bt Br & Weighd the Small Br Fresh Breezes and Cloudy with rain Employ'd Gittg the merchant Men off that Run a Ground
- Wednesdy 6 AM Variously Employ'd Light Airs and Clear Wr at 8 PM hove up the Anchor & Warpt further up
- Thursdy 7 AM Empd Working and Towing down the River several Merchant ships in Company Do Wr at 2 PM Came too with the Kedge Anchor and hawser in 2 fm at 8 Weigh'd Dropt Lower down
- Friday 8 At 1 AM Came too with the Small Bower in 2 fm Veer'd to $\frac{1}{3}$ a Cable at 10 Weighd & Warpt lower down at Noon made sail Town of Savannah WSW Do Wr at 2 PM Came too with small Br in 3 fm Veer'd to $\frac{1}{3}$ a Cable Empd filling Water

Saturday 9 AM Employ'd as before at 10 Weigh'd and came to sail Running down to Cockspur
Do Wr at 2 [P.M.] Came too with the small Br in 3 fm at 5 Weigh'd and came to sail at 7 Came too with the Bt Br in 3 fms Tebea Lookout East Cockspur Isld WNW found ridg here his Majestys Ship *Scarborough* & *Tamer*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4219.

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

March 1776 Moored abreast of Salters Island in Savannah river

Friday 8th Light Airs Inclining to Calms at 1 AM came down the River and Anchored here His Majesty's Armed Schooner *Hinchinbrook* in Compy with the *Symmetry* Transport, all the Armed Vessels of our Squadron, and Thirteen sail of Mercht Men with His Majestys Troops and Seamen rescued out of the hands of the Rebels fired the Evening and Morning Guns –
First and Latter mode and fair middle Do Calm at 1 PM weighed and came to Sail, all the Fleet in Company at 4 Do we run aground on the No River point do the fleet Anchd at 7 run out the Stream Anchor to the SEt the North River point SW ½ Mile

Saturday 9th at 9 AM unmoored weighed and made Sail down the North River all the Fleet in Compy at 11 Anchd with the Sl Br in 13 feet at Low Water Veered to 1/3rd of a Cable and moored wth the Stream Anchor to the Northwd all the fleet parted Compy except the *Adventure* a Ship belonging to Jamaica Laden wth Rice who run a ground and we lay by her to protect her from the Rebels.
Light Breezes and fair PM sent 10 Seamen on board the *Adventure* to Assist in getting of her off at 11 unmoored Weighed and came to Sail and Dropt down the River the *Adventure* in Compy

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO COUNT DE NOZIÈRES ¹

(A Copy)

English Harbour, Antigua 9th March 1776.

Sir I had the honour of receiving your Excellencys Letter of the 22d January last (in answer to the one I wrote you the 15th of the same) and it gave me very great pleasure to perceive you disavowed giving any protection or Countenance to the Smuggling Traffick, which had for some time before been carried on between the French and English Islands.

I had also the honour of receiving another Letter from your Excellency dated the 11th October 1775, in which you assured me in the most positive terms that you had some time before "Strictly forbid all the People under your Government, on no Account whatever to Supply Gun-powder Arms, or other Warlike Stores to any of the Rebellious Subjects of His Britannic Majesty belonging to North America." I must therefore believe the particulars described in the inclosed Paper, has certainly been concealed from your Excellencys knowledge: for I cannot suppose a person of the Compte De No-sieres high Rank and Equitable way of thinking would act with Duplicity in a matter of such Consequence, between our respective Nations. – As my Duty obliges me to transmit the Intelligence to the British Court, I have first ordered Captain Robert Keeler of His Britannic Majesty's Ship of War the *Lynx* to deliver you this notification, and flatter myself your Excellency will Command an immediate enquiry and Search to be made after the Persons, and on board the Vessel described, and thereby enable Captain Keeler on his arrival in England (where he goes Express. on his return) to make such faithful representation of the upright Conduct of the Compte De No-sieres as may do him honour, and more strongly cement Friendship and Amity between the two Nations.

To obviate any difficulties that may be made by the Merchants of St Pierre who have engaged in this Traffick, to Ship Gun Powder &c onboard the aforesaid American Vessels in the way of general Trade, I am willing to purchase the same from them at the prices they were to receive from the Americans, and thereby prevent their suffering any loss by my requisition. I have the honour to be with great regard, Your Excellencys [&c.]

James Young.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309. Count de Nozières was governor of Guadeloupe and Martinique.

10 Mar. (Sunday)

LETTER FROM THE MASTER OF A SHIP TAKEN BY THE AMERICANS¹

Newbury Port, March 10

The ship under my command was taken by an armed vessel almost in sight of the Admiral. I am confined to the limits of the town, but have no allowance either in money or victuals. I have not yet got my protest, which, when I have, I will send duplicates of. A court of admiralty is appointed here, but they have not yet got a judge; they don't however wait condemnation, but sell any thing they like out of the vessel, as they are sure she will be declared a legal prize by an act passed in the general congress. I am not so sorry for myself as for my employers, though I can acquit myself very well, having done all in my power for their service.²

1. *London Chronicle*, June 11 to June 13, 1776.

2. The writer was probably William Wood, master of the ship *Jenny*, sent into Newburyport February 16, 1776, by the Massachusetts privateer *Yankee Hero*.

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN SMITH TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Gentlemen, I have only Time to Inform your honours That on the 7th Inst I with A Detachment of my Compny with Some Gentlemen of This Town, in number All About fourty, with A small vessel engaged for the purpose; Engaged And Tooke The Ship *Harriot* Weymse Orrock master Store Ship from London bound for Boston, Laden with Cole Porter and Potatos; ² And have sent The mate (The Capt being wounded in the Engagement) with fourteen Mariners by Leut [James] Shaw And have Directed him To Deliver Them To The Honourbl Council, I Am Endeavring To secure The property by Giting the Ship To the mane, which having Perfected, Shall give Immediate Attendance for farther Direction in the matter; And in The Interim Remain your Honrs [&c.]

Benjamin Smith

Edgartown, March. 10th 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 281.

2. "By a letter from the Mate of the *Harriot*, Capt. Orrock, a transport, which left the Downs the 10th of December, with stores, provisions, &c. for our troops at Boston, there is advice, that after greatly suffering on their passage by storms, they at length got to the Jerseys, and after being refitted by the assistance of the carpenters of his Majesty's ship the *Phoenix*, Capt. Parker ordered them to proceed for Rhode Island, in hopes they might there meet a convoy to see them through the Nantucket shoals: They left New York March 4, at night, and after three days terrible weather the ship grounded among shoals; at length the gale abating, the long-boat was hoisted out, and manned with the boatswain and four seamen, to go to the nearest land for a pilot and assistance. The 7th of March (says the writer) we saw a sloop making towards us; she run under our stern full of men; they asked if we wanted a pilot; the Captain said he did, and requested one to be sent: They sent a boat with four men, and one was left in the *Harriot* as a pilot, who asked the Captain how many hands he had? It was answered, that five men were sent on shore, and that only two were left. The pretended Pilot then offered to send for two or three out of the sloop, but he called after the boat, to send all the men the boat could carry; on which Capt. Orrock began to suspect something, and asked the Pilot whether he intended to take the ship? To which no satisfactory answer was given; the arms were then ordered upon deck; which consisted of six very indifferent muskets, six old cutlasses, with two swivel guns on the ship's bows. The Captain ordered the Pilot to carry the ship through the shoals, else he would put him to instant death; but the man begged for mercy, declared he was ignorant of the place, and incapable of doing it; and was ordered to the cabbin. About this time we saw our boat making for us from the shore; but the sloops people seeing her also, bore down and took the boat, and in a few minutes the ship [*sic* sloop] bore down upon us, within musket shot, with about fifty men in her; they fired a volley of small arms at us; we returned a fire from our swivels and small arms, and continued the engagement for half an hour; being in want of shot, having only nine balls at first for the swivels, we took the lead from the cook's hearth, and cut it into slugs, resolved not to surrender while we had ammunition left; at last Capt. Orrock, whose intrepidity and courage cannot be too much commended, took one of the swivels in his arms, to carry it aft the ship, and whilst in the act of pointing it and firing, was shot through the fleshy part of his thigh; he fell on the deck, and was carried to his cabin, bleeding very much. This misfortune deprived us of one of our bravest hands, our ammunition also spent, the ship aground, and no hopes of escape now remained; I, therefore, by the Captain's consent, gave the ship up to the Americans, who took possession of her. They were such dastards, that they placed our five men, whom they had taken in the boat, before some of them, and rested their muskets on the mens shoulders, to screen themselves from our shot: They were a set of ruffians, and a disgrace to the name of men; by experience we found them far short in true courage to Englishmen; for fifty of them well armed, and supplied with powder and ball, their sloop afloat, and our ship on shore, did not dare to board us, which they might have done, as the sloop drew little water. As

soon as they came on board, they eat and drank the Captain's provisions and liquors, set butts of porter on end, and stove in their heads, to drink greedily, rummaged and plundered every thing, taking even our clothes from us. The only instance of humanity they shewed, was, they sent Captain Orrock ashore with some degree of tenderness to the pretended pilot's house, put him to bed, and got a surgeon to dress his wound, and before I left America I had the pleasure to hear he was getting well. We were carried to an island named Martha's Vineyard, a mile and a half from the main land of New England, from thence Mr. Christie, an officer of the army, who was a passenger with us from New York, and all our crew, were conveyed in the sloop which took us to Plymouth, where we were examined by a committee of the town, and then sent, under a strong guard, to the head quarters at Cambridge, where we were put into a prison; but by the favour of Gen. Washington I was released the same day; also my brother, a boy." *London Chronicle*, June 27 to June 29, 1776.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO CREAN BRUSH¹

Sir I am informed there are large quantities of Goods in the Town of Boston which if in possession of the Rebels would enable them to carry on War And whereas I have given notice to all loyal Inhabitants to remove such Goods from hence and that all who do not remove them or deliver them to your care will be considered as Abettors of Rebels – You are hereby authorized and required to take into your possession all such Goods as answer this description and to give Certificates to the Owners that you have received them for their use & will deliver them to the Owners order unavoidable Accidents excepted. And you are to make enquiry if any such Goods be secreted or left in Stores and you are to seize all such & put them on board the *Minerva* Ship or the Brigantine *Elizabeth*

Given under my hand at Headquarters Boston this 10th day of March 1776 –

W^m Howe Comr chief

[Endorsed] A true Copy attest Seth Loring Clerk in Secys Office

1. Revolutionary War Prize Cases, Records of the Court of Appeals in Cases of Capture, 1775-1787, No.2, "The *Elizabeth* and Cargo, Wentworth Appellant," NA.

CAPTAIN FRANCIS HUTCHESON TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK HALDIMAND¹

[Extract]

My Dear Sir

[Boston, March 10, 1776]

I have only Just time to tell you that the Rebels began to bombard us the 4th Instt and have since taken post on the Heights at Dorchester Neck, it was determined to have attacked them, last Tuesday Night 6 Instt, but the Weather came on so Stormly it was Impossible, We are now going to Quit this place, and you can well Conceive the Confusion of such

1. Haldimand Papers, BM.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE'S PROCLAMATION ISSUED
PRIOR TO THE EVACUATION OF BOSTON¹

By his Excellency WILLIAM HOWE, Major General
&c. &c. &c.

As LINEN and WOOLLEN GOODS are articles much wanted by the rebels, and would aid and assist them in their rebellion, the Commander in

Chief expects that all good subjects will use their utmost endeavours to have all such articles conveyed from this place. Any who have not opportunity to convey their goods under their own care, may deliver them on board the *Minerva*, at Hubbard's wharf, to Crean Brush, Esq; marked with their names, who will give a certificate of the delivery, and will oblige himself to return them to the owners, all unavoidable accidents excepted. If, after this notice, any person secrets or keeps in his possession such articles, he will be treated as a favourer of rebels.

Boston, March 10th, 1776

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 16, 1776.

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

March 1776

Sunday 10

At Single Anchor off of Hope Island

AM at 8 Weigh'd and came to Sail as did the Squadrn at 10 saw a Brigg over the Land laying in Narrowganset Passage Made Sail Ordrd the *Glascow*, *Swan* and Tender to go round the No point of Connanicot, at Noon Steering Round the Light House.

First part light Airs and Cloudy, Mid some snow, lattr Calm

PM At 1 Standing up Narrowganset passage was fir'd upon by a Number of Rebels Do fir'd 4-9 Pound Shot at them, at 2 took the Brigg *polly* in Ballast from Jamaica belonging to Josh Wanton at Rhode Island² at 3 Steering round the No point of Connanicot, Join'd the Squadrn, at 1/2 past 6 Anchd 7 fm as did the Squadrn

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

2. *Ibid.*, on March 15, Wallace renamed her the *Fortune*, and armed her for a tender with 5 four pounders, six swivals and fourteen muskets. He put a crew on board consisting of a mate, eight seamen and five Marines.

LORD STIRLING TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

New York Sunday Evening 10 oClock

Dear Sir

10 March

I have Just had with me three Gentlemen who have landed here this Evening from on Board a packet Boat arrived at Sandy Hook from England in Nine Weeks, two of them you are doubtless acquainted with—Mr Wm Temple & Mr Dennie of Cambridge, the other is a Mr Rickson who has letters to several Members of Congress and other Gentlemen at Philadelphia they are to set out for philadelphia tomorrow Morning and will give you the particulars of the News they are possessed of; what I can gather from them is, that Seven Regiments Consisting of about 4000 Men, Commanded by Lord Cornwallis were to Sail from Cork about the 10 January for the Southern provinces to be Joining & Commanded by Genl [Henry] Clinton; and that no other British troops were destined to this Continent, that 4000 Hanoverians & 6000 Hessians were engaged to Come out, &

in treaty for 10,000 Russians, that the french Ambassador on this had declared that his Court did not want to Interfere in the Quarrel between Great Brittain & the Colonies while she made use of her own force, but that if foreign Troops were employed, they Could not be Idle Spectators, the Gentlemen Also say, that when they left London it was not known that any french Troops were embarked for or Arrived in the West India Islands. they say that the Mail is an Immense large one, and I suspect well Stored with Materials preparatory to the Arrival of the Commissioners, who are reduced in Number to twenty, and were to Embark about the Middle of January; as their Coms & Instructions were not to be Completed, Till after the Second meeting of parliament. This Mail I shall have my Eye on, and endeavour to prevent any of its Contents being dispersed without passing thro' my hands.

The Eastern post is arrived this Evening, but has not brought a letter from any place farther Eastward than N London. Misterious, But I dare say all Right.

General Lee has doubtless informed the Congress of our Scituation here; Our whole Number is about 1700, Effectives of those about 1000, the Connecticut troops, will leave us on the 25 of this Month; of the remainder about 300 are New York Minute Men, without Arms. it will therefore be highly Necessary to order several Regiments to this place as soon as possible; It will employ Six thousand Men for at least two Months to Compleat the works Necessary at this place, its Environs & Long Island. The four Regiments raising in this province I believe are very backward in their Recruiting, we learn here of them; No feild Officers yet fixed, nor have I heard of a Single Company Musterd, and Consequently none of them have Joined the Army. I am [&c.]

Stirling.

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, II, 447-48, NA.

ROBERT MORRIS TO SILAS DEANE ¹

Dear sir

Philada March 10th 1776

I was sorry to find by your Note of the 8th that you determined to wait at Chester for the Pilot Boat, because certain Gentn seem exceedingly anxious that you should be gone & you know well how tedious & troublesome it is to obtain decisive orders on any point wherein Public Expence is to be incurred. I cou'd not send a Boat without orders unless at my own Expence, and altho I obtained such orders yesterday, yet I was so harrassed between the Assembly & Congress that it was not in my power to dispatch her, I am attempting it this Morning & hope she will depart in time to put this onboard the Brig and then run down before You. You will find here in a letter from your Brother which Doctr Franklyn & myself thought best to open least it might be of disadvantage to him or you & cause some disappointment about the Money you left for him, but you'll find it is not of Consequence in the way of bussiness. Yesterday arrived about 6 to 8 Tons of

Powder by different Vessells from the West Indies. they bring English Papers later than any we had before & the Kings Proclamation for dividing Prize Money by which you will know the Act of Parliament for Cutting off] all Trade & intercourse with us is passed and I suppose this will produce some decissive measures on our side

A Man of Warr & two Tenders were within about 20 Miles of Baltimore and the People there preparing a Warm reception for them. The *Molly Cap* Lawrence had got back into that Harbour and I think will be defended with others now lying there. Powder, Arms &c are on the way to them and I think no great harm will be done in that quarter. I think you shou'd not loose one Moment, the sooner you are on the Oce[an] the better chance of arriving safe & of not being interrupted on your Voyage: but the Sea will Swarm with Men of Warr & some Privateers before long The People in Antigua were applying for Commissions to fit out Privateers against us. I hope they will live to repent it. A report is come up from Virginia that Colo [Richard] Corbin who went onboard Ld Dunmore's Fleet by his Ldships invitation was returned & says he saw Genl Clinton, that Commissioners are Certainly Coming out from England to treat and offer the terms of 1763, but that they can only Treat with the Colonies seperately & will have nothing to do with the Congress. if this be the case they may as well stay where they are. however I dont think this intelligence comes quite well authenticated yet

You'l find the *Evening Post* herein which Contains all the intel[li]gence I have just got it & am with the best Wishes & most sincere attachmt Dr Sir [&c.]

Rob^t Morris

P S If I have time shall enclose some letters herewith which must be Se-creted or destroyed if you are Captured.

I. Silas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

JAMES SMITH, CHAIRMAN OF THE YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, COMMITTEE
TO THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

Gentlemen

York Town 10th March 1776

This moment we received Mr Alexr Donaldson's letter of the 9th Instant: At the time of writing our former letter to him, it was uncertain from the Intelligence what Force might be sent against Baltimore, and judged it would be proper for this County to have in readiness detachments from the several Militia Battalions to the amount of 500 men.

We are glad to hear that 'tis only the Buccaneer [Matthew] Squire that payed you a visit, of whom we hope to hear Captn Nicholson will give a good Account - But as a greater force may be sent to harrass you in revenge for Capt Squire's bad success; In pursuance of the desire of your Committee communicated to us by Mr. Donaldson, our Committee resolved instantly to raise a good Rifle Company to be ready to march on an hour's warning to

your Province in case you should judge it necessary, and signify the same to our Committee.

The Officers chose are Joseph Donaldson Captn Wm Rankin 1 Lt John Bean 2d Liut Wm Daillie 3d Lieut and Jacob Holtzinger 4th Lieut – and none are to be admitted but expert Riffle-Men –

by order of the Comittee
Ja^s Smith Chairman

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.

BATTALION COMMANDERS OF FRÉDERICK COUNTY TO THE BALTIMORE
COMMITTEE ¹

Gentn

Fredk Town Mar 10th 1776

From Advises received we are apprehensive that before this time you must have had an attack from the Ships of Warr belonging to the Ministerial Troops, our anxiety and feelings for the sufferings of our distressed Brethren are almost beyond Expression We have therefore dispatched an Express to know whether you would wish the assistance of a Battalion from the middle District of this County if you should and will procure an Order for one from the Council of Safety, we are of opinion that out of the three Battalions which we have the Honour to command one might be soon exceedingly well equipped with good Arms (Bayonets excepted) fit for the field, we hope to have a full state of your scituation by the return of the Express which we expect as soon as possible We are Gentn with great Regard [&c.]

C. Beatty Ja^s Johnson B. Johnson

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

Sunday Morning [March 10] 6 oClock – The Committee met –

An Express arrived from the Council of Safety informing the Committee, that the *Otter* & her Prizes & Tenders appeared off Annapolis about 1/2 past 3 oClock, & at 1/2 past 4 sent a Boat with a Flag to the Governor demanding fresh Provisions

Capt James Nicholson Commander of the Ship *Defence* appeared before the Committee, and reported, that his Ship had returned to Fells Point, having retaken several Prizes, which were come up with him –

Mr Isaac Hudson, who was taken onboard the *Molly* Capt Laurence, appeared before the Committee and gave in his Deposition of being taken by the Tenders of the *Otter* on Wednesday the 6th and retaken by the *Defence* on the 9th –

William Wardin appeared before the Committee to give an Account on Oath of his Capture by the *Otter*, which Deposition is filed –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentn

Baltimore 9 oClock Sunday Mornng [March 10]

Our Committee have reced through Mr [Charles] Carroll your favor of 12 oClock last night, he has wrote our Sentiments. We have just got the *Defence* & her Prize safe Anchord at the Point. If you want any Assistance from us in Men we will fly to your Assistance. Pray send the Lead we wrote for. We are Gent. [&c.]

Will^m Lux
And Buchanan
J. To^y Chase

Jn^o Smith
W^m Buchanan

We are sorry to inform you that 4 out of 5 Cannon at Mr Hughes burst & killd poor Matthews. Mr Smith is just ret'd

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER, TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Gentn Yours of last night gave me no small satisfaction but we have since receiving it heard that a large ship & some small vessels are discovered from North Point working up the Bay, whatever they may turn out to be we shall here propose to receive them as there are a great number of men in town Colo [Thomas] Dorsey has been directed to march back his Battalion to Elk river but will keep them together at Elk Ridge landing till he hears from you by express whether they are wanted at Annapolis. Pray dispatch your orders to him directly - I understand from you that you are at Annapolis sufficiently prepared to oppose the landing of any men from the *Otter* or her tenders - . . . I am sorry to acquaint you that there is some probability that the powder and arms we expected from Philada are seized by one of the tenders -

Balt Town March 10th 1776

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER, AND THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

No 50

Gentn Half past three o'Clock this Afternoon the *Otter* with her Tenders hove in sight; Half past five a Flag was sent with a Letter to the Governor a Copy of which with his Answer you have inclosed. We informed you last Night, that very little Provision would fall to their share; this we confirm. We are well prepared to repel any Attempts, they may make to land. - You will now have no Occasion for [George] Strickers Company, therefore if you have ordered him to Baltimore Town, - countermand it - The President and Mr [Matthew] Tilghman conferred with two Officers that came on shore to attend the Flag. - They confessed one of their Tend-

ers was in great Danger of being taken, but that Capt. Squires bore away to prevent great Effusion of Blood – but we conceive that he will loiter about 'till he is reinforced. We perceived a small Vessel making down the Bay, and not unlikely with Intelligence to the *King-Fisher*, who the Flag said, might be expected to relieve the *Otter* – Therefore you will be pleased to provide against the worst – We cannot sufficiently commend those brave sons of Liberty, who this Day stood forth so gallantly in Defence of their Country, – be assured that we shall afford them every Assistance in our Power and are Yrs [&c.]

[Annapolis] 10th March 1776

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GOVERNOR ROBERT EDEN.¹

No 51.

Sir Your Excellency will be pleased to inform Captain Squire, that the Time has been, when we should have thought it an Honor, and would with pleasure have supplied any of his Majesty's Ships with Provision; and are still not destitute of Hope, a Time may yet come, when we may enjoy that satisfaction.

We have always considered Capt'n Squire as a Man of Humanity, and a Gentleman, and as such cannot account for the burning of a Vessel in full View of the People of this City, as if meant to add Insult to Misfortune already too severely felt by the People of this Province, who were always attached to his Majesty and his Family. And who cannot be reprobated for defending themselves against any Invasion of their Native and Charter-Rights. We are willing to believe and shall be glad of being confirmed therein, that this Step was not in Consequence of any Order from him.

We are much obliged to your Excellency for the pains you have taken to preserve the Peace of this Province, and beg that you will still exert your Endeavours for the Restoration of those happy Days that we enjoyed under a Constitutional Dependence on the Mother Country.

In Council Annaps. March 10th, 1776

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER, AND THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE¹

No 52.

Gentn We are much hurried – the hostile Fleet are sailed down the Bay and we are confident they will return in two or three Days, therefore prepare for your Defence – We ordered Part of Colo [John] Weems's Battalion at 12 o'Clock last Night to guard West-River, and at 12 o'Clock to Day which was the Time the *Otter* was weighing Anchor, ordered the Remainder of that Battalion to hasten down along the Bay-Side toward the Mouth of Patuxent & to shew themselves ready to oppose any Attempts of Land-

ing, and if they should Land without a Flag, to fight it out to the Last with them. The £ 1000 you mention, shall be sent by the first Opportunity – we have a great Deal to say to you and shall be glad to see you to Morrow or next Day, – we are all worn to the Stumps.

[Annapolis] 10th March 1776

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, Md. Arch.

EXAMINATION OF CAPTAIN THOMAS WIRT ¹

[Annapolis, Sunday, March 10] ²

Thomas Wirt says he was taken in the Mouth of Potapsco that the *Otter* Sloop had about 350 Men on Board – 16.6. pounders Abt 25 aboard the Sloop Tender – 6.4 pounders & Swivels Abt 15 aboard the small Tender – 6.2. pounders & Swivels That the reason why the Tender this Morning weighed Anchor and stood in to the mouth of the River was to put himself and other prisoners more conveniently ashore – the bay being something rough for a small boat to go out That the Capt of the Sloop Tender behaved with the greatest humanity to him and promised him at first to put him ashore

Want of fresh provisions much

Gutridge (the young Man) ³ said that the Capts orders was to take or destroy the *Defence* and that they were not to return untill they did it.

That he believes from what he overheard they are gone down the Bay to go into Patuxent and that when they get more force they are to return –

Aboard the Sloop Tenders they were healthy – aboard the *Otter* he heard they were sickly

Young Gutridge said that if they did not get fresh provisions the next time they came up here they would knock down all the Houses along Shore

12 or 14 Negroes he thinks he saw on Board the Vessels

1. Revolutionary Papers, Box 15, Md. Arch.

2. "On Sunday morning another Boat with flagg landed some prisoners amongst others Capt Wort who owned a packett Boat that passed between Old River & Baft Town." Narrative enclosed in letter of March 13, 1776 from the Maryland Council of Safety to the Virginia Committee of Safety.

3. Probably Bridger Goodrich, one of the three seafaring sons of Captain John Goodrich.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Sunday, the Xth March, 1776.

A Letter of Colonel [William] Grayson, command'g officer of the Forces at Hampton, dated the 8th, considered. Resolved, that this committee approve of the answer given to Capt. Hammond's verbal message. The sentiment of convention expressed in their Resolution of the 29th Dec. on a similar message from Capt. Bellen [Henry Bellew] to the Com'g officer at Norfolk, the committee would not think themselves at liberty to depart from if they did not approve them, w'ch is not the case. That friendly intercourse of affection and hospitality w'ch in times of Tranquility this colony hath been accustomed to interchange with the off's and seamen of the

British navy cannot be continued at this time when we have every reason to be convinced their errand here is of a nature far from being friendly, w'ch makes it our indispensible duty to avoid by all means in our power their coming on shore upon any occasion, or being furnished with any necessaries w'ch may enable them to injure us.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 116, 117.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Mercury*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU ¹

March 1776

Sunday 10

So end of the Frying pan Distce 16 Leagues at 5 AM Fir'd 2 Guns and brought too a Sloop from So Carolina, bound to New York Laden with Rice and Indigo, Sent a Petty officer and 3 Men on board her,² at 11 Join'd Company with the *Syren* and the *Falcon*. at 7 Fir'd a Gun for the Convoy to haul up Came on board from the *Syren* Lord Wm Cambell [Campbell], parted Company with her and the *Falcon*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

2. The sloop *Hope*, Andrew Brown, master; Andrew Brown and John Burr, owners, from Charleston for New York, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Cruizer*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY ¹

March 76

Sunday 3d

[Cape Fear River, below Wilmington]

6 AM unmoord, At 10 weigd, and towd down the harbour. At Noon came too with the Small Bower Anchor to stop tide.

little winds and fair wear at 9 AM weigd and towd down with the boats at 11 got aground

Monday 4th

at 8 AM she floated off. Tow'd down at 11 anchord abreast of old town to stop tide

Mode & cloudy wear. at 4 weighd and towd down at 5 got aground on the flats carried out the stream Anchor.

Tuesday 5th

AM she floated Empd warping her over the flats. saild down to Brumswick the *Betsy* tender Came up the armd Sloop *Genl Gage*

Fresh Gales and squly with rain Came up again the *Betsey* Tender empd warping up again over the flats at 10 she groundd upon the Flats.

Wednessd 6th

Empd Pumping the water out the ground tier to Lighten her Recd from the *Betsey* 10 Chest of arms with 3 Barrels & 5 half barrels of Powder

Thursday 7th

Mode and Cloudy wear AM found at high water she did not float got 20 Chests of arms into the *delagete* Schooner, Empd Pumping the water out the ground tier At [illegible] she floated hove short upon the hauser, and got some of the arms out of the Schooner.

- At 10 weigd and came to sail at 11 Grounded again upon the Flats
 little winds & fair wear PM sent the Transports down with 6 Chests of arms.
- Friday 8th AM Empd heaving over the flats Mode and fair wear Empd warping down with [illegible] at 12 Anchor'd with the stream Anchor.
- Saturday 9th at 9 weigd, and made sail down the river Empd filling water.
 Mode and Cloudy Empd working Down. at 6 PM came to Anch. with the small bower in 2½ fathm deep water point SW½W
- Sunday 10th AM fresh gales and Cloudy wear at 6 weigd and run down at 8 Anchor'd abreast of Fort Johns[t] on & moord the Fort NW

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN IN [NEW BERN,] NORTH-CAROLINA TO HIS FRIEND IN THIS CITY [PHILADELPHIA], DATED MARCH 10, 1776.”¹

Governor Martin has threatened the destruction of Wilmington, if they do not supply him with provisions. The town has spiritedly refused to supply him with a single mouthful, notwithstanding the *cruizer* and three armed vessels lay opposite it, and they have told the Governor he may do as he pleases, as they are determined to resist to the last. They have a good battery there, and four hundred chosen men, under the command of a brave Irishman, Col. William Purviance, who is determined to see it out with them. The women and children are sent out of town. The Tories are all secured in Wilmington jail, to the number of twenty-five. Capt. Parry, of the *cruizer*, has meanly begged a few quarters of beef, which the town has refused him, and the vessels dare not begin the attack, though we daily expect to hear of an engagement, as they are a starving.

It was humorous enough in the inhabitants of Wilmington, when the Governor haughtily demanded one thousand barrels of flour, after answering him fully on that head, they then went immediately into the insurrection, and what a hopeful situation he had reduced his friends to, that were surrounded by large, spirited, and powerful armies, who were determined to make short work with them.

The Negroes at Cape Fear were never known to behave so well as they have lately.

Yesterday two prisoners, a midshipman and a common seaman, were sent out of this town to Halifax.

We have now in arms, to the southward of this town, nine thousand four hundred men. General Clinton, we expect to hear every moment, is landed at Cape Fear, with the troops under his command. As soon as we

learned he had sailed from Virginia, sent off an express instantly to our commanding officer there, to be ready for him. The Gov. of South-Carolina is at Cape Fear; Clinton, Martin, and Lord William Campbell, are to settle the plan of operations as to the subjugating this province, South-Carolina, and Georgia. Tomorrow we send off two gentlemen to South-Carolina. I do expect the moment Clinton lands, this province, Virginia and South-Carolina will march an army of twenty thousand men against him. You never knew the like in your life as to true patriotism, not a man of any influence is left in the back country, nor on Cape Fear, all to a man turned out upon the first alarm in defence of their country.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, March 26, 1776.

HENRY LAURENS' ACCOUNT WITH THE COLONY OF SOUTH CAROLINA ¹

The public of South Carolina 1776.		To Henry Laurens Dr	£	S.	D
Febry. 7.	103-3 Inch plank gty. [quantity] 2130 feet delivered at Sullivant's Island @ £ 9.P-		191,,	14,,	-
9,,	58-3 Inch plank gty. 1095. feet . . a 9,, . . . & for 2 days Hire of a Flat 4 Negroes & a White Man for last parcel & this to Sullivants Island. . .		98,,	11,,	-
20,,	56, , 3. Inch plank gty. 1070. feet a-9 these landed at Mr [Christopher] Gadsden's Wharf . . .		96..	6..	-
26,,	9, , 3 Inch plank gty.. 171 feet a-9..		£ 15,,	7,,	9
	ad Mr. [Daniel] Cannon 54-Inch Boards gty. 938 feet - ditto ad Capt [Edward] Blake. 500 feet a 50/.p		35,,	19,,	0 51,,6,,9
26th	4 Swiveled Guns . . .		40,,	-,,	
	5850t Weight of Waggon Tying Iron & Nails, do to Mr [John] Calvert by Doctor [David] Oliphant's order a 3/9 -		1096.17.	6	
			£ 1586.15.3		

Endorsed: Copy of the Public Accot the 10 March 1776 & Recd £ 1586,, 15,, 3

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 200, 201.

COLONEL STEPHEN BULL TO HENRY LAURENS¹

Sir,

[Beaufort, March 10, 1776]²

Above, is a state of the troops under my command, in the service of Georgia; the light horse, have already taken post in that province where I purpose landing, by recommendation of Colonel M'Intosh [Lachlan Mc-Intosh] I should have embarked sooner, but the different detachments dropped in so irregularly, particularly the Fuzileers and Light Infantry, (who only arrived at two o'clock This afternoon,) and then too much fatigued to proceed; but shall embark to-morrow morning early, on board of a sufficient number of proper boats, that I had provided, and mounted swivel guns on them. By the latest accounts, Savannah is safe; and no troops landed.

Enclosed, is a copy of my orders; to which, I refer you. On my arrival at Savannah; shall write you fully. In the interim, have the honour to be, Sir [&c.]

Step'n Bull.

1. John Drayton, *Memoirs of the American Revolution, from its Commencement to the Year 1776, Inclusive; As Relating to the State of South-Carolina . . .* (Charleston, 1821), II, 234. Hereafter cited as Drayton, *American Revolution*.
2. The date is approximated. Colonel Bull's orders were issued by the South Carolina Provincial Congress on March 2, and the next letter written by him, which has come to light, was dated March 15, sometime after his arrival at Savannah.

GOVERNOR JAMES WRIGHT TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON¹

Cockspur on Board His Majesty's
Ship *Scarborough* the 10th of
March 1776.

Sir/

I did my self the Honor of Writing to you on the 21st and 27th Ult When I gave you the fullest account of the State of Affairs here, that was then in my Power to do, and this day the King's Troops returned from the Town & brought down with them about 14. or 15. Vessels in all, having on Board about 1600 bls of Rice, & Several other things, this was Effected Without the Loss of a Man, but as I well knew it would, so it has, reduced this Province to the most deplorable Situation. – The Rebels are Skulking & increasing every day, Since they found the Troops did not Land, and are now Said to be 700 Strong, and Reported that they have Raised 200 of their Battalion, and have been reinforced by 600 Foot & 60 Hor[s]e from So Carolina, and have Seized on a great Many Negroes who are Employed in throwing up Works & Fortifying the Town, & putting it in the best State of Defence & resistance, Which they Possibly can, and I am perswaded, will oppose any Troops, Which may be Sent against, or Attempt to take Possession of the Town & force them from it. – and thus Sir you See what a difference a few days have made in the State of affairs here, and I must beg Leave to Observe that not one barrel of Rice more, can ever be got, in the way this Quantity has been, and their getting the above, was very nearly Prevented, for the Rebels Set fire to a Ship, With an intention to Burn them all, but very hap-

pily only 4 were Burnt, and the above Escaped & were brought off. – and unless Troops come, Sufficient to Reduce this Province, no Provisions can be had from here, nor any from So Carolina.

I must also Acquaint you that the Carolina People have declared, that if they are Attack'd & Obliged to retire from Charles Town – that they Will come to Savanah & Join them, in Defending & Making A Stand in this Province.

our Distress here is beyond Description, they have Seized upon all the Gentln of the Council & Kings officers they Could Lay their Hands upon, also a great many of the Friends of Government, or what they Call Torys, Who they keep in Close Confinement & Several Who went on Board the Ships, and assisted in bringing away the Merchant Ships, the Rebels have Declared Shall be Shot Down, if ever they Return, or are seen in Savanah again. – Numbers have been Obliged to fly from their Houses, [&] Leave their Familys, Several have retired Elsewhere. I must in the Strongest manner Possible request your Immediate assistance, and with Reference to my former letters, am with Perfect Esteem, Sir [&c.]

Ja: Wright

P.S. I must beg to hear from you by the Return of this Vessell, that I may know what I am to Expect, or depend upon

time is Precious, the hot weather will Soon Set in & then your Troops Can't act so well & may begin to be Sickly, therefore not a day is to be Lost, if any thing is Meant to be done here, if they come Soon & Carolina is Attack'd at the Same time, the affair will Soon be Settled, but not less than 1000 will do now. It is Reported they have a Party of Indians, 100 or upwards, but this I will not assert, as its only Vague Report wch says they are to Guard the Sea Island to Prevent Provisions being taken off. this may be True, or not. but without Immediate assistance this Province is totally Lost & Ruined.

J: W:

1. Clinton Papers, CL.

CONSTANT BROTHERS TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR., NEW LONDON ¹

Pointe a Petre 10 March 1776

Sir, We have had the honor to write you this day three letters to recommend to you Mr DeHaussay, de Crosnier & de St Martin. ² We flatter ourselves that you will consequently be so kind as to oblige them.

Boards and timber become very rare on this Island, as does sail-reef [*sic*] material. If you can expedite some ships loaded with these cargoes, you can not but succeed. If you can add also some codfish at a reasonable price, it will be even better. Let the wood be white or from the North, and the sale will not be more difficult for it. We will take for our account the cargoes which you send at the highest price which is offered for them. Let us make the most prompt expedition. If you send horses, it is necessary to send only the most handsome and gentle.

We have need of thirty pieces of timber thirty (28 to 30) feet long and

ten in breadth, We beg you to send them by the ships which you are dispatching.

We counsel you to hurry your expedition if it is possible.

We have the honor to be, Sir [&c.]

Constant Bros.

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.
2. The three letters of introduction are in *ibid.*, but of the trio of Frenchmen, apparently only St. Martin secured employment. His letter of introduction stated that he was traveling for his health, but that if he regained it, he would offer his services "for ship-construction or for the navy." St. Martin was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of Engineers in the Continental Army. There is no record of any employment by De Haussay, formerly a captain of the Beauvoisis regiment, or De Crosnier who had been an officer with the colonial troops on Guadeloupe.

11 Mar.

COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM WATSON ¹

Cambridge 11th March 1776

Sir You will receive herewith the papers belonging to the *Norfolk & Happy Return* prizes

it is his Excellencys Command that imediatly upon Condemnation, you give him notice thereof, wherever he Shall be at that time - & he will fix upon the day of Sale I am

Yrs S.M

1. Washington Papers, LC.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM BARTLETT ¹

Sir

Cambridge 11th March 1776

Inclosed are Some papers that you will want on the trial of the Schooner & Sloop to which they belong

I am Commanded by His Excellency to desire that you will Send off by Some safe hand immediately on receipt here of the following articles belonging to the *Concords* Cargo -

A Box No 57 -	Containing -	10 Reames of paper
58 -		30 Reames Do
16 -		7 lb Sealing Wax & 10000 Quills

Make no mistake in the packages, & the General expects you will send them so as to be heare tomorrow evening. If we should move off from hence before the Condemnation of any of the prizes you must acquaint the General whereever he is, & receive his orders for the day of Sale. Send up immediately an account of what [y]ou have Supplied the General with for his private accompt that it may be settled before his departure -

A particular Account of the goods on board each Vessel must be sent on Condemnation, the General Inv[oice] of the Store ship, & the *Concord* re-

main with me, but there are several small adventures on board the *Latter* which you must make out – I am Sir

S.M

1. Washington Papers, LC.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1776

Watertown, March 11.

We hear that a Transport Brig of 14 Guns laden with Naval stores, and provisions bound from Boston for the Ministerial fleet at the Southward, ran ashore at the back of the Cape, the beginning of last Week: – On seeing of which, a number of People went on board and dismasted her, and afterwards safe unloaded her. She had on board five barrels of powder, and about £ 500 Sterling in Specie, of which good care is taken. She hove over three of her Guns before she struck. ¹

Capt. [John] Manley, and two other privateers, the beginning of last week took and carried into Portsmouth, a ship of about 300 tons burthen, (being the sixth out of eight from White Haven) laden with Coal, Cheese and Porter, bound for the ministerial butchers in Boston. ²

By a vessel from Dominica, we learn, that the Captains Cordis, Goodwin and Mansize, in the service of Thomas Russell, Esq; now of Dunstable but late of Charlestown, were safe arrived at that Island from Newfoundland on the 22d of January.

In our two last Papers and part of this Day's we advertised the Ship *Henry and Esther*, for Trial on the 28th of March instant, it should have been, the Brigantine named the *Henry and Esther*, commanded by one Nellis.

1. The ship *Friendship*, taken on March 1, 1776.

2. The *Susannah*, John Frazer, master, taken by four of Washington's schooners on March 6, 1776.

ADVERTISEMENT OF LIBELS FILED IN THE ADMIRALTY COURT OF SUFFOLK,
MIDDLESEX AND ESSEX COUNTIES, MASSACHUSETTS ¹

Colony of Massachusetts Bay, Essex, ss.

At the court erected to try and condemn all vessels that shall be found infesting the sea coast of America, and brought into the counties of Suffolk, Middlesex, or Essex, to be held at Ipswich in the said county of Essex, on Thursday the 28th day of March, 1776, at the hour of ten in the forenoon, will be tried the justice of the capture of a ship called the *Jenny*, burthen about two hundred tons, commanded by William Wood; and of a brigantine called the *Nelly* burthen about one hundred and eighty tons, commanded by John Robinson. ² At the same court to be held at Ipswich aforesaid, on Friday the 29th day of March, at the hour of nine in the forenoon will be tried the justice of the capture of the sloop called the *Rainbow*, burthen about sixty tons, commanded by Samuel Perkins. ³ All which vessels, said to be improved in supplying the fleet and army employed against the United

Colonies, and taken and brought into the County of Essex aforesaid, together with their cargoes and appurtenances, are libelled in the court aforesaid, and will be tried at the times above mentioned. Of which trials this notice is given pursuant to the laws of the colony aforesaid, that the owners of the aforesaid vessels, or any persons concerned therein, 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.

Timothy Pickering, jun'r. (Judge of said court)

1. *Boston Gazette*, March 11, 1776.
2. Prizes of the Massachusetts privateer *Yankee Hero*, Thomas Thomas, commander.
3. Taken January 29 by Washington's schooners *Franklin* and *Lee*.

DIARY OF JOHN ROWE¹

March 11 [1776]. – This morning I rose very early and very luckily went to my warehouse; when I came there I found Mr. Crean Brush with an order and party from the Gen'l, who were just going to break open the warehouse, which I prevented by sending for the keys, and opening the doors. They took from me to the value of twenty two hundred and sixty pounds sterling, according to the best calculation I could make, in linnens, checks, cloths, and woollens. This party behaved very insolently and with great rapacity, and I am very well convinced exceeding their orders to a great degree. They stole many things and plundered my store. Words cannot describe it. This party consisted of Mr. Blasswitch, who was one of the *Can- ceaux* people, Mr. Brush Mr. [William] Cunningham, a refugee, Mr. Welch the provost deputy, a man named Hill, and about fifteen soldiers, with others. I remained all day in the store, but could not hinder their destruction of my goods.

1. *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 2d series, X, 95, 96. Rowe remarked in his diary the next day that he got a receipt from Crean Brush for the goods taken, "but dont expect much good from it."

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND¹

[Providence] Monday Evening 11th March 1776.

Meeting in-being according to adjournment.

Voted. That Messrs Clarke & Nightingale have an order on Steph Hopkins Esqr for Two thousand Five Hundred Dollars, also an other Order for [illegible] Hundred Dollars on the said Stephen Hopkins Esqr

Voted. That Nicho & John Brown have an Order on Stephen Hopkins Esqr for Two thousand four Hundred Dollars.

Voted. That the Secretary make out an Order to send to Mr Francis Lewis Merchant New York and desire him to ship the Two Hundred Bolts of Duck purchased of him by Stephen Hopkins Esqr By [the] *Diana* Jonathan Carpenter Master for this place.

Reckoning: [blank]

Meeting adjourn'd to Wednesday Evening:

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

COMMITTEE FOR BUILDING CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND TO
STEPHEN HOPKINS ¹

Sir.

Providence March 11, 1776.

Value Received Please to Pay Nicholas & John Brown, or order, Two Thousand, Four Hundred Dollars, and Charge the same to account of the Ships of Warr, we are building here per your order without further advice, haveing signd two orders of this Tenor and date, one of which being accomplished, the other one to be void - We are Your Honours [&c.]

Nichs Cooke

John J. Clark

Joseph Brown

Jos. Nightingale

Dan^l Tillinghast

Jabez Bowen

To The Honbl Stephen Hopkins, Esqr

one of The Com[mittee] for Naval affairs - Contl Congress, at Philadelphia

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

Constitutional Gazette, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1776

Newport, March 11.

About the beginning of last week, a ship, mounting 10 guns, with 30 men ballast with shot, and having on board 14,600 dollars, several new cables, and other cordage, bound from Boston to New-York, was cast away at Cape-Cod, where the people from the adjacent parts secured the dollars, cordage, guns, &c. ¹

Capt. Remington, who passt by the east end of Long-Island last Wednesday [March 6], saw a very large ship on shore there, which had been stripped of her sails and rigging.

Since a few of this day's papers were struck off, we hear the above ship is a man of war of 64 guns. ²

Last Tuesday night we had a very heavy gale of wind here, from S.E. to S.W. in which a schooner belonging to the ministerial fleet, lying near Hope, in this bay, lost both her mast and bowsprit, one sloop belonging to said fleet, lost her mast and bowsprit, and another her mast; and the *Rose*, Capt. Wallace, was within a few rods of going ashore on Hope. One tender sunk at her anchors.

1. The transport *Friendship*.

2. Not a naval vessel, but a ship loaded with salt, the loss of which is described in the *New-York Journal*, March 14, 1776.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH ¹

[New York] In Council 11. March 1776

The Last Letter from Ld.G.Germaine was dated the 23 Decr. the Day after the passing of the Act for captivated [*sic*] our Vessels &c a Copy of which it inclosed and I remember well that it asserts the Commission to be sealed and that the Commissioners are to confer with the Colonies for terminating the Differences.

These Papers arrived Yesterday in a Packet in which William Temple² of Boston and one Denny of the same Place – VanderHaydon of Quebec & a Person said to be an Engineer for the Congress were Passengers – The *Phoenix* did not obstruct their Landing upon Long Island from whence they came to Town & the next Day Temple went to Philadelphia – He desired on his arrival to see the Provincial Congress who sent several of their Members to his Lodgings that Evening with whom he conferred & afterwards it was asserted that he gave several Persons to understand that he had Messages to the Contl Congress from the Marquiss of Rockingham & the Duke of Grafton – That he was to discover a Person in the Camp at Cambridge who was a spy and corresponded with the Ministry & another at Phila who had a Distribution of Half a Million Sterling in Drafts for the Purposes of Corruption – And to my Brother Thos one of the [Provincial] Delegates sent to treat with him he declared Lord Rockingham's Opinion that if the Colonies could keep their Ground the ensuing Summer Administration would be overturned and ruined and that Opposition long since expected & was surprised that Boston was not attacked and taken by the Provincials.

Mr. [Andrew] Elliot and myself under an Apprehension that this was John Temple the Lt.Govr. of New Hampshire with whom we were acquainted & not his brother William made him a Visit but discovering our Mistake and that he seemed to be a very inconsiderable Character & worn down with Disease & the Fatigues of the Voyage we made him a Leg after a few general Questions concerning his Health Voyage &c

1. William H. W. Sabine, ed., *Historical Memoirs from 16 March 1763 to 9 July 1776 of William Smith, Historian of the Province of New York, Member of the Governor's Council and last Chief Justice of That Province under the Crown* (New York, 1956-1958), 268-69. Hereafter cited as Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*.
2. This was Robert Temple, not William, as Smith called him.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New York] Die Lunae 10 HO. A.M.

March 11th, 1776.

A member informed the Congress that a very large mail, with letters for many of the inhabitants, which came by the packet, is on board of His Majesty's ship *Asia*, and that His Worship the Mayor, who attended for the purpose, had informed him that Mr.Foxcroft could not safely go on board of the said Ship *Asia* and bring the said mail on shore without the permission of the Congress.

Ordered, That John Foxcroft, Esqr. be and he is hereby permitted to go to the ship *Asia*, in company with the port master, to receive the mail lately arrived from England in the packet, and to bring the same to his office in this city, in order to deliver out the letters.

Sundry matters were proposed to Congress as useful and necessary to be done at and beyond Sandy Hook for the protection of trade. The Congress was unanimously of opinion that those matters will be most properly and

beneficially managed by a marine committee appointed out of this Congress. Thereupon,

Ordered, That Mr. [Thomas] Randall, Mr. [Anthony] Rutgers, Capt. Denning, Mr. [Jacobus] Van Zandt and Mr. Joseph Hallett, be and they are hereby appointed a marine committee, with full powers to take such measures and give such directions, and employ such persons for the protection or advantage of trade as they may think proper, useful or necessary; that they apply to this Congress when they may be in doubt, or want advice or directions; that they be empowered to keep such matters secret as they think necessary, until they are executed; and that the said marine committee have the charge, care and direction of fitting out the sloop *Bishop*, according to the order made on the [9] instant; that they be also authorized to give directions as to all imports already arrived, or that may arrive in any of the Colonies on account of this Colony, and that any three or more of them be a quorum for the purposes aforesaid.

Die Lunae, 4 ho. P.M. March 11, 1776.

A certificate signed by the President, and attested by both Secretaries, was given to Mr. Van Zandt, for the ship *Rosamond*, in the words following, to wit:

It is hereby certified, that the ship *Rosamond*, whereof Capt. Wright, Southgate, is master, has been laden by order of the Provincial Congress of this Colony on their account, and is now proceeding to sea on her voyage on the account and at the risk of the Colony of New-York.

Mr. Van Zandt produced a letter from — Snell, master of the sloop *Hamden*, informing that he is arrived at Philadelphia, and specifying his cargo brought on account of this Colony.

Ordered, That the marine committee give directions, and take the management of that vessel and cargo.

The Congress were informed that William Douglass, Andrew Van Tuyle and Isaac Simonson, had made affidavit as to the loss of the pilot boat *Hamden*, in the manner formerly directed for the other owners; the said affidavit being read and filed, is in the words following, to wit:

[Here is inserted their Indenture of March 9, 1776]

Ordered, That William Douglass, Andrew Van Tuyl and Isaac Simonson, be paid for one-quarter part of the pilot boat called the *Hamden* the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds, and for one-quarter part of the wages or hire of the said boat and her mariners, the sum of twenty-two pounds ten shillings, on their executing a proper conveyance for one-quarter part of the said boat, and delivering over the papers relating to the said boat to Mr. Jacobus Van Zandt, and entering into covenants with Mr. Van Zandt that if any moneys shall be allowed for the said boat or for the service or detention of the said boat while employed in His Majesty's service, that they will pay one-quarter part thereof to Mr. Van Zandt, and also a covenant that if it shall hereafter appear that the said boat was taken by collusion, or any de-

ceit of the master or owners, or either of them, that then they will repay the said moneys to the said Mr. Van Zandt. And

Ordered, That a copy hereof be a sufficient warrant to Peter Van Brugh Livingston, Esqr. as Treasurer of this Congress, to pay the said moneys.

Mr. [Thomas] Smith informed the Congress that — Barnard, of Elizabeth Town, is in this city; that he came this day; from on board of the ship *Phoenix*; that he says Capt. [Hyde] Parker [Jr.] informed him that he was about fitting out his schooner Tender with carriage guns and other necessaries to make her a vessel of force; to be stationed and cruize off Egg Harbour.

The Congress are of opinion that the said schooner may be very detrimental to the trade of this Colony and the neighbouring Colonies, and at this critical juncture in particular, as ammunition, arms and other necessary stores may thereby be seized and prevented from being landed: Therefore,

Ordered, That the marine committee of this Congress take the examination of Mr. Barnard [into consideration, and ascertain] what may be necessary to be done by this Congress, and report thereon with all possible speed.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 351, 352, 353.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a., 11th March, 1776.

Resolved, That Capt. Thomas Houston take the Command of the Armed Boat *Warren*.

By order of the Board, the Powder account with Congress was sent to the Secret Committee, and the Balance due to this Board in powder this day, is 12,056½ lbs. powder.

1: *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 511.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1776

Philadelphia, March 11.

By an express which arrived here last Saturday [March 9] from Baltimore, which place he left on Friday morning, we learn, that the *Roebuck*, of 44 guns [*sic* the *Otter*, of 14], and two tenders, were seen off Swan's Point (about 30 miles from Baltimore) and that they were expected up on Friday.

Some of the inhabitants of Antigua have petitioned Admiral Young to grant commissions to fit out armed vessels for the taking all American property, which it is said will be granted shortly. ¹

1. Last paragraph in newspaper Supplement of this date.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

No 53.

Gentn We received Intelligence by our Pilot-Boats on Tuesday-Evening [March 5] that a Ship of War and two Tenders were under Sail on their

Way up the Bay, and immediately issued our Orders for their Reception, which was observed with amazing Expedition and Punctuality – we are much indebted to the spirited, active and good Conduct of the Regular Officers and Troops. – the Militia moved with astonishing Dispatch – and as soon as the Vessels hove in Sight, our Coast was lined with Men. – At Baltimore the Celerity of their Movements exceeded Description and had very nearly proved more advantageous, than they really ha[ve], for it was expected by the Vessels (the *Otter* of 16 guns, – a Tender of 6, & the other with swivels only) that the ship *Defence* was altogether unprepared, which led them to conceive themselves in a state of Security, which had like to have been attended with Consequences very disagreeable to them – The Residue of our Guns for the Ship, arrived only Wednesday Night and on Thursday Morning was mounted – on Friday Night she was towed a little Way down the River – manned with a Parcel of Buckskin-Heroes and other brave Fellows – several small Vessels were crowded with Men to assist in Case of an Engagement, which would have been dreadful, as we understand Captn Nicholson intended to grapple at once – She got under Way very early in the Morning, resolved to retake [Jonathan] Hudson's Ship, and engage the *Otter*, which was 4 or 5 Miles below, if she moved to her Relief – Hudson's Vessel was guarded by the Tenders – the Morning was thick and hazy and the *Defence* got nearer to them, before she was discovered, than was agreeable to them – they were much alarmed (not having any Idea our Ship was in Readiness to venture out) and pushed off with the utmost Expedition, leaving the Ship and 4 or 5 small Vessels, which had fallen into their Hands – The Tenders would probably have been taken if the *Otter* receiving a Signal-Gun, had not sent off Men to double-man their Oars – The *Defence* stretched backward and forward below her Prizes and at Length seeing the *Otter* get under Way, came to, close Hudson's Vessel and prepared for Battle expecting she was coming up to her, but to the Amazement of our Brave-Countrymen she bore away and anchored in the Afternoon off Annapolis – Nicholson continued his station thinking it imprudent to risque an Action, as he had such a valuable Prize under his Care – In the Evening a Flag was sent in. – the Gentlemen behaved very politely and on Some Subjects were free and communicative – they know every Thing which is transacted here and to the Northward – the Flag brought a Letter to the Governor from Captn Squire Commander of the *Otter* desiring Provision for the Sloop & that a Tender might be permitted unmolested to take a New-England sloop loaded with Bread and Flour which we had sent up Severn – the Governor laid that Letter before us – we refused a Supply of Provisions and took no Notice of that Part of the Letter, which related to the New-England Vessel, thinking it rather an Insult – but ordered a Guard of about 50 Men to be immediately put over her – We received two other Flags in the Morning, one of them for our Answer and the other with Prisoners, who say they were treated with the greatest Humanity and Tenderness – the *Otter* and her Tenders with some Prize-Vessels sailed down the Bay Yesterday – but we expect they will return again soon, reinforced, as

from what we can collect they are bent upon taking or destroying the *Defence*.—5782w Powder is arrived in Potowmack and safe landed at Bladensburg—

You shall have a full State of Facts relative to our late interesting Situation by the next Post— This we give you in a Hurry—

[Annapolis] 11th March 1776.

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

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Monday 11th March, 1776.

Ordered it be left to Mr. Thomas Archer to proceed to direct his vessel under the command of Capt. Howe to proceed on her voyage at such time as he may think most prudent, and that he be at liberty to purchase 6 good musquets or smooth bore guns for the use of the seamen on board, w'ch will be paid for on his certificate, and that he be furnished with 4 lbs. powder, and if necessary with 3 or 4 barrels of Pork.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 117, 118.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

10th of March 1776 Virginia	Having received Intelligence from North Carolina, that a French Vessel had arrived at Carrutuck [Currituck] inlet with Powder and Arms, I immediately put an Officer and 20 Men on board one of the Prizes, Armed her with swivel Guns, and sent her in Company with Lord Dunmore's Schooner to that place to destroy her. They sailed in the Evening and in the Night a Gale of Wind came on, and drove a small Sloop that was in Company with them ashore. The next day (the Weather proving still unfavourable) they returned, without having been able to get over the Bar of the Inlet, and the Men of the Sloop that was Stranded (which were belonging to the 14th Regiment) marched thro' the Enemy's Country, and came to the Ships at Norfolk, having saved their Arms and destroyed the Vessel.
11th	

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Syren*, CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX ¹

March 1776 Friday 8	34°40' No AM at 4 taken aback ½ past 5 saw a Sail to the NEt, gave Chace, at 8 taken aback, at 11 the <i>Falcon</i> bro't too a Sloop from Carolina bound to Salem, with Rice, TKd & set up the Main Topmt Rigging—the Sail Makers employed repairing Sails— Light Breezes Vble Soundings
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- PM at 6 bro't too at 8 made Sail, at 12 made the Signal & TKd
- Saturday 9 AM: at 1/2 past 6 saw two Sail from the Mast [head] to the ENEt made Sail & gave Chace, the Gammoning of the Bowsprit being gone employed securing it, Read the Articles of War & ca punished David Shally (Seamn) with 12 Lashes for Drunkenness at 11 fired 2 Shot at the Chace, at 12 spoke the *Glasgow Packet* from Boston, made Sail after a Ship to the No wd—
First part Do Wear latter fresh Gales & hazy. Various Soundings—
PM 1/2 past 1 spoke His Majestys Ship *Mercury* from Boston bound to Cape Fear having on bd Genl [Henry] Clinton, 1/2 past 2 made Sail, read the Articles of War & punished John Shields Seamn with 12 Lashes for Neglect of Duty, S'gle reefed the TPLs 1/2 past 6 made Sail, at 1/2 past fired a Gun, and made the Sigl for Tacking at 7 brot too the *Mercury* joined with a small Sloop (Prize)
- Sunday 10 [A.M.] in Co the *Mercury*, *Falcon*, *Glasgow Packet* & Prize
First part fresh breezes & hazy, latter light breezes & Clear, Various Soundings.
PM at 2 Shortned Sail for the *Mercury*, at 8 fell into 11 from 17 Fath's, made the Signal & TKd supposing ourselves to be on the back of the frying Pan.
- Monday 11 AM: made Signals & Tkd occasionally, at 5 bore up & mad Sail, saw a Sail in the N:Et Spoke the *Falcon* to Chace her, read the Articles of War & punished Daniel Redman & Jno Harris Seamn with 12 lashes for fighting; parted Co the *Mercury* & *Glasgow Packet*, Joined the *Lady Wm* Schooner from Cape Fear, which soon after parted Co at noon Wore Ship.
Light. Airs,
P:M at 2 parted Co the *Falcon*, at 11 TKd

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

INTELLIGENCE RECEIVED AT NEW PROVIDENCE BY THE CONTINENTAL SLOOP
*Fly*¹

[New Providence, March 11, 1776]²

Spoke with Capt William Hicks 13 Days From St Eustasia had 2000 lb of Powder onboard Informd us that Seven Transports under the Convoy of a 50. Gun Ship³ was Bound to Boston and was Drove off[f] the Coast and Put into Antigua and was Coming to St Augustine in march as that the Men of war had Taken Two of the Congress Ships and Carried them into



Captain Tobias Furneaux, R.N.

Ant[i]gua one Frigate and a Sloop of war was Cruising To the Leward of St Eustatia he further informs that the English has Repeald all the acts and Declared war against america one of the Ship[s] Taken was Capt Davison & the other Capt Johnson a Brig from Nubery in Ballast ⁴

Sloop *fly*

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.
2. The sloop *Fly* had collided with the sloop *Hornet* off the Virginia Capes in a storm; had been separated from the fleet, and rejoined it at New Providence on the above date.
3. H.M.S. *Experiment*.
4. The ship *Peggy*, Samuel Davison, supercargo, taken December 9, 1775, by H.M. Sloop *Viper*, and carried into Antigua on January 14, 1776. The identity of the brig from Newburyport has not been established.

ABRAHAM VAN BEBBER TO THE VIRGINIA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

St Eustatius March 11, 1776 –

Having been intrusted by the Convention of Maryland with the execution of such Business in this Island, as the Critical situation of the Colonies [render] Necessary: Was Also on my departure from thence furnish'd by Wm Lux Esqr with the State of some transactions between the Colony of Virginia, and Mr Isaac Vandam of this Island, (lately deceased) repos'd in his hands by your former Agent Mr [John] Goodrich, to a considerable Amount, with Orders to procure a Settlement & receive the Sum due, but not being fully empower'd to act agreeable to the forms required by Law, Shall not be able to render you any further Service at present than procrastinating a Settlement (which expect to Effect) untill I can be furnish'd with proper Credentials from your Honorable Board to invalidate the Claim of Mr Bartho. Goodrich ² who arriv'd here soon after me on Government Service – and who expects a [blotted] who was more immediately concern'd in this Transaction to further his Claim: He Founds his demand on the Provincials having wrested from his Father to a more considerable Amount – & its suspected gone to Antigua, to procure a Letter from the Admiral, to the Governor here, to order the Payment of this Money, to reinstate him. As the Money was Lodged here to Answer Purposes which the State of Holland do not License – ³ I've eve[r]ly thing to apprehend shoud he pursue this Method: – I make no doubt what I've offer'd will induce you to exert yourselves to C[ounteract] the designs of this Scoundrel, you may rest Assured if you shou'd Charge me with the Execution of this, or any other Commands they shall be carefully & punctually comply'd with by Gentlemen [&c.]

Abm Van Bebber

1. VSL.
2. This was Bartlett, not "Bartho" Goodrich.
3. The purchase of gunpowder.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Pomona*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM YOUNG ¹

March 1776
Monday 11

St Eustatia NBE 4 or 5 Leagues
at 8 AM spoke a Sloop from Rhode Island, brought on

board her Men and sent an Officer and 5 Men on board to take Command of her.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

2. Sloop *Sally*, Nathaniel Packard, master, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 24, 1776.

12 Mar.

MESHECH WEARE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Sir

We are favour'd with your Excellency's Advices by Mr Moylan's Letter of the 9th Instant, and acknowledge ourselves extremely oblig'd by this early Intelligence of your spirited and interesting Operations against the Town of Boston, to which We heartily wish the utmost Success you can possibly expect – We do also gratefully acknowledge the goodness of your Intentions, that upon the first Discovery & Notice given, that any of the Troops from Boston on leaving the place, might appear on the Coast to attempt a Landing, You woud come or send immediately to our Assistance –

Our Assembly have very readily determind upon the most effectual Measures in our power, for the Defence of the sea Coast, & in particular piscataqua Harbour – but We must beg Leave to remind your Excellency of a Matter of the utmost Consequence to Us, Our Magazine of powder being very low not exceeding twelve Barrels, We are under the Necessity of asking The Return of the Supply of powder made by this Colony last summer for the Continental Service, and that you woud please to order Us the like Quantity, or what can possibly be spared for our Use; the supplys we have sent for to the West Indies, &c, and been some time expecting, are not yet arrived. –

In behalf of the Council & Assembly I am [&c.]

Meshech Weare Presidt of the Council

Colony of New Hampshire

Exeter 12th March 1776

1. Washington Papers, LC.

WINTHROP SARGENT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Sir

Glocester March 12 1776

This is to Aquant your Excellency that Last Sunday [March 10] Commodor Manley with Warter [Daniel Waters] [Samuel] Tucker & Ayrs [John Ayres] Tuck a Ship from London Jams Watts Commander² The Contence of Hur Cargow you have inclosed with Two Letters for Genl How, but thay Had the Misforten it being Verey dark thick night to Run a Shoar upon the Rox About three Miles from the Harbor of Glouster She is Bilged & Most of the Cargow will be Lost the Comd Manley Damaged his Vessel Verey Much Lost his Bowsprit but is Refeted, I Shall dow all in my Power to save what I Can of the Cargow I should be glad to Know what I Shall dow

with the Capt & Sallers as they have Know Ship to Cheap On bord I Rem
Your Excl [&c.]

Winthrop Sargent

1. Washington Papers, LC. Sargent was Continental agent at Gloucester.
2. The ship *Stakesby*, of 300 tons.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO THE RHODE ISLAND DELEGATES IN THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Extract]

Providence March 12th 1776

... Capt. Manly hath taken another Transport Ship laden with Coals
Portor &c² She brings no News later than the 2d December. An armed
Transport is also stranded on the back of Cape Cod.³ The most of her Car-
go consisting principally of a few military Stores hath been secured by the
Inhabitants; the Mastor Two Midshipmen and a Number of Seamen are
made Prisoners. She was bound from Boston to New-York ...

Last Friday the *Swan*, Capt. Ayscough, struck upon the flat Rock near
the Blue-Rocks where she lay 4 or 5 Hours Col. [Henry] Babcock got down
Two 18 Pounders with which she might have been easily destroyed; but hap-
pening to have sent Two Officers with a Flag on board Capt. Wallace who
lay at Hope Island he did not think proper to make Use of the Opportunity

Since my last Mr Paul Allen hath arrived from Curacoa and brought
with him between 30 and 40 Ct Weight of Powder 150 Muskets, some Pis-
tols & Cutlasses. 12000 Flints, some Twine and a Quantity of Duck &
Ozenbrigs.⁴

In a violent Gale of Wind last Week several of the Tenders were cast
ashore upon Hope Island, and lost their Masts. Two of them have been scut-
tled and sunk, and it is said they will be obliged to sink two more for Want
of Masts.

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 305-06.
2. The ship *Susannah*, of 300 tons, carried into Portsmouth, March 6, 1776.
3. The ship *Friendship*, cast away March 1, 1776.
4. In the Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL, is an account of the military part of this cargo. It reads:

Memodm of the Value of the Powder & Arms, Imported in the Sloop <i>Unity</i> Capt		
Paul Allen—from Curiso		
117 Cask of Powder Wt Nt 3080 lb a 6/	} £924. . . .	
Tho' I sold a Number of Cask a 7/ p lb		
129 Small arms a 9 Dolrs with Boyanets &c		348. .6. . .
60 pr pistles a 4 Dolrs		72.
11 Thousd. Flints a 8 Dolr		26. .8. . .
48 Cutlasses 2 Dolrs		28. .6. . .
4 Swivels Guns a 20 Dolrs pr		24.
19c Lead, run into Shot, Musket Balls a 8 Dolrs		45. 12. . .
	L.M.	£ 1468. 12. . .

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New York] Die Martis, 10 HO A.M.

March 12th, 1776.

A member informed the Congress that Mr. Foxcroft is under apprehensions that the order of this Congress made yesterday, permitting him to go to the Ship *Asia*, for the mail from England, and to bring the same on shore, may be considered as obligatory on him to bring the same on shore, and that he may in the said mail receive instructions from his superior in office, to the contrary. Thereupon,

Resolved, That the order of this Congress of yesterday for permitting John Foxcroft, Esqr. to go to His Majesty's Ship *Asia* for the mail from England, was by no means intended to be obligatory on that gentleman to do any act contrary to his instructions, or to oblige him to bring the said mail on shore, but only to operate as a permission to him to go on board and return with the said mail if he should think proper.

Mr. [Thomas] Randall from the marine committee, reported the said committee are of opinion on the information received from Mr. Bernard of Elizabeth Town, and from other circumstances, known to them, that a letter should be immediately written to the Honorable Continental Congress, requesting that they order an armed vessel fitted out, to join one from this port for the protection of trade, to cruize between the Capes of Delaware and Sandy Hook, and they had prepared a draft of a letter for that purpose. Thereupon the draft of the letter reported by the marine committee, was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Provincial Congress New York March 12th 1776

Sir. As we are informed from undoubted authority that Captain Parker of his Majesty's Ship *Phoenix* is now fitting out a small Schooner to carry Guns & 40 Men & a Brig of 8 or 10 Carriage Guns for the purpose of intercepting Vessels between the Capes of Delaware & Sandy Hook; And as we have already given Orders for the immediate fitting out an Armed Vessel for the protection of our Trade that way we think it necessary to acquaint You that such a one from Philadelphia will also be necessary to be immediately ready to meet ours for this purpose; And that She be of such a draught of Water as that she may run into Barnegat & Egg Harbour—It is also necessary to be immediately informed by You, what Your Marine Committee regulations are, respecting the Wages &c of Officers and Men that we may regulate ourselves accordingly. — We are Sir [&c.]

Nath^l Woodhull Presdt

Honble John Hancock Esqr

President of the Continental Congress. —²

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the President, and transmitted.

Die Martis, 3 ho. P.M. March 12, 1776.

Mr. [John Sloss] Hobart informed the Congress that Major Malcom [William Malcolm], who was sent to dismantle the light-house, was returned, and had executed that matter effectively, with the assistance of Colo. Geo. Taylor and some of his men; that Major Malcom found it impossible to take out and save the glass, as well for want of tools as by reason of the time necessary for that purpose, and was therefore obliged to break it; that Major Malcom had delivered the lamps and oil, two tackle falls and blocks, removed from the light-house, to Colo. George Taylor, and taken a receipt for the same, which was read and filed.

Middletown, March 8th, 1776.

Received from William Malcom, eight copper lamps, two tackle falls and blocks and three cask, and a part of a cask of oil, being articles brought from the light-house on Sandy Hook, and which I will deliver to him, or to the order of the Provincial Congress of the colony of New-York, when called for.

George Taylor, Colonel.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 353, 354, 355.

2. The text of this letter is from the original in the Papers CC (New York State Papers), 67, 194, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, March 12, 1776

A petition from Edmund Custis, and a letter from the committees of Accomac and Northampton, were presented and read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to the committee of the whole.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 197-99.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 12th March, 1776.

Ed'd Chamberlain this day resigned his appointment of Master-at-Arms & Armourer of the armed Boats:

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 512.

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON TO CHARLES CARROLL, SR.¹

[Extract] Ph[iladelphia] Tuesday morning 12th March 1776

... An armed vessel purchased for our province in Statia is arrived here with 2000 lb. of powder, & a cargo to a very considerable amount. The greatest part of wh is the property of our Province: the most material which is coarse linens.² . . . I wait with impatience to hear the event of Capt Nicholson's attack of the *Otter*: Since R. Lee brought 1st word that he was to sail in 2 hours after he left Baltimore to fight the *Otter* I fancy they will think better of it: as I fancy the *Otter* is superior to Nicholson's ship. . .

P.S. Since the arrival of 27½ Tons of powder of wh I informed you in my last letter 5 Tons are come to this port: I believe I told you that the vessel brought 25 Tons of powder – she brought 27½ Tons, but only [2] hundred stand of arms & 2 Tons of Saltpetre Instead of 5 Tons.

1. Carroll Papers, MdHS.

2. The brig *Wild Duck*, Captain James Tibbett.

“EXTRACT OF A GENUINE LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, RECEIVED BY A GENTLEMAN OF UNDOUBTED VERACITY, DATED MARCH 12.”¹

Rhode Island is pestered by [Captain James] Wallace and his ships, who hardly ever lands but he loses more or less of his men; he carries on the war in a very piratical manner. Every now and then he lands to steal sheep, &c. at which time; if he can, he burns houses and *murders the helpless*, not daring to wait; and as soon as he sees any of our armed men coming, *he flies*.

Pennsylvania is still unattacked, but preparing for the worst. Our river is defended by cheveaux-de-friez sunk in the channel (on which no less than three vessels have been sunk by the carelessness of pilots) a very large and strong chain; a battery; a 20 gun ship; a large floating battery to carry 20 eighteen pounders; and 13 row gallies, with an eighteen pounder in their bows, and 50 men properly provided in each; three battalions of regulars, and from 30 to 40,000 militia.

Nothing has happened in Virginia since the entire destruction of Norfolk, but they are there, as well as in North and South Carolina, preparing for the most vigorous defence; . . . But where are your resources, say you? Money we have sufficient. By our industry abroad, we have got safely landed in different parts of this Continent (notwithstanding *the low arts of the Ministry and all their men of war*) upwards of 100 tons of powder, 150 tons of saltpetre, and a large quantity of small arms, which will supply us for the first part of the campaign; for the other, we expect to be under no obligations to any state on earth for the stores, &c.

In a short time we shall have at least 30 ships of war, from 38 guns downwards, besides (if the Ministry carry on their piratical war) a great number of privateers. . . .²

1. *Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser*, May 16, 1776.

2. This letter was intercepted. The original, indicating it was addressed to Joseph Wharton, an American merchant in London, is in PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40.

JOHN MACPHERSON TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

Honourable Gentlemen

The regard I bear to the libertys of my country, prompts me, to wish for an employment under your derection, in a department in which I have aquired some kno[w]ledge, by experience. I mean the Naval service

I beg leave to observe, that the command of a fleet, has already been promised to me by Messrs [Stephen] Hopkins, [Peyton] Randolph, & J Rutledge. Indeed without such a command, I could not possibly act in

the way I proposed to those Gentlemen, which way was approved of, by them. Nor was it disapproved of, after the alterations I made, by any, but Colonel [Richard] Gridley, whom I dont think infallible²

I think my inventions may be of much service to this Country. The fewer that kno[w]s them, the less probabillity, of our enemys kno[w]ing them, but if the Honourable Congress chuse, that a greater number of Gentlemen of there Body, should have an oppertunaty, of judging of them, I will discover the whole, to as many as the Honourable Congress, is pleased to apoint, provided the Gentlmen apointed, Come under the same obligation of secresy, that those Gentlemen, already in the secret have done

I beg leave to asure you Gentlemen, that a desire of revengeing the death of my dear Boy, who fell by the side of the Gallant Genl Montgomery,³ has a less share, in prompting me to this application to you, than a desire of defending & transmitting the libertys of this Country, unimpaired to posterity.

If your Honourable Body shall think fit to appoint me, to the Command of any part of the American Navy, when such an Officer is thought necessary, my every nerve, shall be exerted to an honourable & successfull discharge of my office —

With real esteem, I am Honourable Gentlemen. [&c.]

John Macpherson.

[Philadelphia] March 12th 1776

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XV (M), 23, 24, NA.
2. He refers to an illy conceived plan to destroy the British fleet in Boston: Colonel Gridley disapproved, and Washington dissuaded Macpherson from attempting it. See Washington to Hancock, November 8, 1775, Volume 2, 929-31.
3. Captain John Macpherson, Jr., aide-de-camp to General Montgomery.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE¹

At a Meeting of the Committee Tuesday 12 March 1776 —

Capt George Handy was appointed to go to the Sea Coast to look out for a Vessell expected in with Warlike Stores, and £14..10 — advanced him —
The following Letter was just now recieved from Captain Nicholson —

March 11th 1776 —

Capt Nicholson thinks it absolutely necessary to have the Craft sunk immediately to stop the Channel opposite to Whetstone Point; the best Method he thinks of doing it, he has already informed the Committee, which will be attended with little or no Expence —

Jas Nicholson

Resolved, That all the Vessels at Whetstone Point be immediately sunk, and that Capt James Philips be empowered to superintend and direct the Sinking of them —

Resolved, That Capt Isaac Vanbibber, Capt Thomas Elliot, & Mr William Spear be appointed to take a List of the Vessels together with an Ac-

count of their Sizes, and Ages, and also the Names of the Owners of them –

Orders were given to Major Gist to search the Schooner [blank] Capt Braddock, and the Warehouse of Mr John Ashburner for Arms & Ammunition immediately

That the Thanks of the Publick in general, and this Committee in particular to Capt James Nicholson, of the Ship *Defence*, his Officers, and Men, for their spirited active & resolute Defence of Baltimore Town, when invaded by Piratical Robbers –²

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.
2. Acknowledging the Committee's letter of thanks, Captain Nicholson wrote: "In support of the rights and liberties of my country, I cheerfully undertook the arduous task of my present office. . . ." Purviance Papers, MdHS.

WILLIAM LUX TO THE YORK COUNTY COMMITTEE ¹

Gentn

Baltimore 12 March 1776.

We have just now reced your Acceptable favor of the 10th p Mr Donaldson and return you our warmest thanks for your ready offers of Succor in defending us from the incursions of Capt Squire, who after taking many Prizes at the Mouth of our River, was obliged to relinquish the most Valuable on the appearance of the Gallant Capt Nicolson Commander of the Ship *Defence*, who has first had the Honor of displaying the Continental Colors to a British Man of War, without a Return We believe it is the only instance recorded in History of an English Ship of War refusing to shew her Colours to an Enemy and plainly Indicates that the bravest Nation in the World are degeneratg to a want of Spirit unbecoming Freemen & unknown to those who [are] strugling in a Just & good Cause

The County of York have always stood in the foremost Rank for Zeal and Attachment in the Glorious Cause of Liberty, and the Committee woud do them an injury in refusing the Rifle Company to March at the first Notice; They cheerfully then Accept the generous Offer, and will on any appearance of danger inform them by Express

P ordr of the [Baltimore] Come

W Lux D Chn

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS. Similar expressions of appreciation were sent to other committees and militia commanders.

Dunlap's Maryland Gazette, TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1776

Baltimore, March 12.

We are sorry we cannot this week satisfy the Public with a full account of the late hostile attack of our enemies vessels of war in our river; the brave and successful repulse given them by the spirited exertion of Capt. James Nicholson, in the Ship *Defence*. The confusion and alarms have been such, that no regular account could be prepared in time for this day's Paper, but the Public may expect a satisfactory relation of the whole affair in our next: let it suffice in the meantime, to observe, that on the first alarm

of the approach of the enemies ships of war, the people seemed animated with the most undaunted and unanimous spirit, and prepared for a determined opposition at the utmost hazard: and with the firmest perseverance — Capt. Nicholson, with the greatest resolution, with a number of hearty volunteers, proceeded down the river, retook a ship with four or five other prizes which the enemies tenders had taken, and put them to flight, returned in triumph to port with his retaken prizes, valued at upwards of eleven Thousand Pounds — Our friends from all parts of the country flocked in to our assistance, and great numbers were stopt on their way to the town.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Tuesday, 12th of March, 1776.

Mr. George Mater and Lieut. Denny, are appointed to examine the several Ship Materials offered for sale by Major [Edward] Travis at Jamestown, and report to the Comm'ee whether they are good of the kind and in their opinion worth the money he asks for them.

The same Gentlemen appointed to view the Cannon furnished the County by Mr. Govan at New Kent Court House, and report to the Committee which of them are fit for use and the value thereof and their size.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 118, 119.

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

March 1776

Saturday 9th

Moored in Hampton Road Virginia

Little wind and hazy weather, found the Longboat foundered near Crany Isld as she was going up to Norfolk — and that Michl Sweetman a quarter master was drowned in her, lost with her, her Oars, Several Stand of Arms, Swivels, Piggs & Iron Ballast, Armchest, Grapnail and Rope &c. sailed hence the *Lord Howe* on a Cruize against the Rebels.

Ditto weather the first part, middle and latter fresh gales and Squally,

at 1 PM Sent 16 Men properly Armed in a Schooner up James River, to annoy the Rebels, in company with the *Liverpools* and a Tender of Lord Dunmores:

Sunday 10th

AM recd on board some water.

Moderate and Cloudy, employed Scraping Sides, and getting the Ship ready for sea.

Monday 11th

In the Morning returned the Men from the Expedition up James River, having lost one of the Tenders, by her grounding.

Moderate and cloudy wr

at 2 PM having Seen two Sail in the Bay, bent Sails weighed and gave Chace, at 8 Anchored close to point comfort in 8 fm at 11 Saw a light and fired a Shot,

brought too the chace which was the *Lord Howe* Tender and her prize named the *Maria*, Laden with 74 half Barrels of Powder and Bale Goods from St. Eustatia for the Rebels.²

Tuesday 12th Strong Gales and Squally weather the middle part, first and latter moderate and fair, brought from the *Maria* prize 74 Half Barls of Gunpowder, and Sent the *Lord Howe* and her up to the Fleet at Norfolk.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. The sloop *Maria*, Stockholm, master, Dennis, owner, from St. Eustatius for Egg Harbor, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*¹

March 1776

Remks on bd His Majesty's Ship *Roebuck*

Saturday 9th

AM got a Purchase to the [illegible] Capston & Messenger to the Main & with very great difficulty Purchaced the Anchor in doing which the Cable was very much rubbd in the Hause

First part Moderate and cloudy Middle and latter Fresh Gales and squally. PM at 1 sent an Officer and 16 Men on board a Schooner which saild upon a Course with another Schooner and Sloop

Sunday 10th

AM receivd some Water

First part fresh gales the latter Mode and cloudy.

Monday 11th

AM begun to scrape Sides the officer & People returnd in the Schooner which saild yesterday the Sloop cast away & the other Schooner parted Comp.

Moderate and cloudy weathr PM at 2 bent sails & receivd some Wood at 6 saw two sail in the Bay Do Weighed & dropt a little to the NE & Anchoerd in 13 fath at 8 Weighed again & dropt within three Cables length of Point Comfort . . . fired a Shot & brought too & spoke the *Lord How[e]* Tender which had a Prize Sloop from St Eustatia.

Tuesday 12th

AM Receivd from the Prize 74 half barrl of Powder at 10 Weighed & dropt a little to the SW Anchoerd in 13 fath Point Comfort NE $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile the *Lord How[e]* & her Prize saild for Norfolk

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Scorpion*, CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE¹

March 1776

Moor'd off Brunswick in Cape Fear River No Carolina

Tuesday 5

Strong Gales and Cloudy with rain

PM sent to Govr Martin Gunners Stores.

Wednesday 6	Empd Blacking Masts Yards & Fir'd 2 Guns as a Signal to the <i>Cruizer</i>
Thursday 7	Empd Occasly & Working up Junck
Friday 8	Fir'd 4 - 6 Pounders at the Rebels loaded with Round & Grape Scrap'd & Clean'd between decks.
Saturday 9	Mod & Cloudy Recd Gunners Stores from Govr Martin Exercis'd Great Guns and small Arms & Fir'd at a Mark. Fresh Breezs & Clear pass'd by the <i>Cruizer</i> & Tender Anchd here the <i>Genl Gage</i> Recd some Chests of Arms for Govr Martin, fir'd 3 Six Pounders loaded with round & Grape at the Rebels.
Sunday 10	AM sent the Boat on a Secret Expedition. Mod Wr PM sent an Officer & 11 Men to reduce the Rebels Breastworks.
Monday 11	Empd as before.
Tuesday 12	Fir'd a Six pr with round & Grape at the Rebels.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Antelope*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM JUDD ¹

March 1776	Moored in Port Royal Harbour Jamaica
Tuesday 12	Mode and fair Wr at 4 PM came into the Harbour a Brig from Philadelphia Loaded with Flour and Bread ² sent two petty Officers and 6 Men on board and took possession of her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/39.

2. Brig *Polly*, Paul Cruize, master, Gayton's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

13 Mar.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE ¹

March 1776	Remarks &c [in Quebec]
Wednsdy 13	Am scaled all the Guns in the Garrison were removed from the Recollies [Recollects] to Pallas Gate Goal the Prisoners that had been in the Royal Imigrants & the remainder of the Rebel Prisoners to the Dauphin Goal saw several Rebels strolling near Cape Diamond sent a party out of 20 Men Commanded by Capt Littlejohn their advanced Sentry under a hill fired at our party and run away, on which our party marched on a little distance saw a party of about forty, supposed to be at some work fired at them and rushd them having kill'd three of them

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Hope*¹

March '76 Cape Ann NW $\frac{1}{2}$ Wt 4 or 5 Leagues
 Wednsdy the 13th [1 P.M.] Fresh Breezes and Clear Wr out Reefs TS up
 T-G yards Saw a Vessel, on Shore on the East Point
 of Cape Ann, with a Number of the Rebels on bd
 Sent the Master, in a Boat Mand & Armd to hir, on the
 Approach of our Boat the Rebels Quitted hir, found
 hir to be A Transport Named the *Stacksby*² Stove a
 Number of Casks of Porter and Set hir on fire [9 P.M.]
 Boat Returned.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1823.

2. The *Stacksby* had been taken on March 10, 1776 by Washington's armed schooners under John Manley. She had gone ashore, and the prize crew deserted her upon the appearance of the *Hope*. See Sargent to Washington, March 12, 1776.

MINUTES OF A COUNCIL OF WAR HELD AT ROXBURY¹

At a Council of General Officers held at General Ward's Quarters.
 Roxbury, March 13. 1776 -

Present

His Excellency General Washington

Major Generals

[Artemas] Ward

[Israel] Putnam

Brigadier Generals

[John] Thomas

[John] Sullivan

[William] Heath

[Nathanael] Greene

[Joseph] Spencer

[Horatio] Gates

His Excellency the Commander in Chief inform'd the Council, That from the appearance of the Ministerial Fleet and Army. - The intelligence he had receiv'd from sundry Persons who had escap'd from Boston, and from frequent observations, he had reason to beleive that the Troops were about to evacuate the Town; that in all probability they were destin'd for New York, and would attempt to possess themselves of that City, by which means they would command the Navigation of Hudson's River - open a Communication with Canada - and cut off all intercourse between the Southern and Northern Colonies. -

His Excellency then demanded the opinion of Council, whether under the present Circumstances (i.e. before the Town was wholly evacuated), it would be advisable to march any part of the Continental Army (now before Boston) to New York. -

The Council were of opinion that it will be proper, that five Regiments with the Rifle Battalion should be detach'd immediately to New York - The Rifle Battalion to march tomorrow, and the others to follow as speedily as possible. That his Excellency be advised to write to the Governor of Connecticut to desire he would immediately send two thousand of the Militia of

his Government to New York, and that one thousand be requested from the Convention or Committee of Safety of New Jersey. – in order to reinforce the Troops already station'd, there, until the detachment from this Army shall arrive.

His Excellency likewise demanded the opinion of Council whether, if the Ministerial Troops should totally abandon the Town of Boston, it would be necessary to continue any part of the Continental Army for its defence.

Resolved, that if the Ministerial Troops should totally abandon the Town of Boston, it will be unnecessary to employ any part of this Army for the defence and Security of the same. – as the Militia of the Province will be adequate thereto. –

The opinion of the Council was also demanded by his Excellency, whether, if the Ministerial Troops should continue in the Harbour of Boston, it would be advisable to fortify Newk's Hill in Dorchester. –

Resolved, That if the Ministerial Troops should continue in this Harbour to morrow it would be advisable to fortify Newk's Hill the next Night at all Events. –

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 527–30, NA. Enclosed in Washington's letter of the same date.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge March 13 1776

Sir,

In my Letter of the 7 & 9 Instant which I had the honor of addressing you, I mentioned the Intelligence I had received respecting the embarkation of the Troops from Boston & fully expected before this, that the Town wou'd have been entirely evacuated – Altho I have been deceived and was rather premature in the opinion I had then formed, I have little reason to doubt but the event will take place in a very short time, as other accounts which have come to hand since, the sailing of a great number of Transports from the Harbour to Nantasket Road and many circumstances corresponding therewith seem to confirm and render It unquestionable. – Whether the Town will be destroyed is a matter of much uncertainty, but It wou'd seem from the destruction they are making of sundry Peices of Furniture, of many of their Waggon, Carts &c which they cannot take with 'em, as It is said, that It will not, for If they Intended It, the whole might be involved in one general ruin.

Holding It of the last importance in the present contest that we shou'd secure New York and prevent the Enemy from possessing It, and conjecturing they have views of that sort and their embarkation to be for that purpose, I judged it necessary under the situation of things here, to call a Council of General Officers to consult of such measures as might be expedient to be taken at this interesting conjuncture of Affairs – A Copy of the proceedings I have the honor to Inclose you:

Should their Destination be further Southward or for Halifax (as reported in Boston) for the purpose of going into Canada, The March of our Troops to New York, will place them near the Scene of Action, and more convenient for affording Succours.

As New York is of such Importance, prudence and policy require, that every precaution that can be devised, shou'd be adopted to frustrate the designs which the Enemy have of possessing It – To this end I have ordered Vessels to be provided and held ready at Norwich for the embarkation and transportation of our Troops thither – This I have done with a view, not only of greatly expediting their arrival, as It will save several days marching, but also that they may be fresh and fit for Intrenching and throwing up Works of defence as soon as they get there, If they do not meet the Enemy to contend with; for neither of which, wou'd they be in a proper condition after a long and fatiguing March in bad roads – If [James] Wallace with his Ships should be apprized of the measure and attempt to prevent It by stopping up the Harbour of New London, they can but pursue their March by Land.

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 521–28, NA.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL COMFORT SAGE TO EBENEZER SAGE, MIDDLETOWN ¹

[Extract]

Brookline 13th March 1776

... the Ships are all hauld off[f] from the wharfs in Boston and about 60 Sale Loaded with goods & men & weomen fell below the Castle and their Lay at Anchor, tis Sopos'd they wait till the Reest are Ready to joyn them and the whole fleet to Sail together the Admarel's Ship is below the Castle tis without Doubt they Design to push off[f] to Day or to Morrow Doubless to harris our Coust which must keep the whole or part of this Army on the Move but however this may be apiec[e] of Artifice of theirs to Cause a Relaxation, if So they will find themselves much Mistaken for our Alarm posts were Never Better Suply'd And attended to then now and the whole Army Keep a Diligent Look out, Knowing that they will make use of all the arti-f[i]ce that old England & New is Capable of . . .

Your Affectionate father

Comfort Sage ²

1. From the private collection of Frederick S. Hicks, Washington.

2. Sage was in James Wadsworth's Connecticut regiment.

THOMAS HOLBROOK TO JOSEPH PALMER ¹

Sir

Wellfleet March 13th 1776

I have inclos'd you an Estimate of the several Losses I have sustain'd by the Ministerial Ships.² the Vessells I lost were employ'd in carrying Oysters to Cohasset for the Benefit of the Continental Army. I have waited some Time for a convenient Opportunity to transmit an Estimate of my former Loss, since which I have suffer'd the latter, which was the very Vessel that

was cast ashore at Scituate and got off again, & then taken by the Man of War I am Sir [&c.]

Tho^s Holbrook

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 283, NA Photocopy.

2. *Ibid.*, 284, Holbrook's estimate was confined to one vessel, and reads as follows:

an Estimate of the Value of the Schooner *Molley* burthen about thirty Tons taken by a Man of War the 23d of February off Scituate Harbour & carried to Boston – the said Schooner belonging to the Subscriber of Wellfleet Native £106.13.4 Law Money.

Tho^s Holbrook

Barnstable ss March 13th:1776 Then Thomas Holbrook made Oath to the Truth of the above Estimate by him Subscribed to before Me–

Jⁿo Alwood Justis peace

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Mercurii 4 ho. P.M.

13th March, 1776.

Francis Lewis, Esquire a Delegate for this Colony in Continental Congress, informed this Congress that the subject of commissionating private ships of war and letters of marque; was in contemplation in Congress, and that the Delegates for this Colony requested the sense of this Congress relative thereto.

Congress took the same into consideration and agreed that it is the opinion of this Congress that such a measure is very right and proper, and Mr. Lewis was informed of the same, and requested to inform the other Delegates of their opinion in this particular.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 357.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, March 13, 1776

A letter from Mr. J. Macpherson, of the 12, was read:

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the memorial from the merchants, traders, and others, inhabitants of Philadelphia, the memorial of Edmund Custis, the letter from the committee of Accomac and Northampton, the letters from General Washington, and the state of the trade of the United Colonies, and after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that the committee have taken into consideration the matters to them referred, but not having come to any resolution, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to Morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the matters heretofore referred to them.

Resolved, That the marine committee be directed to purchase the armed vessel now in the river Delaware, on the most reasonable terms, for

the service of the continent, and that her destination be left to the said marine committee.²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 199–201.

2. The armed brig *Wild Duck*, Captain James Tibbett, which was immediately christened the *Lexington*.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday 13 [March]. Robert Morris informed Congress that a Tender was sent from New York to cruize at our Capes, whereupon it was agreed that our Marine Comee should purchase for the Continent a Maryland armed Brig now at Philada & send her immedy to fight the Tender & to keep this Matter secret for the present² . . . Govr [Samuel] Ward in the Chair, on the Petitions for allowing Privateers to cruize agt the English, [Samuel] Chase offered a Sett of Propositions & [George] Wyth[e] a preamble,³ [Thomas] Willing and [Thomas] Johnson were the only Members who spoke directly and clearly agt the Measure, [John] Jay was for a War against such only of the British Nation as are our Enemies, E[dward] Rutledge was agt privateering in any Case and for Letters of Marque in this Case, many Delegates were strongly for the Thing but the Determination was left till Tomorrow – Dr Franklin read some Extracts of Letters to Him from Paris giving a high Character of the Baron de Woedtke⁴ late a Major Gen of Cavalry in the Prussian Service and Aid du Camp to that King but now in Philada whither he came last from Paris –

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

2. See Journal of the Continental Congress this date and note.

3. Wythe's preamble is probably the undated document in the Franklin Papers, No. 291, LC.

4. Baron Frederick Wilhelm de Woedtke. He was appointed a brigadier general and ordered to New York.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

In Committee of Safety.

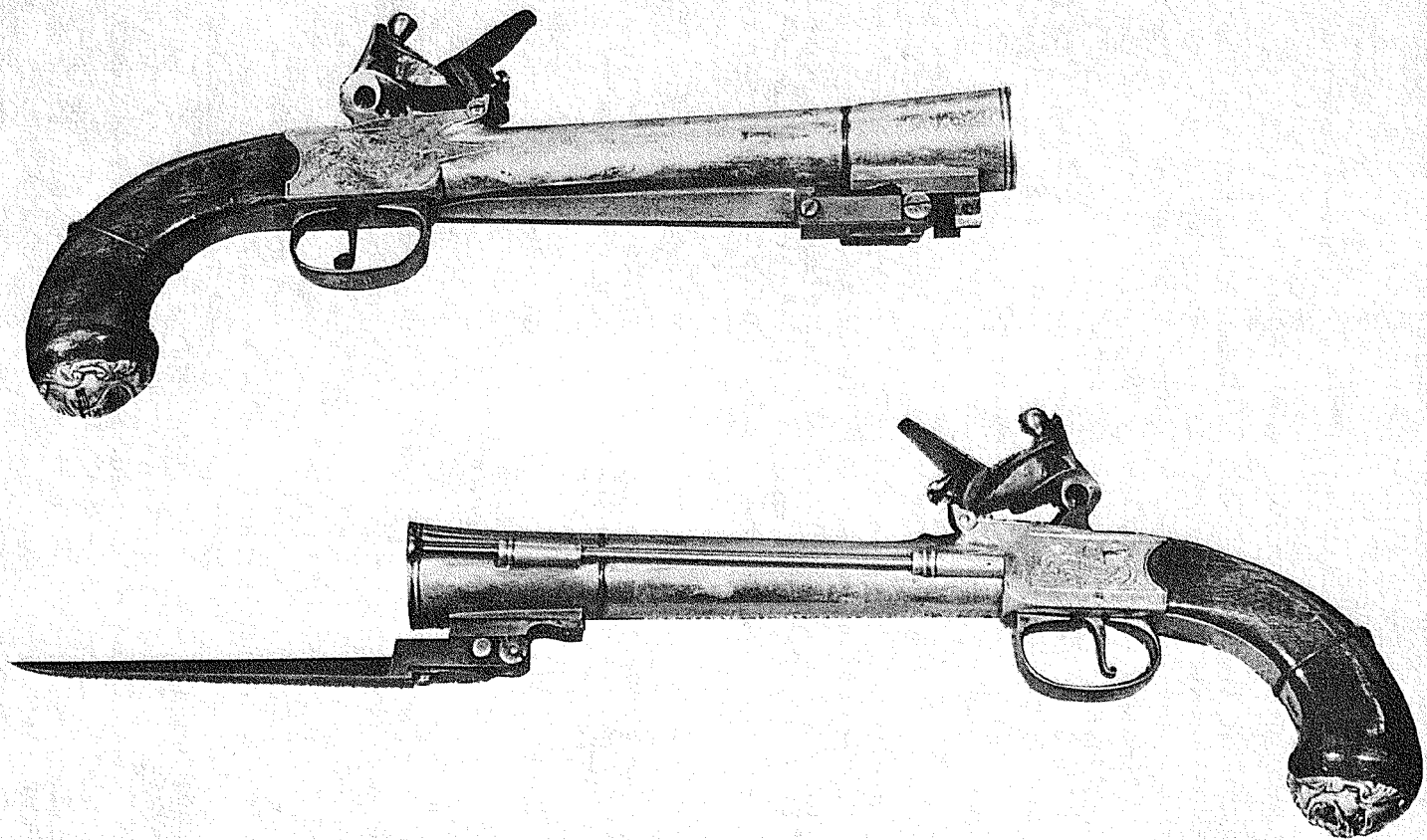
Philad'a, 13th March, 1776.

Upon application of Jno. M. Nesbitt, Esq'r, for a sum of Money for paying the Men employed on Board the Armed Boats, &c., By order of the Board, an order was drawn on Mich'l Hillegas, Esq'r, in favour of Mr. Nesbitt, for fifteen hundred pounds.

Resolved, That Arthur Donaldson be employed to launch the Chevaux-de-Frise built at Gloucester, and that he be fully authorized to procure anything for the purpose, hire persons under him, on the best and cheapest terms, and that he draw on this Board for the Expence.

Resolved, That John Cobourn be employed to take the Chevaux-de-Frise, when launched at Gloucester, and sink them in their proper places near Fort Island, and that he be authorized to procure anything for the purpose, hire persons under him, on the best and cheapest terms, and that he draw on this Board for the Expence.

Adjourned to 5 o'Clock.



Brace of silver mounted naval officers' blunderbuss pistols.

Resolved, That all good and able seamen, who will enlist in the service of this Province to be employment [*sic*] in the Naval armament thereof, shall receive 7 dollars per month, & 2 Dollars Bounty, which Bounty to be paid one Month after their enlistment, and the said Seamen to be continued in the service until discharged by this Board.

That those able-Bodied Seamen that are at present in the service, shall receive 7 dollars per Month, to commence the 15th inst.

Resolved, That Mr. Thomas Forrest be appointed Captain of a Company of Marines, to be raised for the service of this Province, to be employed on Board the Floating Battery.

Resolved, That all able Landsmen who shall enter into the service of this Province, on Board the Naval armaments thereof, be paid 2 dollars as a Bounty.

Resolved, That Capt. [John] Rice be applied to, to assist in taking down and sinking the Chevaux-de-Frize, and that he attend this Board tomorrow Morning.

Resolved, That 5 small Guard Boats be built, on the same construction with the one already built.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 513, 514.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee on Wednesday
the 13 March 1776 –

Resolved, That Messrs William Spear, Hercules Courtenay, & George Wells together with Captains Isaac Vanbibber & David Laurence be appointed to value the Vessels ready to be sunk at Whetstone Point, and such Cables as may be used for that Purpose; and return an Account of the Valuation of each to this Committee in order that the same may be transmitted to the Council of Safety of this Province – And it is requested, that those gentlemen will execute said Business this Afternoon, it being intended, that the Vessels shall be sunk immediately –

Resolved, As the Opinion of this Committee that it will greatly conduce to the Preservation of Baltimore Town, and to the Security of the Ship *Defence* to continue the said Ship in the Harbour at Fells Point – Ordered, That the Chairman acquaint the Council of Safety with the above Resolves, and also that Capt Jas Nicholson & Lieutenant Bouchier [John Thomas Boucher] concur with them in Opinion

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

In Committee Baltimore March 13th 1776.

Gentlemen. I am directed to inform you that Messrs Jno Smith Benjamin Nicholson, Captns [James] Nicholson [John Thomas] Boucher & myself having this day examined the state of the Batteries already made & making at Whetstone & Fells Point, & reported the same to the Committee, They are

induced to believe & hope that there is every rational prospect of securing the town of Baltimore in Case of the *Otter* returning with any other Frigate that can come up this River. And as the ship *defence* may be so stationed as to support the Batteries & Boom at Whetstone it will be of the greatest importance for the preservation of both the Town & ship, that she should not be ordered out of this harbour, – The attention of our workmen being entirely engaged since last week on the Batteries at Fells Point, the Boom is of consequence less forward than it otherwise would have been. But to avoid every possible hazard of its being too late, It is agreed (with the advice of Captn Nicholson) to sink all the vessels now collected at Whetstone Point, which will serve the purpose untill the Boom now executing is compleated. We have got the vessels all valued & ballasted, and Persons are appointed to begin sinking them tomorrow. – The Battery at Whetstone will be ready to mount several guns in a few days; even now it can be used on emergency. At Fells Point the Breast Works fit for 19 or 20 cannon will be nearly compleated tomorrow . . . I am [&c.]

p order Sam^l Purviance Jun^r Chairman

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

ABRAHAM JACKSON'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

[First page missing]

1776	Brought Over		41.15..8
February	9th	To 2 Ship hand spikes	4..0
	19	To 2 ditto	4..0
	23	To 1 days Work on the pump	7..6
		To 1 do Boaring holes for the Laying pins	7..6
		To 3½ dozen Belaying pins	10..6
		To 5 Six Inch blocks	5..0
	24	To ¾ of day boaring Belayin pins	5..0
		To 1 dozen Belaying pins	3..0
		To 1 day fitting the Iron on the pump	7..6
		To 2 6 Inch double blocks	4..0
	26	To 4 – 6 Inch Single ditto	4..0
		To Cutting 2 Sheave holes	2..0
		To 2 Sheaves & pins for ditto	2..0
		To a Truck for an Ensignstaff	1..0
		To 1 upper Boxes	5..0
		To boaring the Caps out	10..0
		To 2 7 Inch Blox	2..4
	27	To 4 twenty inch Match Blox	1.10..0
	29	To 4 Eight Inch blox	5..4
		To 2 Tompins	1..4
March	3	To a Ships Skeit	4..6
	4	To Cutting A Mortis in the pumps Gate	2..0
	5	To 14 Rammer heads & spunges	14..0

	To 6 Leadells heads	6..0
9	To 2 Sixteen inch Rammer block	15..0
	To 10 staffs & heads (Gun Rammers)	2.10..0
		<hr/>
1776	Brought Over	£52..8..2
	To 18 Carriages for Double Fortified } 6 pounders a 2/10 P	45..0..0
	To 20 Beds for ditto	2..0..0
	To 20 Coins	1..0..0
		<hr/>
		100..8..2
	By Cash	37.16..0
		<hr/>
	Ballance due Errors Excepted	£ 62.12..2

Gentn. Please to Pay the within Accot to Abraham Jackson the
Credits given are Just
Jas. R. Morris
March 13th 1776

To Messrs Lux & Bowley
[Endorsed] Reced 30 March 1776 from Lux & Bowley The above Account
in full

Abraham Jackson

1. Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, Md. Arch.

KENT COUNTY COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF
SAFETY ¹

[Extract] Chester Town March 13th 1776

It appears from the best information that can be obtained that a return of the ship of War with reinforcements, may be soon expected & their Business being avowedly to get fresh provisions they will probably make the attempt on the most defenceless shore - . . . The Committee for Kent County humbly submit it to the consideration of your board whether it will not be adviseable for you to order the arms imported in Capt Tippet ² to this place for the use of Capt [Edward] Veazeys & the other Independent Companies on this shore & to order back our Minute Companies from Virginia. . . .

Signed by order.
W. Hall Clk. Comtee

1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.
2. Captain James Tibbett. See Thomas Johnson, Jr. and Robert Alexander to the Council, March 9, 1776. Other Maryland areas also made appeals for the powder brought in by Tibbett. *Ibid.*

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

No 57.

To the Committee of Safety of Virginia
Gentn Inclosed you have a Narrative,² which will fully inform you of the

Transactions of the *Otter* Sloop of War and her Tenders, which have lately paid us a short Visit – they are much chagrined, we believe, at their losing a large Vessel belonging to Mr [Jonathan] Hudson, that was loaded with Provision by Order of the Congress, and had been made a Prize of, but a Day or two before; and at their Disappointment in [not] accomplishing their Design of taking the Ship *Defence*, which by all Accounts they made sure of effecting, and was their grand Object – just before they weighed Anchor a Flag came on Shore with some Prisoners, who said, they had been treated with great Humanity, and in Return it was thought proper to compliment the Officer with two Quarters of Beef – As soon as they can get a Reinforcement, which we imagine they are gone after, we expect to have another and more important Visit and are making the best Preparations in our Power

[Annapolis] 13th March 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, Md. Arch.

2. "Narrative of the Alarm over the Sloop *Otter*" reads:

On tuesday the 5th of March about 7 in the Evening our Pilot Boats came in and gave informa that a Man of War and two tenders were coming up the Bay, that they first saw them between the Mouth of Potowmack and Patuxent; the Tender Run into the Mouth of Patuxent to take out a New England Man lyeing there bound to Casco Bay – the Man of War was lyeing to for them to come up: – the Wind blew hard at S [by] SW that Evening, and the general [conjecture] was that the Man of War and Tenders would be up near Annapolis some time that same Night – this occasioned no small Alarm & furniture of all sorts was moving out very fast however in the meantime all necessary [preparations] were made in case of an immediate Attack, Expresses were also dispatched to Baltimore by the Council of Safety then sitting to Communicate Intelligence between twelve and one OClock that night the Wind shifted and blew a Stiff Gale at N.W. and so continued all day on Wednesday, during which time there was no certain Informa Where the War Vessels had stopt they were not to be seen with the best Glasses from Thomas's point – On thursday Morning a light Breeze up the Bay, about 12 or one o Clock the Vessells began to appear, and about half past three came opposite this City a Sloop of War and two Tenders with some prizes, and stood up the Bay. – between Annapolis and Kent Island off the Mouth of the Harbour they sett fire to and burnt a small Vessell loaded with Oats. – In the Evening they were quite out of sight and Anchored we hear near the Mouth of Patapasco. – on friday night [we received] Intelligence that the Vessel was the *Otter* Sloop of War and two Tenders and the general Opinion was confirmed that they were going to Balt[imor]e to take or destroy the Ship *Defence*. – On Saturday Morning and great part of the day We expected to hear of an Engagemt, when behold at half past three or thereabouts the *Otter* Sloop with her Tenders and four or five small Vessells she had made prizes off appeared again and soon came to Anchor off our harbour. – the Ship *Defence* was towed out of the Harbour at Balt. and had got under Way and had retaken Hudsons Ship loaded with Wheat & Flower by order of Congress, and three or four lesser Vessells – to the Immortal Honour of Capt Nicholson and the brave Men that attended him – The Regulars and Militia behaved with Spirit and Alacrity and all preparations were made to give them a Warm Reception in case they had attempted to Land. – on Saturday Evening a Boat came in with a flagg to buy fresh provisions for the Kings Ships – the Message was sent to the Governor who communicated the same to the Council of Safety, they got time to answer till 9 Next morning – wh[en] they received a Civil Denial On Sunday Morning another Boat with flagg landed some prisoners amongst others Capt Wort [Wirt] who owned a packett Boat that passed between Old River & Balt Town. – On Sunday Morning the *Otter* and her Tenders & prizes weighd Anchor and took their departure about 12 o Clock down the Bay, whether they intend to Visit us again or not is uncertain; the prevailing Opinion is that they will Return again soon We must lay [our plans] to prepare accordingly On Monday Morning they were got off Fishing

Creek about 50 Miles down the Bay and we believe are going to Virginia for Reinforcements,
 Revolutionary Papers, Box 10, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Raven*, CAPTAIN JOHN STANHOPE ¹

- March 1776
 Tuesday 12 Moor'd off Cockspur in Savannah river.
 (AM) At 11 Weighed and made Sail Standing in for Tybee Light House
 First part mode and Hazey middle and Latter fresh breezes Standing in for the Light House 2 Sail in Sight to the Srd on which Fired several Guns at 5 Came too with the Bt Br in 4 ffm veered away to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable and moored with the Stream Anchor the Light house SE Cockspur Isld Wt Came in a Brig from Newcastle in Philadelphia river laden wth bread flour &ca brot her too and shifted the People put on board an Officer and 6 hands ²
- Wednesday 13 (AM) came in the *St Lawrence* Schooner & *Duke of Cumberland* packet from Falmouth at 11 came in a Sloop from Rhode Island wth Potatoes Apples and Cyder Brot her too and shifted the people Sent on board an Officer and 4 hands.³ at 12 weighed and run up for Cockspur the 2 prizes in Company found riding here His Majestys Ships *Scarborough*, *Tamer* and *Hinchinbrook* Schooner Came too with the Bt Br in $4\frac{1}{2}$ ffm veered away and moored wth $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/771.

2. The brig *Georgia Packet*, George Bunner, master, from Philadelphia for Savannah, Shuldrham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

3. *Ibid.*, this was the Sloop *Phoenix*, Norton Cole, master. Credit for the capture is divided between the *Scarborough* and *Raven*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

- March '76
 Friday 8th Moor'd in Savanna River Georgia. -
 pm Anchored here from the Town, a Sloop seized by Captn Barkley
- Satury 9th AM anchored here from Town, 2 Schooners empd as occasionally
 First & Latter parts Fresh Breezes & Hazy Middle Calm & Clear Anchored here several vessels from Town & H: Majys Schooner *Hinchinbrook*
- Sunday 10th at 10 AM fired a Gun & made the Signal for all Masters of Merchantmen, put the Ships Company to short allowance of Beef & Pork, Lost out of the Longboat bringing wood on board 4 Barge Oars.

- First part fresh Breezes & Squally Middle & Latter
Modt & thick Foggy wr
PM Anchored here 2 Briggs from town. Recd our Offi-
cers & men from the Sloop & Schooners, which went
up to Town.
- Monday 11th AM empd as occasion, lost a Creaper in Creaping for
one of the Prizes Anchors & Cables.
First part Modte & thick foggy wr; Middle & Latter
Modte & Hazy
PM Empd as occasion.
- Tuesday 12th AM Anchod here the *Symetry* & *Whitby* Transports,
with 2 Merchant Ships, saw a Ship in the Offing, sent
the Cutter out, dryed sails, fired a Gun & made the
Signal for all Masters of Merchant Ships
First & Middle parts Modte & Hazy, Latter fresh Gales
& Squally
PM Anchored here H: Majys Sloop *Raven* with a Sloop
and Schooner she stoped,² hear'd the Report of a Num-
ber of Guns in the Offing at 8 the *Raven* stop'd a Brigg
from Philadelphia³ laden with Provisions.
- Wednesy 13th At 11 AM Anchored here H: Majesty's Schooner *St*
Lawrence, & the *Cumberland Packet* from England;
made the *Tamer's* Signal for her Captain.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. The sloop *Phoenix*; see *Raven's* journal.

3. *Ibid.*, the brig *Georgia Packet*.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. Lawrence*, LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES¹

- March 1776 The Light House on Tybee Island EBN and the
Block house on cockspur Island N E B E a
Cable & 1/2
- Tuesday 12 Light breezes and Clear
at 4 PM saw a sail Do gave chace fired 1 4 pounder
and 36 swivals at the chace at 8 Do lost sight of the
Chace Tybee Light house W N W 9 miles.
- Wednesday 13 at 4 am spoke the *Cumberland Pacquett* from Augus-
tine for georgia at 7 AM Tybee Light house W N W
4 Leags Bore away for the Barr at 10 AM Cross'd
the barr in 16 feet water at 11 Came too in 3 fm
water found Riding here his majs Ships *Scarborough*
Tamer Raven Cherokee and *Hinchinbrooke* schooner
and brigg we chace'd in Last night² with several trans-
ports and other Ships.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

2. Brig *Georgia Packet*, see *Raven's* journal.

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

March 1776 Moored in the North Channell of Savannah river.

Wednesday 13th at 8 AM heard sevl Guns fired at Sea to the So wd came into Cockspur the following Vessels Vizt His Majts Schooner *St Lawrence* the *Cumberland packet Georgia Packet* Brig from Philadelphia Bonner Master ² and the *Ph[o]enix* Sloop from Rhode Island [Norton] Cole Master wch the *St Lawrence* and *Raven* seized off Tybee Barr. —

William Pickard

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

2. George Bunner; see *Raven's* journal.

14 Mar.

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA ¹

Thursday, March 14th – Wind S.S.W. The sloop *Mermaid*, and Capt. [David] Bray's brig, sail for Halifax. The former with molasses seized by the *Senegal* as rebels property, the latter in custody of the *Senegal*, on suspicion of rebels' property. She is from Dominica, has some rum and molasses.²

1. Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary*, I, 115.

2. According to Shuldham's prize list of May 23, 1776, the brig from Dominica was also named *Mermaid*, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Exeter] Thursday, March 14th, 1776.

Voted, That a Committee be chosen to join a Committee of the Honble Board to confer upon the Expediency of joining with the Massachusetts Colony in granting a Bounty unto the Privateers belonging to this & the Mass. Colony, that may take any of our Enemies Ships of Warr upon this coast and that Capt. [Pierce] Long, Mr. John Bell and Major [Thomas] Tash be a Committee for the above mentioned purpose and make report to this house.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 94–96.

CAPTAIN TITUS SALTER TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

Fort Washington,² March 14th, 1776.

Gent. Agreeable to your Instructions I have posted a Guard on Fort point at New Castle with orders frequently to go up to the top of the Light House and Diligently to observe if any ships appear sailing towards this port, and on Discovery of the same to make me acquainted that I may transmit it without loss of time to your Honours or the General. I have previous to your Instructions consulted with Capt. Eliphalet Daniels and agreed with each other the proper signalls in case of the approach of the enemy; and on

the same acc't each Fort have erected a Flag Staff and proper signalls to be given which will alarm both Town & Country in case of any surprise. But shall, Gent., send you up the speediest dispatch should any enemy appear. Our signalls for an alarm will first be by Fireing a Four pounder from Capt. Daniels Fort towards the town and then to be answered by me. I am [&c.]

Titus Salter.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 92.
2. One of the forts at the mouth of the Piscataqua River.

WINTHROP SARGENT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Glouster March [14] ² 1776

I Rote your Excellence Last Tuesday Sence which we have got all the Sails & Most of the Rigen from the Ship with about (50) Cask of Porter & Two fine Cabels & Two Ankors Last night Capt Dosson ³ had the Impe-dence to Run in & Set fier to the Ship it being high warter Our Guns would not reach him & She is burnt down to the warter This Low warter If the Storm Seases we Shall Sea what we Can git Out of the Ship the Poor Capt Whatts has Lost all his Venter being about 150£ Starling ⁴ the reason of his not cumming befor he was unwell

I Rem[ain] Yr Excl [&c.]
Winthrop Sargent

1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. Date established through the journal of H.M. Brig *Hope*.
3. Lieutenant George Dawson, commander of the *Hope*.
4. Captain James Watts, master of the British ship *Stakesby*.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE ¹

[Extract]

Head Quarters Cambridge 14 March 1776

. . . I am inform'd by two very intelligent Men who made their escape from Boston, that they embark in great Confusion – are oblig'd to destroy many of their Carriages & Waggons for want of Room to transport them – That they are greatly distress'd for Seamen to man their Transports, and that the few they have are put on half allowance, Provisions being so scarce that they have not more than sufficient for four Weeks. –

I am much pleas'd with your plans for the defence and Security of New York, – what you may leave unfinish'd – I shall order the Commanding Officer to compleat as soon as possible – Lest the Enemy should meet with favorable Winds in their passage and get there before our Army. – I have wrote to Governor Trumbul desiring him immediately to forward two thousand Men, and have also requested One thousand from the Jersies – This with the Force already there I hope will be able to keep the Ministerial Army at Bay until I can arrive with the Main body.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1776 .

Watertown, March 14 .

A great number of letters for officers in Boston were taken in the ship Capt. Manley sent into Portsmouth ¹ (as mentioned in our last) many of which mention great difficulty in raising recruits for the American service, and that it was apprehended the British army will be very little superior, the ensuing campaign, to what it was the past.

Yesterday 7th night Capt. Manly sent into Cape-Ann another fine prize, a ship of 300 tons, out 17 weeks from London, bound to Boston. Her cargo consisted of 180 casks of porter, and 50 casks of sour kroust, together with coal, cheese, &c. She also brought out 164 live hogs, but only 3 of them lived through the passage.²

A large Ship of 300 Tons Burthen, laden with Coal, Porter, Cheese, &c. which had been out from White Haven about 16 Weeks, after having received considerable Damage, and been repair'd at New York, was on last Friday 7 night taken by a small Shallop of about 26 Tons, and between 20 to 30 Hands, with only small Arms, after about one Hour's Resistance, and carried into Dartmouth. The Captain of the Ship, before he struck, received a Ball, which went through his Thigh. She had on board a very valuable Box of Jewels, and is supposed to be worth at least £ 2500 Sterling. This, it is said, is the seventh Prize from White Haven, and the last, it is currently reported, and believed to be true,³ Capt. Manley drove on Shore, the Beginning of last Week, at Squam, near Salem.⁴

We also hear a Sloop laden with Provisions for the Ministerial *Butchers* at Boston, was taken and carried into Dartmouth the same Day - We have not yet heard where she was from.

1. The ship *Susannah*, John Frazer, master, of 300 tons burden.

2. The ship *Stakesby*, James Watts, master, of 300 tons, which was lost on the rocks off Gloucester harbor.

3. The transport ship *Harriot*, which was carried into Martha's Vineyard.

4. Manley, in the *Hancock*, on the night of March 10, struck the rocks in entering Gloucester harbor, but slid over after sustaining some damage.

MAJOR JOSEPH WARD TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Camp at Roxbury 14 March 1776

Sir The 2 inst at night we began [a] cannonade & bombardment upon the Enemy, & continued it three nights successively; on the 4th at night we threw up works upon the heights on Dorchester Point. the next morning the Pirates in Boston & in the Harbour appeared to be in great agitation, and every day & night since have been preparing (according to our observations, & the informations from Town) to leave Boston. During our fire upon them they returned it warmly with Shot & Shells, but thro' the good Providence of God, we lost but one Subaltern & four privates in this Camp, and one private only in Cambridge. Several were slightly wounded. A sally was generally expected from the Enemy when we took post on Dorchester Point, but there has been very little appearance of such a design

Since we are possessed of the heights which command the Town, it is generally apprehended the Pirates will go to New York or the Southern Colonies. May all the winds of Heaven oppose them. If the Enemy leave Boston, I trust measures will be immediately taken to prevent them from being able ever to come into the Harbour again.

Our Privateers continue successful; & every appearance & the general state of things, affords, I think, an encouraging prospect; and if we persevere I cannot doubt but we shall soon see our Country in Freedom Peace & Safety. . . . I am Sir [&c.]

Joseph Ward ²

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

2. Ward served as his father's aide-de-camp.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL REPORT UPON THE STRANDED BRITISH TRANSPORT
Friendship ¹

The Committee to whom were referred sundry Papers relative to the Transport Ship Called the *Freindship* Cap Holmes late Master which was Cast on Shore on the back of Cape Cod on the 29th of February last, have Attended that Service & beg leave to report

That The Selectmen & Committee of Correspondence Inspection and Safety for the Town of Truro be directed and Impowered to Secure what Remains of said Ship, and to Collect and take proper Care of her rigging, sails Cables & anchors as also of the Provisions, Powd[er] Cannon, ammunition & other Stores Which She had on board, that they lodge & keep them in some Safe place untill it Shall be determined, by the Judge of the Court of Justice for the Tryal & Condemnation of all Vessells found Infesting the Coasts &c that may be brought into the Counties of Plimouth, Barnstaple, Bristol Nantuckett or Duke's County, to whom they belong, excepting one Cask of Vinegar, Two Boxes of Tin, Eight Bolts of Canvas & five kegs of Paint, which they are directed, after having them Apprized by three Impartial Persons to be appointed for that purpose by the Said Selectmen & Committee, to Send them to the Commissary General of this Colony for the use of the Continental Army; and that all officers & others be required to afford their Aid and assistance to the Selectmen & Committee aforesaid in securing the Vessell & Stores beforementioned and as Embezzelments in Cases of this Nature is highly Disreputable & altogether unjustifiable and every Species thereof ought to be discouraged that all persons be directed to use their utmost Endeavors to prevent the same & that it be recommended to the Persons concerned in this Capture to restore to Cap Holmes his Wearing Apparell & private papers –

All which is humbly Submitted
Thomas Cushing P order

[Endorsed] In Council March 14th 1776

Read & accepted, & thereupon Resolved, that the Selectmen & Committee of Correspondence, Inspection & Safety be, & they hereby are directed & im-

powered to secure what remains of said Ship & to take Care of her rigging & other appurtenances & also of the Provisions, Powder, Cannon, Ammunition & other Stores, which she had on board, until the same shall be determined on by the Judge of the Court of Justice appointed to try the Justice of the captures of all Vessells, that are found infesting the Sea Coast &c & brought into either of the Counties of Plymouth Barnstable, Bristol, Nantucket or Dukes County – excepting one Cask of Vinegar, two Box[es] of tin, Eight Bolts of Canvas & five Kegs of Paint, which Articles the said Selectmen & Committees aforesaid are hereby directed (after having them appraised by three impartial Persons to be appointed for that purpose, by the Selectmen & Committees afor[esaid]) to send them to the Commissary General of this Colony for Use of the Continental Army–And all Officers & others [are] hereby required to afford their Aid & assistance to the Selectmen [and] Committees aforesaid, in securing the said Vessell with her Appurtenance & Stores aforesd; and [all] Pers[ons] are hereby directed to use their utmost Endeavours to prevent any Embezzlement of the Same; and it is also recommended to the Persons concered in this Capture to restore to Capt Holmes his wearing Apparel & private Papers – sent down for Concurrence

Perez Morton D Secry

In the House of Representatives March 14th 1776

Read & concurrd

William Cooper Sp[k]r Pro.Tem

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 279, 280.

CAPTAIN SETH HARDING TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

New haven 14th March 1776

Honered Sir This Serves to Inform you of the Situation of the Brig *Defence* She is now at the wharf Expect the Tide will be full about Next mondy Shall then take her Down to the pear and grave her I am Inlisting men Every Day Shall make all the Dispach posable Every thing is now provideing Dayly for the Cruse Expect to be at New London the Latter part of Next weke, I am sir [&c.]

Seth Harding

1. Seth Harding Papers, MHA.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

At a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety,
[Lebanon] March 14th, A.D.1776.

Voted, That Mr. John McCleave of New Haven be and he is hereby appointed Second Lieutenant of the brig *Defence*, instead of Lieut. [James] Hopkins resigned.

Voted, That Jabez Huntington and Benj. Huntington Esqrs, be appointed a committee to take the best advice they think proper concerning

the mode of rigging the row-galley now building by Capt. [Jonathan] Lester, and order said galley to be rigged accordingly.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 247, 248.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Jovis, 10 HO. A.M.

March 14th, 1776.

A copy of the examination of Craig was brought into the Congress by Mr. Robert Benson, who, by order, had called in Lord Stirling and had taken a copy from the original, which was taken by his lordship. The said copy of the examination was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

Craig, lately a soldier in the first regiment of Yorkers, declares that he was employed by one Vernon, a hatter, of this city, to rig out a sloop the said Vernon had lately purchased, by order of Govr Tryon, to be employed by the Governor as a tender or cutter, and occasionally to cruise in the North and East rivers; that the said Vernon was to be supplied by the said Governor with swivels for the said sloop; that the said Craig went on board (with the said Vernon) of the *Dutchess of Gordon*, and there conversed with the Governor and the Attorneys-General [John Tabor] Kempe and [Courtland] Skinner, who urged him to be active in procuring as many men as possible, not only for the said sloop, but for the *Asia* and other men of war soon expected here; that above 50 or 60 soldiers now in town, in the Continental service, were engaged by the said Vernon for the service of the ministry.

Ordered, That Colo. Hay and Colo. Morris Graham be a committee to go to Thomas Vernon and take his examination, and report the same with all convenient speed.

Die Jovis, 4 ho. P.M. March 14th, 1776.

A permit was given to the port master to carry on board of the ships *Phoenix*, *Packett Asia* and *Dutchess of Gordon* a great number of articles, mentioned in a memorandum delivered in by the port master and filed; he was also permitted to carry on board, for the use of the ship *Asia*, certain quantities of provisions and other articles specified in a list or memorandum of Abraham Lott, contractor, and endorsed on the back of the port master's memorandum, rum excepted.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 358, 359, 360.

PETITION OF WILLIAM GANDELL ¹

[Extract]

To the Honorable the Provincial Congress, held for the Province of New-York:

The Petition of William Gandell, of the City of New-York, Mariner, humbly showeth:

That your Petitioner is well affected to the cause of his country, and is out of employ on account of the distressed times; and seeing no probable way of getting into business again to maintain his wife and children until matters are accomodated; and your Petitioner understanding that there is a vacancy for a Lieutenant in one or more of the Artillery Companies raised in this City, as also of Masters and Lieutenants in the vessels on the Lakes, and likewise in those that are building up the North-River, he offers himself as a proper person to fill up either of the said vacancies.

Your Petitioner therefore, humbly prays that this honourable House will take his case into their most serious consideration, and grant him a commission in either of the above-mentioned vacancies as they in their wisdom shall think most proper. And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

New York, March 14, 1776.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th series, V, 223.

New-York Journal, THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1776

New-York, March 14.

On Sunday last arrived the *Swallow Packet*, Capt. Copeland in 9 Weeks from Falmouth, which he left the 7th of January, with several Passengers, and a very large Mail, which we hear was taken on board the *Asia* Man of War.

The ship *Julius Caesar*, Capt. John Thomson, of Chester town, Maryland, having safely landed her cargo at Falmouth, received freight, and the ship being discharged, the men were also paid off and discharged, and the ship lade up safe in the harbour, for the benefit of those concerned, viz. Mess. Smyth and Ringgold, Chester town, Maryland.

From undoubted authority we can assure the Public, that a ship belonging to Messrs. Franklins, loaded with salt and wine, sometime ago taken by the men of war here, and sent for Boston, was, on Wednesday last cast away on the rocks on Montock point, at the east end of Long Island; the vessel entirely bilged, and the salt all run out; the people had great difficulty to save their lives, some of them being much bruised when taken out of the water. There were 14 men and an officer belonging to the *Asia*, on board, who were all made prisoners, and on Monday they set off with a strong guard for this city, and may be expected in a day or two. — The officer is named Smith, and said to have been very active the night the *Asia* fired on the town; he behaved with great insolence, and ordered Colonel Mulford to provide a coach to carry him on board his ship.¹

[ADVERTISEMENT]

WANTED IMMEDIATELY. A Number of Partners, to be concerned in a Vessel or Vessels, to cruise against our Enemies. — Enquire of the Printer.

The Vessels will have Commissions from a neighbouring Government.

1. Ship *Sally*, Charles Smith, prizemaster, Samuel Franklin original owner; see Parker to Smith, February 29, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, March 14, 1776

The committee appointed to confer with General Lee respecting the defence of New York, brought in their report, which was read: Whereupon,

The command of the passage of the Sound must be ours. this I imagine is already effected by the works thrown up at Horne Hook; but as a farther security, batteries and a redoubt must be erected on the other side, either in [Montresor] Island or on the Continent of Long Island, as the Engineer and succeeding General shall determine. these additional works are not solely meant to shut up to the Enemy the passage through the sound, but to secure a free open and easy communication to our own Troops betwixt the Continent of New York and Long Island. As the City of New York is almost environ'd by navigable waters it is undoubtedly very difficult to fortify it against a powerful sea armament; but still I am of opinion that although Troops cannot easily be prevented landing under the Guns of their shipping, they may be prevented lodging themselves in it, or converting it into a great place of arms as they have done at Boston. the East River, I am almost persuaded, may be secur'd in such a manner that their Ships will scarcely venture into it, or at least they cannot keep their stations when in. a Battery for this purpose is plan'd and in some forwardness at the foot of the Jews burying ground, to protect this Battery from the near approach of Ships (which when close are always supposed to be an over match for Batteries level with the water and in a low situation) Guns in barbet placed on the heights of the Jews burying ground, when in correspondence with a Battery I have ordered on an opposite commanding knoll in Long Island, will certainly be sufficient. these two fires will likewise be cross'd by a third of very considerable range from a work in the front of our trench'd Camp in Long Island, which work is likewise answered by a Battery sunk in a celler on the opposite Wharfe. such is our plan with respect to the east River, haveing attentively examined the Fort and great Batteries under it and consider'd whether they cou'd be of any possible use to us. I am of opinion that as Ships of great Burthen can approach so near the latter it will be dangerous if not impracticable to support them.

The Fort cannot for the same reason be defended, but as it is not possible in our hands to render it a fortification of offence against the Enemy, it might in their possession be converted into a Citadel to keep the Town in subjection. These considerations have induc'd me to throw down the north East and North West Bastions, with the communicating Curtain, so that being entirely open behind, and a commanding Traverse thrown across the Broad Way with three Guns mounted, it is impossible for the Enemy to

lodge themselves in and repair the Fort. The north River is so extremely wide and deep that it is in vain to think of any means to prevent the men of war commanding the navigation of it, but it does not appear to me, that they have it in their power to annoy dangerously the Town, much less to destroy it. It is true an accidental shell may do great mischief, but the effects of their Cannon are not I think much to be apprehended for there is a most fortunate ridge of Eminence which not only serves as a screen of protection for the Town but on which any number of Batteries may be erected to keep the Ships at a distance. I must observe once for all that New York from its circumstances can with difficulty be made a regular tenable fortification, but it may be made a most advantageous field of Battle, so advantageous indeed, that if our people behave with common spirit, and the Commanders are men of discretion, it must cost the Enemy many thousands of men to get possession of it. The Streets must be traversed and barricadoed, so as to prevent their coming on our Flanks. three Redoubts thrown up on the three eminences Judge Jones, Bayards Hill, and either Lisenards or Haldermans house on Hudsons River, but these measures are not to be confin'd to the Town, the whole Island is to be redoubted in certain regular steps. (if I may so express it) quite to Kings Bridge, these redoubts redans or Fliches are such, easily thrown up and are no expense. the leading roads from Hudsons River whence the Enemy can alone approach must be obstructed to artillery. Kings Bridge must be strongly fortified to preserve the communication free and open with Connecticut, on which Province you can alone depend for succours of men, for the Breadth and depth of the north River renders the Communication with Jersey too precarious. The possession and security of Long Island is certainly of still greater importance than New York. I have accordingly marked out a Camp fortified by a Chain of Redoubts mutually supporting each other, and which also corresponding with the Batteries on the New York side will prevent the Enemies entering or remaining in the east River. This Camp is intended to contain four or five thousand men; upon the whole for the defence of Long Island and New York eight thousand, at least, regular Troops will be necessary. With respect to the Fort on Hudsons River in the high Land I must refer the Congress to the report of Capt. Smith who was sent up to examine and who is extremely capable to judge and advise. I have now in a military capacity to the best of my recollection mentioned every circumstance relative to the Defence and security of New York and Long Island, but think it my duty to observe that all these measures will be totally fruitless unless some precautions are taken with respect to the profess'd Enimies of American Liberty nested in the very spots where they can do the greatest mischief Queens County and Staten

Island. The Bonds they have given are too ridiculous to be mentioned, the association they have signed they consider as forced upon 'em, and consequently null. When our own Troops are obliged to remain inactive from want of arms, when from this deficiency the Canada Expedition is at a stand, New York and Long Island left open to the invasions of the Enemy, is it not a most dangerous neglect, omission, or rather unaccountable infatuation, to suffer considerable Bodies of avowed Foes to be possessed of arms for your destruction? what possible advantage can result from such a false delicacy? I wou'd therefore humbly propose that the Inhabitants of Statten Island shou'd without loss of time be disarm'd and their arms delivered to some Regiment already raised but unfurnished with muskets. I do not imagine that the disarming the Tories will incapacitate them from acting against us, as they can easily be supplied by the Ships. I shou'd therefore think it prudent to secure their Children as Hostages if a measure of this kind (hard as it may appear) is not adopted, the Childrens Children of america may rue the fatal omission.²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 201-06.

2. This so-called report, which is simply a recording of Lee's views, is in the handwriting of William Whipple, one of the committee of Congress. A few words are added by the general himself. The Whipple copy is in the Papers CC (Other Reports of Committees of Congress), 21, 11, NA. The report occasioned an order for eight thousand men to be sent to the defense of New York, and that the conventions, committees of safety, assemblies of the various colonies be urged to disarm all disaffected persons, and that the arms so taken be used to arm the Continental troops and militia.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 14th March, 1776.

In Consequence of an Order drawn by Francis Wade on this Board, for the payment of the Rations of Captains [James] Montgomery, [Samuel] Davison, [Charles] Alexander, [Richard] Eyres, [Alexander] Henderson & [Nathan] Boyce ² amounting to £66 9 4, an order was drawn on the Committee of accounts for said sum, & directed to be charged to said Wade's account.

Resolved, That the Commodore send such Officers as he shall think proper, to recruit Seamen and able-bodied Landsmen for the Naval Service of this Province, to such place as he shall judge most likely to get recruits.

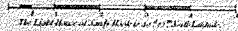
That the Recruiting officer be allowed twenty Shillings p week each, for their expences, and ten shillings per Man for every Recruit, in lieu of all recruiting charges, and ten Shillings per Week for each Man's Subsistance, until they are brought to this City & supplied by the Commissary, and that each Officer be furnish'd with a Copy of the Resolves of this Committee Relative to the pay & bounty of the Men.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 514, 515.

2. Captains respectively of the galley Ranger, the floating battery and the galleys *Chatham*, *Camden* and *Bull Dog*.

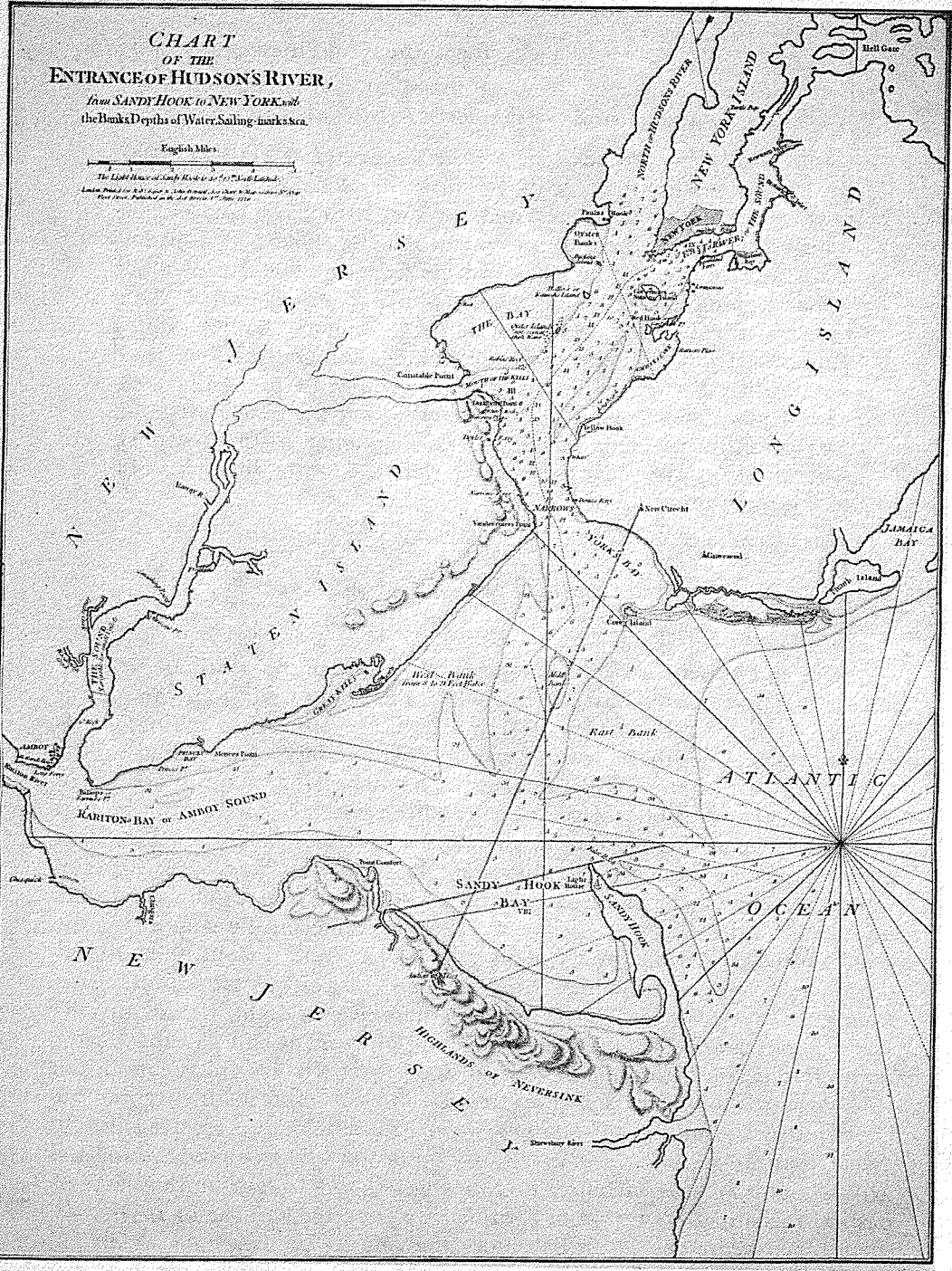
**CHART
OF THE
ENTRANCE OF HUDSON'S RIVER,**
from SANDY HOOK to NEW YORK and
the Banks & Depths of Water, Sailing-marks &c.

English Miles



The Light House of Sandy Hook is at Lat. 40° 33' 30" N. Long. 74° 00' 00" W.

London Printed by G. & C. B. Colver, 10, Strand, in the Strand, near the Theatre, in 1854.



MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee 14 March 1776

The following Instructions were given to Nathaniel Smith & John Fulford Esqrs Captains of the 2 Companies of Artillery in this Province –

Gentlemen You are advised to collect together at Fells Point all the Cannon, that are either in Town, or about the Point, that they may be all mounted & prepared for use, & to have Guards constantly placed over them to prevent their being spiked or injured – Let a regular Account be taken of what Carriages are already made & now making for the Guns – Make out a State of what other Materials for the Cannon – (vizt – Rammers, Sponges, Ladles, Match Rope, Cartridges &c) are made or making, & a general List of all such as may be wanted, in order that they may be preparing – Engage a Store or Stores in the most convenient Place at Fells Point for collecting together the Stores &c belonging to the Artillery, where it may also be proper to Station a Guard, when the Materials are stored

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

Maryland Gazette, THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1776

Annapolis, March 14.

The public will expect some account of the alarm occasioned by the man of war and her tenders; the following is the most perfect we can give at present. – On Tuesday the 5th of March, about seven in the evening, we received information, that a man of war and two tenders were coming up the Bay and had taken a New-England schooner lying at the mouth of Patuxent – the wind blew hard at S.W. and the general expectation was, that they would be at this place in a few hours – the necessary dispositions were made to receive them in case they thought proper to land, and expresses were dispatched to Baltimore-town and other parts of the province, to communicate the intelligence – between twelve and one on Tuesday night the wind shifted, and came on a violent gale at N.W. and so continued all day on Wednesday, during which time we had not any certain information where the vessels were – on Thursday there was a light breeze up the Bay, about two o'clock the vessels hove in sight, and at half past three came opposite this city with some prizes and stood up the Bay. – Off the mouth of this harbour they burnt a shallop loaded with oats, and in the evening anchored near the mouth of Patapsco. On Friday night we received intelligence, that the vessels were the *Otter* sloop of war and two tenders, and the general opinion was confirmed, that they were going to Baltimore to take or destroy the ship *Defence*. – On Saturday we expected to hear of an engagement, and the rather, as at Baltimore the celerity of their movements exceeded expectation – the *Defence* being got ready on Friday night, towed down the river, manned with a number of brave fellows, all of whom were

Americans in their hearts, and most of them by birth; several small vessels attended, crowded with men to assist in case of an engagement, which in all probability would have been a bloody one. – Capt. Nicholson got under way early on Saturday morning, resolved to retake Hudson's ship (a large vessel the *Otter* had made prize of loaded with wheat and flour) and to engage the *Otter*, if she moved to assist the tenders, which guarded the prize – the morning was thick and hazy, and the *Defence* got nearer to them than was expected, before they discovered her bearing down upon them. – those on board the tenders appeared much alarmed, and pushed off with precipitation, and on a signal given more hands were sent by the *Otter* to assist in rowing them off, which was effected with difficulty – three or four small prize vessels were abandoned, besides Hudson's ship. – the *Defence* having manned the prize, and seeing the *Otter* get under way, clued up her courses and prepared for battle, expecting her to come up, but the *Otter* having lain about two hours, as if wanting capt. Nicholson to come down, at length bore away, and in the afternoon came to anchor off this port. Capt. Nicholson continued his station some time, and having performed this gallant action returned with the prizes to Baltimore.

On Sunday morning the *Otter* sloop and her tenders made sail and went down the Bay, having restored several prisoners taken in a vessel in the mouth of Patapsco.

The regulars, militia, and people in general, behaved with the greatest spirit and alacrity.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO DANIEL BOWLY, PHILADELPHIA ¹

No 58.

sir We have given the Bearer hereof Mr William Houston an Order on Captn Tibbett for 2000w Powder and all the small Arms with the Accoutrements thereto belonging, that have been imported for this Province in the Brig *Wild-Dick* which we desire you will have complied with, and any Assistance that Mr Houston may want, you'll please to give him – in a few Days you will have our full Directions respecting the other Goods imported for the Province in the said Brig – in the mean Time we would have you purchase for Acct of the Province all the private Adventures of Powder imported in the said Vessel at such Price, as our Delegates in Congress may advise, whom we desire you will consult thereon, and send the same to Baltimore Town in the safest and most expeditious Manner you can. ²

[Annapolis] March 14th 1776.

1. Council of Safety Minutes, No. 1, Md. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, on March 15 the Council wrote the Maryland delegates in the Continental Congress that Bowley had been requested to purchase the powder "at such Price, as you may advise –."

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Annapolis] Thursday 14th March 1776

Ordered, That Mr Robert Townsend Hooe be requested immediately to load the Sloop *Molly*, Captain Conway, with Tobacco, Corn, Flour and Staves on Account and Risk of this Province upon the best and most reasonable Terms & that he apply to the Council of Safety for sailing Orders for her when ready.

Ordered That Col. Joshua Beall of Prince Georges County deliver to Col. Wm Smallwood or his Order 30 Barrels of the Gunpowder imported in the [sloop *Molly*, Thomas Conway master]

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

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN IN ST. MARY’S COUNTY, TO HIS FRIEND IN BALTIMORE, DATED MARCH 14, 1776”¹

We have just taken an oyster boat, with six men on board, and on search, found five British muskets concealed in the boat; the men have been strictly examined, and it appears they came from Virginia, and were bound to Baltimore, and had oysters on board to further their intended purpose, being employed by that infamous tool of Government, Lord Dunmore, as spies, to collect information from and inquire into the situation of your town, and take a view of your fortifications, &c. – They are all properly confined. – It is hoped you will keep a good look out, and carefully examine all suspected vessels and men.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, March 27, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday, 14th March, 1776.

Richard Taylor, of Caroline, is appointed Captain of the armed vessel fitted out by Col. Fielding Lewis, and he is to recommend to the Comm’ee as soon as possible, proper persons to be first and second mates, a Boatswain, two midshipmen, 2 Gunners, and that he endeavour to enlist 14 able-bodied seamen to serve on board the said vessel.

Mr. Thomas Hamilton is elected a Lieutenant of Marines in the Potomac River department, his rank to be hereafter settled, and that he be desired to enlist any able-bodied seamen on board the vessel for that department.

Mr. George Mutor is elected master of a Rowe Galley to be built on James River under the direction of Col. [Archibald] Cary, and is to recommend proper persons to be mate, 2 midshipmen, 1 Gunner, and to enlist 40 seamen.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 121–23.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO LORD DUNMORE ¹

Roebuck at Hampton Road in
Virginia the 14th March 1776 –

My Lord As the season of the Year is now so far advanced that the Navigation of the River Delaware is open, I think it necessary to acquaint your Lordship that in obedience to my orders from the commander in chief of His Majesty's Ships in America, I intend as soon as the *Otter* Arrives from her Cruize to proceed in the *Roebuck* to Philadelphia River, and purpose leaving the *Liverpool* and *Otter* here, for the defence of this Colony and for the Protection of your Lordship and his Majesty's Loyal and obedient subjects of this Province. I have the honor to be My Lord &ca &ca

A S Hamond

1. Hamond Letter Book, 1775–1778, UVL.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS ¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] 14th March 1776.

. . . News from Georgia – our friends had burned four of the Loaded Vessels one of them very valuable, others made their escape by throwing over board most of their Cargoes & under cover of Men of Wars & Tenders – many of the Men of Wars Men killed & wounded, four of our friends only wounded – 65 Negroes from Arthur Middleton's plantation near Wright's Savanna carried off – Wrights Savanna & Altamaha may next Suffer in this Glorious honourable British War – . . .

John Laurens London p *Port Henderson*

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, No. 10, SCHS.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Thursday, March 14, 1776.

Resolved, That the Committees for George-Town and Beaufort, respectively, be, and they are hereby, authorized and impowered to purchase, and fit out, a proper armed vessel, at each of those ports, for the protection of the trade and navigation thereof.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 99–101.

"MINUTES OF A COUNCIL HELD ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Scarborough*,
SAVANAH RIVER IN GEORGIA THIS 14th MARCH, 1776 –" ¹

Having received Intelligence from His Excellency Governor Tonyn and Lieut Grant of His Majesty's Schooner *St John*, by the *Duke of Cumberland Packet* which arrived here yesterday from St Augustine,

The Governor and Lieut sets forth in their Letters that several Armed Ships and Vessels with a number of Armed men, said from Philadelphia had landed on the Island of Providence and had taken possession of Fort Montague without any opposition, and that the Rebels had declared they came

there to carry away the Powder and Military Stores belonging to His Majesty and likewise to destroy the *St John* Schooner. –

I therefore thought it necessary to summons all the Captains of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels now here, and requested the assistance of Sr James Wright Governor of this Province & likewise Majors Grant & Maitland the Commanding Officers of the Kings Troops now here, to whom I communicated the above Intelligence, and desiring their Opinions whither it may be advisable to leave this Port and go in quest of the above Rebel Vessels and Forces.

When on mature deliberation it was the unanimous opinion of all present that the preservation of this Port together with the Ships and Provisions that has been taken and seized, and likewise giving protection to the Governor of this Province and to such of the Friends of Government, who have been under the necessity of leaving Savanah and taking refuge here, and also of giving Convoy to the Transports now loading with Provisions for the Troops at Boston, which is a very material and Important object for His Majesty's Service.

Therefore we cannot by any means Advise leaving this Port to go in quest of the Rebels Ships abovementioned which by the Information we have, in all probability have quitted Providence by this time.

And we are of Opinion when a Convoy is order'd for the Transports the rest of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels will be too few to divide, but that they ought to keep together and remain here for the purpose abovementioned, Especially as some accounts have been received that the above Rebel Armament have intentions to come here and Attack the Kings Ships and take possession of this Harbour, by which event they would get in their possession the Vessels loaded with provisions & other Valuable Cargoes which is now under our protection. –

And we are unanimously of Opinion that this Intelligence together with the Copies of these Minutes shou'd be immediately Communicated to Sir Peter Parker who is supposed to be by this time arrived at Cape Fear with a large Force. –

And as the Ships rescued from the Savanah are a Valuable property exclusive of their Cargoes, there is every reason to believe from the Violence of the people in burning the Ships in the Harbour, that on the Kings Ships leaving Cockspur, the Inhabitants wou'd come down in boats and destroy such of the Vessels as cou'd not be brought back to Town and Force the Seamen aboard their Privateers. –

Signed

James Wright
And^w Barkley
James Grant

Edw^d Thornborough
John Stanhope
John Maitland

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., AND MAJOR JAMES GRANT TO
ANTHONY STOKES¹

Scarborough, Cockspur, March 14, 1776.

Sir: We are surprised and concerned that you and the other gentlemen with you, should be confined by the rulers of the people, now at Savannah, as you had a right to protection from the parole that had been given. It is equally unaccountable that the Captains Inglis and Wardell should be carried into confinement, and prevented from sailing with their ships and cargoes, contrary to the faith that had been plighted to them by the very powers which the people at present acknowledge. But as proposals have been made to us for the release of Messrs. Demeré, Roberts, and Rice, and that we wish to remove your distresses and those of your fellow-sufferers, we authorize you to signify to such of the people as take direction in these matters, that if you, Captain Powell, Colonel Tattnell, Colonel Mullryne, the two McGillivrays, Captain Inglis, Captain Wardell, and all others that may be in confinement on this occasion, are set at liberty, and that Lachlan McIntosh, Samuel Elbert, and Joseph Habersham, Esquires, or any others that you may conjoin with them, engage themselves upon honour, by a writing under their hands, for the future security of your persons, families, and properties, while you act a neutral part, and likewise the security of the persons, family, and property of the Governour, gentlemen of the Council, and other servants of the Crown, who may not be in confinement, and that you, any, or all of you, shall be at liberty to quit the Province when you or they think proper, and also that the Captains Inglis and Wardell, with other masters of vessels, who may incline to go to sea, shall immediately be permitted so to do with their ships and cargoes; then, and in that case, you are authorized to assure the people or their leaders, that we will release the Messrs. Demeré, Roberts, and Rice.

The conditions that only require men to be just to their own engagements may easily be complied with. An immediate answer is required; and we have the honour to be, sir, [&c.]

Andrew Barkley. James Grant.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 602-03.JAMES TAYLOR TO GEORGE HOUSTON, SAVANNAH MERCHANT¹Cockspur, on board the *Christie*, March 14, 1776.

Sir: I have the opportunity of acquainting you of my misfortune of being here; which is adding loss to loss. I also have to acquaint you of the disagreeable circumstance of Captain Andrew Lee having, by the Commo-dore's orders, hove overboard some of your rice, and also have some of it on board now, which he intends to take away, and put on board some of the transports for Boston. But if in my power, I shall stop it for two days, till I hear from you, which I beg may be as soon as possible. I never intended

being here, if it had been in my power to have done otherwise; which would have been more pleasure to your most humble servant.

James Taylor. ²

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 603.

2. Intercepted letter.

COUNT DE NOZIERES TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG ¹

Sir: Fort Royal, on the Island of Martinique, 14 March 1776

I received the letter by which Your Excellency takes care to remind me of the contents of those which I had the honour to write to him on 11 September, 1775 and the 22nd of January last. My way of thinking about the circumstances in which His British Majesty finds himself vis-a-vis his North American subjects has not varied, and consequently I have always acted according to the principles which form the basis for my views. I can not persuade myself that the agents of Congress, if there exists any on St. Pierre, have found means of evading my defences, and that operations, of such a nature as you have spoken to me about, can have been executed without my knowledge. Nevertheless, I am going to make sure about the details which have reached you, and of which Your Excellency has sent me the most exact intelligence. I am writing to this effect before my arrival at Fort Royal which is the place of my residence, to Mr. Begoir, to ask that he tell me of his conduct, and to be instructed if he has any knowledge of Mr. Richard Harrison. I will conduct myself appropriately according to the result of this research.

I will not dissimulate from Your Excellency that I am astonished at the confidence which he appears to have in intelligence which, if it were authentic, could only have reached him through means which I flatter myself to believe that his delicacy would not permit him to make use of. Our islands really lack all sorts of food provisions, and this situation leads us to welcome foreigners who bring in imports. We have even just accorded for six weeks free entry into our ports for supplies of grain, flour, and vegetables. I do not think that this necessity can induce the slightest idea of suspicion in Your Excellency's mind on the sincerity of the sentiments, of which I have had the honor of giving you assurance.

The King my master having accorded me permission to return to France, His Majesty has sent M. Le Comte D'Argout to succeed me in the Government of Martinique. He has the same principles as I have in the present circumstances, and he intends, in informing you of his arrival here, to once again confirm his intentions in our situation to cooperate by all possible means in the preservation of the good mutual understanding which reigns between the respective subjects of the two Crowns. I have the honor to be, Your Excellency, Sir [&c.]

de Nosier

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

15 Mar.

Essex Journal, FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1776

Newbury-port, March 15.

The ship mentioned in our last sent into Portsmouth by Capt. Manly,¹ proved to be 240 tons burthen, having on board 6 double fortified four pounders, 2 swivels, and three barrels of powder. Her cargo consisted of 170 butts of porter, 11 packages of medicines, with large quantities of coal, sour krout, &c. besides a great number of packages for the officers in Boston. She also brought out 64 live hogs, but only twenty of them were alive when she was carried in.

A great number of letters for officers in Boston were taken in the above ship, many of which mention great difficulty in raising recruits for the American service, and that it was apprehended the British army would be very little superior the ensuing campaign, to what it was the last.

1. The ship *Susannah*, John Frazer, master.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Hope* ¹

Cape Ann SW
6 or 7 Leagues

Remarks on bd the *Hope* Fridy the 15th March
1776

Fresh Breezes and Clear, at 1/2 past 5 [A.M.] Saw a Sail to the Wt ward, out all Reefs up T G yards and Give Chace

8 Tack'd

9 Light airs and Vrable hoisted a Boat out and, Sent hir on Brd the Chace, found hir to be the Schooner *Buscowen* from No Carilina with Indian Corn took Charge of hir,²

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1823.

2. *Ibid.*, according to the log of March 17th, in approaching the Boston lighthouse, "the Prize Ran on the Harding Rocks and was lost."

"ACCOMPT OF SUNDRY ARTICLES DELIVERED COLL THOS MIFFLIN FOR ACCT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY WM BARTLET FROM THE PRIZE SHIP *Concord* BY ORDER OF HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL WASHINGTON—March 15, 1776"¹

A. No	1. a Cask	qt Shoes	£ 28.11..1
	2. a Cask	Do	20..0..3
	4. a Cask	Do	30.15..1
	5. a Cask	Do	38.17..9
	6. a Cask	Do	17.19..1
	7. a Cask	Do	21..4..1
	8. a Cask	Do	30..1..9
	9. a Cask	Do	45.16..0
	10. a Cask	Do	21..3..0

‡A.	71. a Cask	Do	24. 3. 0	
A.	12. a Cask	Do	18. 14. 3	
	13. a Cask	Do	20. 8. 1	
	14. a Cask	Do	23. 15. 9	
	15. a Cask	Do	24. 9. 5	
	16. a Cask	Do	21. 8. 5	
	18. a Cask	Do	44. 19. 5	
			<hr/>	
			£432. 6. 5	
	Advance at 75 – PCent		324. 4. 9	756. 11. 2
			<hr/>	
	21. a Bale	– Blanketts	36. 18. 6	
	22. a Bale	– Duffills	27. 18. 1½	
			<hr/>	
			£64. 16. 7½	
	Adva at 100 PCent		64. 16. 7	129. 13. 2
			<hr/>	
	56. a Box	Linnens	91. 7. 6¾	
	Adva at 200 PCent		182. 14. 7½	274. 1. 11
			<hr/>	
		Card Over		£1160. 6. 3
				<hr/>
		Brot Over		£1160. 6. 3
				<hr/>
CA. No	1. a Box	qt Cloths &c	145. 18. 4¾	
	8. a Box	Shalloons &c	91. 8. 3½	
			<hr/>	
			£237. 6. 8¼	
	Adva at 125 PCent		296. 13. 4	534. 0. ¼
			<hr/>	
	9. a Box	qt Linnens	30. 4. 9	
	10. a Box	Linnens &c	90. 7. 10½	
			<hr/>	
			£120. 12. 7½	
	Adva at 150 PCent		180. 18. 10	301. 11. 5½
			<hr/>	
	12. a Cask	qt Shoes	50. 12. 6	
	13. a Cask	Do	42. 4. 0	
	14. a Cask	Do	50. 12. 0	
	15. a Cask	Do	10. 10. 6	
			<hr/>	
			£153. 19. 0	
	Adva at 75 PCent		115. 9. 3	269. 8. 3
			<hr/>	
	19. a Bale	qt Cloths &c	£73. 0. 5½	
	Adva at 125 PCent		91. 5. 6	164. 5. 11½
			<hr/>	
‡A. No	72. a Cask	qt Shoes	21. 15. 0	
	73. a Cask	Do	12. 2. 6	
			<hr/>	
			33. 17. 6	
	Adva at 75. PCent		25. 8. 1	59. 5. 7
			<hr/>	
				£2488. 17. 6

The following Packages were deliver'd by order of the General 28th Feby to Balch, Sailmaker

A. B. & C. No 4. a Bale	qt Ozenbrigs	£ 28.12..2	
CA. No 5. a Bale	Do & Dowlass	42..5..4½	
	6 a Bale	Ozenbrigs	53.10..6¾
		£ 124..8..1¼	
	Adva at 250 PCent	311..0..2	435..8..¾
	Carrd Over		£ 2924..6..9
	Brot Over		£ 2924..6..9

The following Packages were sent to Cambridge by order of The General March 11th 1776 -

A. No. 57. a Box	qt Linnens & paper	111.16.11½	
58. a Box	Paper &c	25..9..9¾	
CA 16. a Box	Quills & Wax	11..0..6	
		£ 148..7..3	
	Adva at 200 PCent	296.14..6	445..1..9
	Besides the above were delivered		
103 2/3 Chaldrons Coal		67.. ..	
	Adva at 250 PCent	167.10..0	234.10..0
	Lawful money		£ 3603.18..6
	Errors Excepted -		

[Endorsed]

The above were approv'd by the Commissioners appointed by the Marine Committee for that purpose - May 27h - 1777²

1. Bartlett Papers, No. 5692, BHS. By the use of "United States" in the title of the account, it is evident that it was prepared after July 4, 1776.
2. While approved, there is an error in the calculation of one shilling, and the fractions of pence seem in some instances to have been disregarded in the total.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT¹

March 1776 At Single Anchor in Sawquish Cove Plymouth Harbour

Friday 15th at 6 AM saw a Sail in the SWt gave Chace, at 9 the Chace a Schooner got within the Gurnett which we follow'd but not able to come up with, at 10 Anchord with the small Bower in Sawquish Cove in 5 fathoms Gurnet Light House NE½N ½ mile; in letting go the Anchor carried away the Shanks Painter & Chain - Observed a Number of Arm'd Men about the Light House and along the Beach - sent a Boat Sounding in the Harbour which the Rebels fir'd at and returned by the great Guns on board.

First part light airs & Calms - remainder Variable -

the Rebels continued firing at the Boat and Ship until 6 PM which was returned by us 1/2 past Weighd and came to Sail and ran out of the Harbour –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

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

[Providence] Fryday Evening 15th March 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment.

Voted. That the Balance of Cromwell Childs Acct amounting to the sum of [blank] be paid out of the Committe's Treasury. –

Voted. That Messrs Rotch & Jarvis have an Order on Stephen Hopkins Esqr for One thousand Dollars, & that the Same be paid the Treasurer on his delivering the Bills.

Voted. That the Pumps for the large Ship be made 20 feet long & for the Smallest 19 feet. –

Reckoning [blank]

Meeting adjourn'd to Monday Evening –

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday 15 [March]. the Votes read & Letters from Gen Washington with a Packet of intercepted Letters,² and Two Letters from Arthur Lee to Wm Temple and brought by Him from England found in the Lining of his Cloaths ³ – our Troops have bombarded Boston with little Effect except that [William] Howe and his Men are about to leave the Town, we burst 5 Mortars – Lee's Letters say that the Ministry cannot get Russians, France having influenced Sweden to interfere, nor can the King make his Force here 20000 Men this Summer by any Means whatever, that France declares if Foreign Troops are sent She cannot be an idle Spectator, and is really disposed to favor our Cause &c . . .

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

2. The letters were found on board the ship *Susannah* sent into Portsmouth, New Hampshire, March 6, 1776 by John Manley.

3. See William Smith's Memoirs, March 11, 1776.

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON TO CHARLES CARROLL, SR. ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] Friday morning 15th March 1776

We have taken 5 transports loaded with provisions from England for the Ministerialists – the General [Washington] writes that the enemy are making as fast as possible dispositions to evacuate the town, & to embark their troops they do it in so much confusion & hurry that they do not take an inventory of the stores embarked: should they sail from Boston he has directed Commodore Manly to watch their motions & to hang upon [them or] the wings of their fleet to intercept some stragglers – in one of the transports

taken were 3 Tons of powder, a valuable article . . . I shall mention some facts related in a letter to John Adams dated London 21 December. the Ministry find great difficulty in raising recruits: wherever a division hath happened between Addressers & petitioners, there have been 9 petitioners to one Addresser. even in Scotland the recruiting goes on slowly: the Irish R.C. will not enlist: France & Sweden have remonstrated against the Russian troops coming over to America: the Empress of Russia declines sending them on pretence that no cartel is settled between England & America – thus far Adam's letter. I will not answer for the truth of all this information from England: what I have mentioned as coming from G. Washington may be relied on – [Robert] Temple brings word that 3 thousand troops were sailed or on the point of sailing the beginning of January for Virga he did not bring advice that there were no more troops coming over to America, but that none were sailed, when he left London but the 3 thousand just mentioned

. . . As commissioners are coming over I do not apprehend any Attack will be made on Annapolis or Baltimore, unless the negotiations for peace should miscarry, wh I think will not be the case if they mean to treat bona fide with us; for I am persuaded all the Colonies are desirous of peace on safe, just, & honorable terms. –

I dine this day with the Massachusetts Deputies – Mrs [John] Hancock will be of the party: she is not very handsome, yet handsome enough, and appears to be a most affectionate Wife, of an easy amiable temper. Hancock is well behaved, and generally liked, a proof of a good disposition.–

Saturday 16 8 o'clock

Temple was very strictly examined at Falmouth for letters he brought home rapped up in Cotton, wh I believe gives no other information than the destination of the 3000 troops above mentioned – Temple knows no more of the powers entrusted to the Commissioners, than I do, nor does he know who the commissioners are to be: my Lord How is certainly one of them it is said they are to treat Separately with the Colonies and Temple supposes they will treat with the Congress, if they cannot prevail on some Colony to treat with them. We hourly expect to hear that the enemy have evacuated Boston: where they will go to is only conjectured: some suppose to N Y. others to Halifax I am of the latter opinion, because from Halifax, I imagine they will sail up the St Lawrence to Quebec as soon as the weather will permit. it is of great consequence to both sides to be in possession of Canada –

Lakes George & Champlain are now impass[a]ble: the ice is too rotten to bear & too much of it to allow of navigation – I suppose if the weather continues mild the lakes will be open in ten days from this time, yet that depends entirely on the weather. our instructions are not yet compleated: there remains one thing to be settled, wh occasions no little difficulty the extent of the coercive power to be given us over the military . . .

COMMODORE ANDREW CALDWELL'S MEMORANDUM TO THE PENNSYLVANIA
COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia, March 15] ²

That the pay and rank of me and my Commsd Officers be settled, also the pay of the Warrant Officers be immediately fixed, as it is Impossible to engage any before they know their wages.

That two men be appointed to go down to Liberty Island to inspect into the Stores of each Row-gally, & that they will order what may be wanted to be got for them immediately, also that those men be Associators & men that is known to have the cause of Liberty at heart.

That proper men be appointed to go to New York with discretionary power to enlist men for the Naval Service, & that the Seamen's wages be £ 3 P month, as I am very sure you will get none under.

That the Fire Ships & Rafts be attended to & that Capts be immediately appointed for them, also that proper Boats be immediately built to row twelve oars, as none less will have any effect in turning the heavy rafts.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 720.

2. The date is approximated. On March 16, the Committee of Safety fixed the pay of the Commodore, commissioned and warrant officers, and on March 18, ordered two officers to New York to recruit seamen, both recommendations made by the Commodore in the above memorandum.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

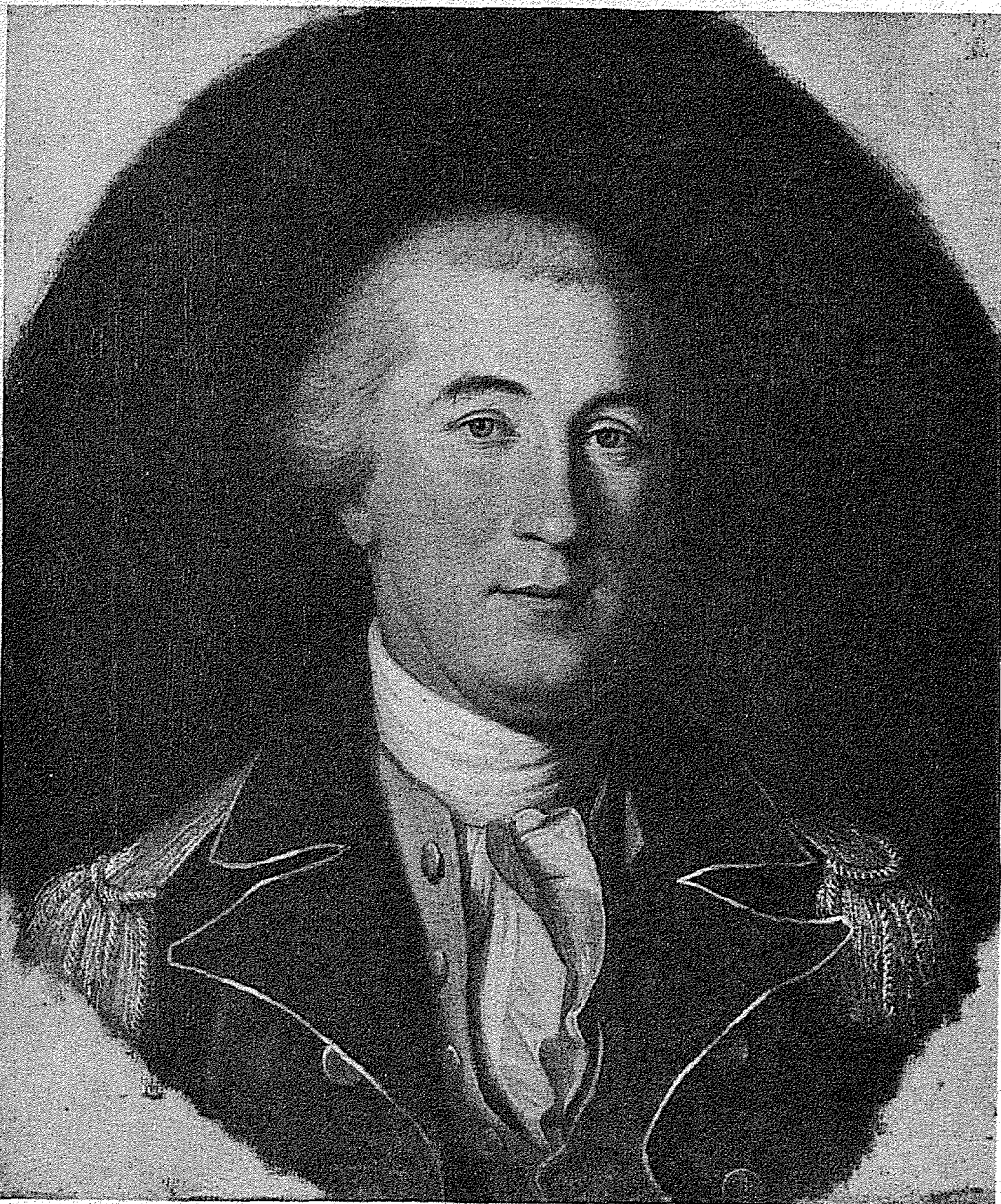
Philad March 15. 1776

You have had much Reason to think the Congress neg[lects] your Camp in the Article of Ammunition, but I hope by the Time this reaches you – Ten Tons of our last Importati[on] will be in your Camp – the Vessel brought but 350 Stand of Arms but they are the best yet imported. –

... A Man of War & some Tenders lately went up to Baltimore & gave them an Alarm which drove all their Women Children & valuable Effects out of Town but we have heard nothing since ...

Not a Syllable yet from our Fleet it is 4 Weeks tomorrow since they left our Capes – Should they fall in with Clinton the 12 Men of War convoying the Transports to Virginia it is all over with them – & we think there is very great Danger of it. My next must certainly give some Intelligence. –

Now for our own News. The Packet arrived last Week at New York & in her came Passengr Mr Robert Temple (Owner of the late beautiful Farm) below our Lines he came to Town last Night, the Report is that in Papers under his Buttons he has brought a Letter from Arthur Lee advising that the Commissioners are coming out instructed to settle the Dispute to get from us as much as they can, but if Peace cannot be had on their Terms to make it on ours. I mention it to you as a Report for to me it seems so inconsistent with all that we have seen & heard that I do not believe a Word of it. I shall get more certain Intelligence soon of his Business & it shall make a Part of my next Letter. ...



Colonel Joseph Reed.

We have had a Vessel Load of Linnens on Acct of Congress arrived within these few Days past but I do not hear a Word of Tents – what our Army is expected to do without them I cannot conceive –

Mr Deane of Connectic[u]t is gone to Europe his Errand may be guessed tho' little is said about it. – The french Vessels begin to find their Way to our Ports two or three having come in this Spring, but their Cargoes are chiefly West India Goods [and] very little Powder merely as a Cover.

Since writing the above I have conversed with some Gentlemen who have seen Mr Temple – I find he only bring two Letters writ by Dr Lee to himself & that his Information of the Power of the Commissioners is not built on any certain Authority but rather his own Conjectures.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 15th March, 1776.

Resolved, That the Commissary be directed to deliver to Captains [William] Richards, [Nathaniel] Falconer, & [Thomas] Reed, the Committee appointed by this Board for fixing Signals, such Guns, Ammunition, and Implements, as they shall require for that service.

By order of the Board, an order was drawn on Jno. Nixon & others, the Committee of accounts, in favour of John Cobourn, for £150, he being employed in sinking the Chevaux de Frize.

By order of the Board, an order was drawn on Jno. Nixon, Esq'r, and others, the Committee of accounts, in favour of Capt. John Rice, for £150, he being employed in sinking the Chevaux de Frize.

Resolved, That Capt. John Rice be employed to take the Chevaux de Frize, when launched at Gloucester, and sink them in their proper places near Fort Island; and that he be authorized to procure any thing for the purpose, hire persons under him, on the best and Cheapest terms, and that he draw on this Board for the Expence.

Resolved, That the Commodore require every Captain of the armed Boats immediately to furnish this Board with the Indents which they lately produced to Mr. [John] Nixon & Captain [Robert] Whyte, and for that purpose send down to the Captains at Liberty Island.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 515, 516.

RECEIPTS RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

[Baltimore]

Recd March 15th 1776 of Capt James Nicholson on Accot Ship *Defence* seven Shills being expences of People when after sparrs
£ -.7. -

1. Account Book, *Ship Defence Papers*, MdHS.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee 15 March 1776 –

Mr Robert Brown appeared before the Committee, & being examined, said, that he & Mr Robt Chapple were taken by the *Otter*, as he was crossing the Bay, & that Capt Squires said, he would burn down Baltimore Town, & mentioned many other Circumstances, which are thought too immaterial to be recorded –

The following is an exact Copy of a Paper delivered in to the Committee by Capt Isaac Vanbibber –

The Committee for Baltimore County appointing us the Subscribers to appraise and value the Hulls of Sundry Vessels now lying at Whetstone Point, and intended to be sunk there in the Narrows, do say, that the sundry Vessels as follows are worth the several Sums annexed thereto – vizt –

N 1 – One old Schooner the Property of John Boone worth.	£	25..0..0
2 – One do do .. of Robt Burns & Parker .. do		20..0..0
3 – One do Under Care of Joseph M[c]Guffin.		200..0..0
4 – One do Sloop belonging to Capt Seth Paddock..		100..0..0
5 – One do .Schooner.. do .. to Oliver White		60..0..0
6...One do do .. Nathaniel Smith		40..0..0
7...One do do .. Robert Christie		75..0..0
8...One do do .. James Clarke		50..0..0
9...One do do .. Martin Trout		70..0..0
10...One do do .. Silvanus Coffin (Master)		225..0..0
11...One do do .. Job Greene or Capt. Adams		90..0..0
12...One do do .. Melchior Reener		20..0..0
13...One do do .. Hutchins & Carmichael		300..0..0
14...One Sloop .. do .. John Cornthwait		60..0..0
15...One do do .. John Martin Baker		40..0..0
16...One Schooner do .. John Boone		15..0..0
17...One do do .. Severn Major & Thos Jacobs		
	of Virga	35..0..0
18...One do do .. Henry Herminson of .. do		75..0..0
19...One do do .. Robert Christie		85..0..0
20...One do do .. Wm Lux & Robt Sanders		40..0..0
21...One Brig . . . do .. John Pringle or Geo Wolsey		450..0..0
		<hr/>
		£2075..0..0

Witness our Hands this 14th March 1776

Hercules Courtenay – Isaac Vanbibber – William Spear

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

WILLIAM LUX TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER ¹

Dear Sir Capt Nicholson is very desirous of having 20 Riflemen among his Marines and has sent to Frederick where he is likely to succeed, of course he will want the Rifles, they will cost £6. a piece, please to consult your

council and let me know immediately as Capt Brown has an offer of 10 very fine ones and the others can be got at Frederick – I congratulate you on the arrival of the Brig *Wild Dick*. I suppose you will want our part of the Cargo, Mr Bowly is gone to Phila as soon as I hear from him I will wait on you, unless you come to Baltimore which I believe is safest. I am Honble Sir [&c.]

Will^m Lux

Baltimore 15 March 1776.

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

RECEIPTS FOR ARMS AND AMMUNITION RECEIVED FOR THE MARYLAND SHIP
*Defence*¹

This is to Certifie that I received into the Navil Store Out of the Brigga *Wild Dick* which I tuck to be part of hier Stores One Barrell with Grape Shott twenty two four Pound Patrige Shott Sixty Swivell Patrige Shott two Baggs with Muskett Balls not full & two Baggs with Swivell Balls –

Reced March the 15th 1776

p Jn^o Lockton

1. Scharf Collection: Additional Papers Relating to the Ship *Defence*, MdHS. On March 19, Lockton receipted for a case containing “Ninety Six Cutlashes Twenty five Gun Worms & one four Pound Starr Shott” delivered to him by Captain James Tibbett, master of the *Wild Duck*, or *Wild Dick*, *ibid*.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ANNAPOLIS, IN MARYLAND, MARCH 15, 1776.”¹

On the 5th instant, about seven in the evening, two boats that are kept down the bay to reconnoiter the motions of the men of war in Virginia, returned with the alarm that a man of war and two tenders were close at hand, and expected their intentions were to destroy this city, which threw the inhabitants into the greatest confusion; what with the darkness of the night, thunder, lightning, and rain, cries of women and children, people hurrying their effects into the country, drums beating to arms,&c. I can assure you it was by no means an agreeable scene. The wind shifting in the storm to the N.W. prevented the ships getting up that night. In this interval the inhabitants were moving their effects as fast as possible; we moved a few West India goods about ten miles, but were not so much alarmed as many others, having no notion of their firing on the town immediately without any insult offered them. However, the wind kept them back till the second day, when they appeared off the harbour, and to our great joy standing up the Bay without coming too. Governor Eden sent a boat after them to know what were their instructions, as he had no notice of any ship of war coming into this Province. It proved to be the *Otter* Sloop, Captain Squire, and two armed tenders, intending to take or destroy a large armed ship fitting out at Baltimore, and get fresh provisions, but not fire on any town. When the *Otter* got up to the mouth of the river Potapsico [Potapsco], that leads up to Baltimore town, she got a-ground sundry times, endeavouring to get in; not being able to effect this, she sent in her tenders and took a large ship loaded

with wheat and flour belonging to Baltimore, which also got a-ground in coming out, there not being more than 14 or 15 feet water at low tides, which always make with a N.W. wind. Before they could get her off the people at Baltimore got their armed ship ready, well manned, and fell down the river. On the tenders seeing her they sheared off with dispatch and left their prize. The *Otter* likewise got under sail, and made the best of her way down to the mouth of this harbour, where she came too; we were pretty well prepared in case they had attempted to have committed hostilities. Captain Squire sent ashore a flag to the Governor and Council of Safety: matters were not settled that evening. A second was sent next morning, when they agreed to go off without doing any damage or getting any provisions; but we have too much reason to expect a second visit from them in a few days with a much stronger force, when in all probability they may destroy our city. We have force enough to prevent their landing: God forbid they should attempt it, as it must bring on a horrid scene indeed. We most heartily wish the Commissioners were arrived that we understand are appointed to settle matters, and most sincerely pray a stop may be put to so unnatural and bloody a contest, but are afraid it is gone too far now to be settled any other way than by the sword and the loss of the Colonies to Britain.

1. *Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser*, May 24, 1776.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON ¹

No 59.

To Capt James Nicholson Commander of the Ship *Defence*.

Sir The spirited and prudent Conduct, which you manifested in repelling the late hostile Attack on the Persons and Properties of your Fellow-Citizens, and defeating the Designs and Attempts of our Invaders, give us real Satisfaction and entitle you to our Thanks; We therefore with Pleasure return them to you, and desire you will also communicate them to the Volunteers, that accompanied you, and the Officers and Men under your Command, as our acknowledgments are likewise due to their Gallantry.

[Annapolis] 15th March 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, Md. Arch.

GEORGE MASON AND JOHN DALTON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Virginia, Fairfax County March 15th 1776.

Gentlemen. Being employed by the Committee of Safety for this colony to fit out three armed cruisers, & two row gallies, for the protection of Poto-mack River, we have, in consequence thereof, bought three sloops; the largest of which (called the American Congress) will mount 14 Carriage Guns, 6 & 4 pounders, & be maned with about ninety men. We are now raising the Company of Marines, which will be completed in a few days; she has most of her guns mounted, the shot are now casting, at a Furnace in the Neighbourhood, & if we had powder, she would be very soon fit for

action. we wrote to our delegates at the congress to purchase for us in Philadelphia twenty Barrels of powder, & forward it to us by land, to serve 'til we could get a larger supply, which they promised to do, so soon as it could be procured there, but none has yet come to hand, & we are very uneasy, least some of the enemies cutters should come up this river, to destroy our vessels, before they are in a posture of defence. As this equipment will be as beneficial to the inhabitants on the north side of Potomack as to those on this side, we doubt not the disposition of your board to promote it, and under these circumstances, we take the liberty to apply to you for the loan of ten Bars of the powder lately imported for your province, in Capt [Thomas] Conway's vessel now in the eastern Branch of Potomack, which shall be replaced out of the first powder we receive from the northward, or elsewhere, if ten Bars cant be spared, even five or six Bars would be very serviceable, & might answer our Purpose, until the supply we expect from Philadelphia arrives. – We beg the favour of an immediate answer, & hope that the urgency & importance of the Business will excuse the trouble we have taken the liberty to give you. We are [&c.]

G. Mason

John Dalton

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

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Friday, 15th March, 1776.

Ordered that it be left to the discretion of Mr. Wm. Reynolds, to direct his vessel under the command of Capt.[George] Goosley, to proceed on her voyage at such time as he may think most prudent.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 123–25.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Syren*, CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX ¹

March 1776

34°30' N

Friday 15th

AM: at day light saw a Brigg to the Etwd gave Chace, out Reefs & got Top Gallt Yards up, at 7 fired a Shot & bro't too the Chace, at 10 spoke a Brigg from Philadelphia bound to Charles Town with a Company of Rebel Artillery, Consisting of a Captain & 78 Men, brought the Prisoners on Board.—²

First fresh breezes, latter Fresh Gales & hazy, different Soundings each Hour –

P:M: at 1 sent hands on board the Prize & made Sail, at 4 single Reefed the TP Sls got down Top Gallt Yards at 11 dble reefed the TP Sls 12 made the Signl & Wore –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

2. The prisoners were Captain Francis Proctor and his company of artillerymen, recruited for service in South Carolina, who had sailed from Philadelphia on February 16. The identity of the brig is not given, nor does it appear in any prize list.

HENRY LAURENS TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GILLON ¹

Sir. –

Charles Town 15th March, 1776.

We have considered the Contents of your Letter of the 11th Inst & in compliance with your request we Shall order the Brig: *Comet* & Schooner *Defence*, on a Short Cruize, to call off Winyah Bar & take your two Vessel[s] under Convoy to the edge of Soundings – the Signals which you have recommended shall be adopted, & we desire you will be ready to come out of port on Sunday, & that you keep a good look out for the Vessels in order to Save the Powder which may otherwise be wasted by firing of Guns – & as you will now have less occasion for Gun powder & our own wants & the very great want of that article in our Neighbourhood becomes every day more alarming, we shall take it well of you, if you will not avail yourself of the permission which we gave you to take fifty pounds weight from the public Store at George Town. if you could feel our circumstances we are Sure you would not take one grain. – We wish you a Successful Voyage. –

By order of the Council of Safety

If your Vessels are not quite ready for Sea, we would advise you to send an advice Boat to meet our Vessels near Winyaw Bar by which you will write to Capt [Joseph] Turpin & Tufts – Your Boat Should make your Signals but by no means delay our Cruizers by long waiting

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 201, 202.

HENRY LAURENS TO THE GEORGETOWN COMMITTEE ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town 15th March 1776

Gentlemen We thank you for the intelligence in your Letter of the 13th which came in hand this Evening – the Success of our friends in North Carolina is a great event, & it is a pleasing circumstance to us, that they have not repeated their calls for Gun powder – it is not in our power to Issue any more from our present Stock – we have intimated to Capt. Gillon the Scantiness of our Magazine & how pleasing it will be to us if he will not avail himself of our permission to take 50t from that under your care – he will have the less need now, as we have ordered the *Comet* and *Defence* to Convoy his Vessels from your Bar to the edge of Sounding, those two Armed Vessels Sailed late the past afternoon & will probably be in sight of your Shore to Morrow Morning – we are loth to countermand our order altho our necessity almost compels us to do it, but we hope that Capt Gillon's good sense & consideration will Shew that it would have been an unnecessary measure.

We have just received advices of the 12th from Savanna where they had then a respite from action – the *Cherokee* & other armed Vessels had returned to Cockspur with about ten Sail of Vessels which after having thrown out about 2000 Barrels of Rice had got under their Cover in back

River – four Vessels with valuable Cargoes were burnt & Seven Seized & detained, four of which are loaded.

By order of the Council of Safety

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 203, 204.

COLONEL STEPHEN BULL TO HENRY LAURENS¹

Head-Quarters, Savannah, March 15th, 1776.

Sir, I wrote you yesterday by the post, in which I told you, I should be able to get the matter of the ships settled to my satisfaction. And not many hours after my letter was gone, the Council of Safety sent an order directed to me, as Commander in Chief in this province; desiring, I would immediately have the vessels unrigged, and their rudders unhung; a work I was determined to do, ere I left this place, agreeable to the orders given me by the Congress in Charlestown. But, as our Congress depended in some measure on my conducting matters properly, I had before given it as my opinion to this Council of Safety, that it would have a much greater appearance of unanimity in the Colonies, and that Georgia was not so backward as was heretofore suspected, if they would make it an act of their own. And as the Tories had yesterday said, the Carolinians had taken possession of Savannah, and meant never to give it up again; I thought it would bear that complexion: and it struck the Council of Safety in the same light. On which they resolved, that Lieut. Col. [John] Stirk, with a party of about forty men of their own militia should do the work; only requesting that I would be ready to support them if necessary: and, I accordingly had a sufficient number of men for that purpose – having now under my command four hundred and forty-two, who would have turned out at a minute's warning. Yet, I did not suffer any of our men to appear with arms, or seemingly to know any thing of the matter, but, I ordered them, to keep close to their quarters, which were but a few yards distance from the shipping. However, I have the pleasure of acquainting you, there was no opposition – but, an application was made to spare the unhangings of the rudder of the ship *Georgia Planter*, Inglis, alledging, it was so locked under water, that it could not be done. Major — also, applied to have the rudder of his vessel spared; and would have given security for her not departing the province; on which, the President of the Council of Safety waited on me, and mentioned both circumstances. To the first I replied, the rudder might be very soon rendered useless, by the help of an axe, cutting it off, near the water – as to Mr. —'s vessel, I thought they could not with any degree of propriety grant his request, as it would wear the highest appearance of partiality; and would be absolutely repugnant to their own resolution – which was without exception; an order for which, I was then possessed of. However, the officer and men came down; and I sent Messrs. Black and Laurens, two ship carpenters, (first making them put off their uniform, and get common clothing,) and mixed with the people, to see that the work was properly executed. They are now at work – several vessels were unrigged – and the rudders unhung; and by to-morrow night shall have finished, I hope.

A Packet arrived from England two days ago, at Cockspur; ² after a short passage; and all the letters that they did not suspect came to friends of liberty, were allowed to be brought up, by Mr. —, (a half tory, as he is usually denominated,) as also, An act of Parliament respecting the Boston Port-Bill, and An act to include New-York, North-Carolina, and Georgia, in the restraining bill. Also, the King's proclamation, dated the 22d Dec. last, declaring, that all vessels cleared out, after the first of January last, and taken by any of the King's ships, shall be deemed lawfull prizes — and, it is so particular, as to point out the shares, from the admiral to the swabber.

I have seen a letter from a capital merchant in London to Mr. George Houston of this town, enclosing an extract which he had made with the contractors of the victualling office there, to supply all his Majesty's ships that may be stationed or rendezvous here; and that he should also supply, the agents of the Northern Department, with such provisions as could be purchased cheaper here, then there. And from the tenor of the letter I apprehend a number of men of war may be expected. For further particulars, I refer you to the Council of Safety; who will send you copies of all the letters of any consequence: together, with the act of parliament, and proclamation.

I shall return home, as soon as I have completed the business sent on; if, nothing material occurs.

I herewith enclose you two papers of intelligence, and a General Return. I have the honour to be, Sir [&c.]

Step'n Bull.

1. Drayton, *American Revolution*, II, 234–37.

2. The *Duke of Cumberland*, from Falmouth, had arrived at Cockspur, March 13, 1776.

16 Mar.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, March 16, 1776

Petition of James Holmes setting forth that in the Transport Ship called the *Friendship*, lately cast a Shore on Cape Cod, whereof he was Master, and had a considerable sum of money (his own private cash) to the amount of Three hundred and Seventy-Five dollars, the whole of which together with a Gold Watch, and his wearing apparell, were taken from him by the Captors of the Ship — part of the money has since been expended, in bringing the Crew of said Ship to head Quarters, so that only Two hundred and Twenty-Five dollars now remains in the Captors Hands, by which means your Petitioner is reduced to the most necessitous Circumstances destitute of a single farthing to subsist on, in a Country where he has neither Friends or Connexions, and where he has no other dependence, but on the Characteristic benevolence and Hospitality of Americans. He recognizes with Gratitude your Honors recommendation to the Captors to return his Wearing apparel — and he humbly begs that you will add to that recommendation a Return of his private monies, in order that he may be able to support him-

self in some degree of Reputation, till he shall have an Opportunity to return home.

Resolved that it be recommended to the Selectmen of the Town of Truro, that they return to Capt James Holmes Seventy-Five dollars, part of the Cash that he claims as his Private property on Board the *Friendship* lately run ashore in said Town, for said Capt Holmes necessary support, till Trial of said vessel can be had, or further order of this Court.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 659, 660.

ABIGAIL ADAMS TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

B[raintr]ee March 16 1776

. . . the Last I closed this Day week; since that time there has been some movements amongst the Ministerial Troops as if they meant to evacuate the Town of Boston. Between 70 and 80 vessels of various sizes are gone down and lay in a row in fair sight of this place, all of which appear to be loaded and by what can be collected from our own observations and from deserters they have been plundering the Town. I have been very faithless with regard to their quitting Boston, and know not how to account for it, nor am I yet satisfied that they will leave it – tho it seems to be the prevailing opinion of most people; we are obliged to place the Militia upon Guard every Night upon the shoars thro fear of an invasion. There has been no firing since Last Tuesday, till about 12 o clock last Night, when I was waked out of my sleep with a smart Cannonade which continued till nine o clock this morning, and prevented any further repose for me; the occasion I have not yet heard, but before I close this Letter I may be able to give you some account of it.

1. L. H. Butterfield, ed., *The Adams Papers*, Series II, *Adams Family Correspondence* (Cambridge, Mass., 1963), I, 357–61. Hereafter cited as Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1776

Providence; March 16.

Last Week a large Ship from Whitehaven, bound to Boston, laden with Coal, Porter, Cheese, &c. was taken near the Vineyard, and carried into Dartmouth. ¹ This is the seventh Vessel that has been captured out of eight which sailed from Whitehaven.

On Friday, last Week, the Ship *Swan*, Capt. [James] Ayscough, in going down the River, ran on the Black Rocks, near Newport, where she lay 5 Hours, but got off without receiving much Damage.

The Vessel ashore at Long-Island, mentioned in our last, proves to be a Ship from the West-Indies, bound to New-York, laden with Salt.

1. The ship *Harriot*, Weymes Orrock, master, taken March 7, 1776. See Benjamin Smith to the Massachusetts Council, March 10, 1776.

LORD STIRLING TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Dear Sir

New York 16th March 1776

Since writing to you by express on Thursday last, I have not received any further Intelligence from the Eastward; The Inhabitants of this City and Kings County on Long Island have very Chearfully turned out to work on the Fortifications; every thing is going on as well as the badness of the weather will permit. Two Companies of the Millitia of New ark in New Jersey are coming in this morning and I hope they will soon be followed by others; I have not yet heard from Col. [Elias] Dayton Although I have wrote twice to him. The five Companies of Col. Sinclairs [Arthur St. Clair's] Regiment will be very little detained by coming to this place, as they will now be able to go by water all the way to Albany and they must at any rate be too late to pass the Lakes on the Ice, and too early in the year to cross by water.

March 17th 10 oClock P.M. I have this evening received your letter of the 15th by express. one Company of Col. Sinclairs arrived this day at Hoe-buck [Hoboken] opposite to this City, they will embark tomorrow for Albany, the others will as they arrive, embark at Dobb's ferry for the same place. I have forwarded the packet for Governor Trumbull with a letter to him of which the Inclosed is Copy.

I have received no further Intelligence from General Washington, but by accounts from that quarter on Monday last, it appears that the Ministerial Troops were proceeding in their embarkation; one letter Says that five thousand of them were Actually embarked; Another Account Says that Twenty Odd Ships were Sailed out of the harbour (perhaps with Stores) for I can not beleive they will divide their real force in the presence of our Army. However if they do not Interrupt us in Ten or Twelve days more I hope we shall be in a Situation to prevent they making an Lodgement; unless it be at the west end of Long Island near the Narrows about which I am very anxious but defer doing any thing there untill the other works are Compleat and more Troops arrive. Bergen Neck may be so Improved as to preserve the Communication with Jersey and all the Country west of this place in Spite of them. The people in New Jersey are very uneasy about the Defenceless Situation of Elizabeth Town and Amboy; a decent may easily be made at the latter and is worthy of Attention. The former might be Secured by a Small work on Bergen Neck near the Kills, and a Small Fort and proper Batterys at or near Elizabeth Town point. The powder designed for Cambridge will all be shifted by tomorrow evening and ready to proceed by Tuesday, if that be the Determination of the Congress.

By some prisoners taken into Custody there is great reason to beleive that Governor Tryon has his Emissaries in Several parts of the province, engaging men to Serve both by land and water; one tells us that he is engaged with Fifty others under a Certain Vernon who was to fit out an armed Sloop to Cruize in the rivers, a Sloop was actually purchased lately by Vernon and we have her along the wharf; I have referred some others to the Committee

of Safety to be examined and I doubt not we Shall find out and defeat their Machinations. I am [&c.]

Stirling.

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, II, 467-68, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Sabbati 9 HO. A.M.

March 16th, 1776.

A letter from Major-General Schuyler, relating to Captain [Jacobus] Wynkoop and the command of the vessels on the lakes, was read, and is in the words following, to wit:

[See Schuyler to Provincial Congress, March 8, 1776]

Thereupon a message was sent to Mr. Wynkoop, who attended. A copy of the said letter was delivered to him. He was requested to go to Major [William] Douglass with the copy of the said letter, show it to him and request to know of him whether he will accept the command, and that Capt. Wynkoop give an answer to the Committee of Safety, whether he will proceed to the lakes in the station assigned him.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 364, 368.

WILLIAM LOWTHER TO JOSEPH HEWES ¹

[Extract]

New York 16 March 1776

Dear Sir

I had the pleasure of your favour of the 11 Inst which Convayd a great deal of Satisfaction to me, as I am able to Contradict the Silly Assertions of our Enthusiastic triffers who believe and propagate Lying Inconsistencies for want of Sense, which notwithstanding is greedily Swallowed as truth by their more Silly Auditors. I hope those Inconsiderate People of N Carolina will Soon be Suppressd, tho I fear Clinton is to join the Scots Settled on Cape fear River, and I apprehended from the time [Donald] McDonald and McLoed went there with Sutton that there was something of this kind in Agitation. I mentioned my fears of th[is] to Mr. [Samuel] Johnston when at Edenton, All our Streets and Slips are fortifying the People in town able to bear arms are Compelled to work or Each to find a man to work under the penalty of ten Shillings so that it goes on very fast. A [b]attery of twelve guns is Constructed a Little below the [Fer]ry on Long Island upon the top of the Bank opposite the town, Six Amb[ras]urs point to the Corner of the Battery at the Entrance of the Harbour, another Battery Behind the house the Governor Occupied Commands the North River with I believe Eight guns, The *Asia* Lyes in the north River Quietly Looking on, The Late Act of Parliament for Confiscating all American Shiping will Ru[i]n us all, . . . I Sett out to Morrow in Quest of my Sloop perhaps to Boston . . . I am [&c.]

W^m Lowther

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH. Joseph Hewes was a North Carolina delegate in the Continental Congress.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, MARCH 16." ¹

By Capt. Bernard, from Nantucket, we hear, that a ship of 300 tons burthen, which had arrived at Sandy-Hook from England, and was ordered from thence to Boston, had got aground in a gale of wind between Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, when some people from Martha's Vineyard fitted out an armed sloop, and sundry small boats engaged the ship, and after an obstinate battle took her, wounded the Captain with several of the men, and carried them into Martha's Vineyard.² We also learn, that a transport, bound from Boston to New York, was cast away on Cape Cod, and boarded by our people, who found on board her a quantity of dollars, with ten ton of lead and shot.³

1. *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, May 13 to May 15, 1776.

2. The transport *Harriot*, Weymes Orrock, master.

3. The transport *Friendship*, James Holmes, master.

GILBERT BARKLY TO SIR GREY COOPER ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] 16th March 1776

Sir Since my last 10th January Via New York, a Capt. Meason [Thomas Mason] arrived in this Port from France, with Nigh Sixty Tones of salt Petre 17 tones of gunpouder, and 500 Stand of Arms; several small parcels of gun Pouder and Arm's, has allso arrived from 6 different ports in the West Indies, and the 4th of this month a Briganteen arrived from Zeland with 37 tones of gunpouder 17 ton's Salt Petre and 500 Stand of Arms ² and many other Vessells are Expected with military Store's &c.

The fleet of armed Vessells I mentioned in my last, did not leave the Capes of delaware river till Saturday the 17th of February Vizt one ship of 34 gun's and one of 30 do., tuo briganteens of 16 guns Each, a sloop of 12 guns, all fitted out in Maryland, and a Small sloop from New England: ³ no accounts of them since they Sailed. One of the French gentlemen of whom I wrote in my last is gone for France,⁴ the other Continus still in this City, I am told they have agreed to furnish the Congress with £80,000 Value of military stores of all kinds: last week a Baron De Waidtke formerly a general in the Prussian Service arrived here, no doubt in expectation of being Employed, but I cannot yet find he has got any Appointment: general Lee is at present in this place, but is appointed to Command in Virginia, and the other Southern Provinces, and leav's this City next week for that purpose.

1. *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, LXXXV, 30-32. Cooper was a secretary of the British Treasury.

2. The armed brig *Wild Duck*, Captain James Tibbett, which subsequently became the Continental brig *Lexington*.

3. Barkly's identification of the Continental fleet is confusing and inaccurate.

4. Pierre Penet returned to France; Pliarne remained.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 16th March, 1776.

Resolved, That Capt. Thomas Forrest be ordered to raise thirty able Bodied Men for the Marine service of this Province.

That he be allowed ten Shillings per Man, in lieu of his recruiting Expences, and ten Shillings per week for the subsistence of each recruit, until they are provided for by the Commissary.

That he pay the greatest attention to the behaviour of the Men while in quarters, and see their quarters discharged at least once in every week.

That no bought indented servants or apprentices be inlisted without the consent of their Masters in writing.

That the Company consist of one Captain, two non-commission'd officers, and thirty Privates.

That a sum not exceeding twenty Shillings, be advanced to each Recruit.

That £50 be advanced Capt. Forrest for the recruiting service.

That the pay of the privates be six dollars per month, and to continue in the service of this Province until discharged by the Assembly or this Committee.

By order of the Board, an order was drawn on Jno. M. Nesbitt, Esq'r in favour of Capt. Thomas Forrest, for £50, which is directed to be charged him for Recruiting a Company of Marines.

Resolved, That the Commodore, or Commander-in-Chief of the Naval Armaments of this Province, be allowed sixty dollars p month, and six Rations of Provisions per day.

That the second in Command of the Naval Armaments of this Province, be allowed £10 p month, & 3 Rations of Provisions per day.

That the 1st. Lieutenants on Board the Provincial Ship, be allowed 17 dollars per month, & 2 Rations of Provisions.

That the 2nd Lieut's on Board said Ship, be allowed sixteen Dollars per month, & 2 Rat's of Prov's.

That the 3rd Lieut. on board said Ship, be allowed 14 Dollars per month, two Rat's Provisions, & to Rank with the 2nd Lieutenants of the Armed Boats.

That the Master of the Provincial Ship be allowed 16 Dollars per month, & 2 Rations of Provisions per day.

That the Master [*sic* Mates] & Carpenters of the said Ship, be allow'd 14 Dollars per month, & two Rations of Provisions per day.

That the Gunners & Boatswains of said ship, be allowed 12 Dollars per month, & two Rations of Provisions per day.

That the Midshipman on board s'd ship, be allowed 10 Dollars per month.

That the Surgeon of said Ship be allowed 25 Dollars per month, & two Rations of Provisions per day.

That the Surgeon's mate to the said ship, be allowed 18 Dollars per month, & 2 two Rations of Provisions per day.

Resolved, That Commodore Caldwell give directions to the Officers of the Boats for the Chevaux-de-Frise now sunk at Fort Island, to be examined, and make Report of their Situation to this Board, by Tuesday next.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 517-19.

SILAS DEANE TO MRS. ELIZABETH DEANE ¹

Delaware Bay, March 16th, 1776.

My Dear, — I have nothing in the way of business to add to what I wrote so particularly from Philadelphia, but sensible it will give you pleasure to hear of my wellfare, I will give you in a few words my journal to this time.

I left Philadelphia in a Pilot Boat on the 8th instant, and arrived at Chester, where the Briga lay; on the 10th left that place and fell down to New Castle, where contrary winds detained us until the 11th at night, when we fell down as far as Reedy Island, so called, which is about fifty or sixty miles from Philadelphia; from this we sailed on the 12th, to appearance with a fine wind, which headed us by 12 o'clock, and obliged us to return, and detained us until this morning, the 16th, when the wind springing up at the West, we made sail, and are running down the Bay.

I have been very well and hearty since I have been on board, and am in good spirits, trusting in His protection who commands both winds and waves, and resigning myself to His disposal. I wish my love, respect, and regards may be given to all my relatives and acquaintance; have wrote my Brothers by this conveyance, and assure yourself I shall take all the care in my power both of my health and person, and I pray you to do the same. Commending you, with my little Son, to the protection of Almighty God, I remain, most affectionately, Yours,

S. Deane.

1. "Correspondence of Silas Deane," *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, II, 364.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE¹

Saturday 16 March 1776 — The Committee met —

Capt David Laurence of the Sloop *Snow Bird* from Rhode Island reported his Vessel with 20 Bbls Cyder, and produced a Certificate from Governor Cooke to permit him to load said Vessell, which this Committee readily granted —

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Baltimore 16 March 1776.

Gentlemen. This Committee on the first alarm of Capt Squires being coming up to this town, met and took into the[ir] serious consideration the unprepared state thereof to repel an attack, and therefore thought it necessary

to throw up two Breast Works at Fells Point, as well to preserve the town, as to cover the ship *defence*, who was then without the chief part of her guns; the accot of the expence, as soon as it can be liquidated, will be laid before you, and as the necessity was urgent, we hope you will readily support us. We also undertook to fit out a schooner as a Tender, and to support the operations of Capt Nicholson & have proceeded some lengths in equipping her, and we beg to know from you, whether it is your intention, that we shall proceed to finish & compleat her for the service of the province, or whether you would desist from prosecuting the matter any farther. We judge, the purchase of the vessell and her out fit may amount to £ 2000, and we are of opinion, she will be very useful in scouring the coast from the incursion of the Tenders, as she will mount 10 guns, and carry 70 to 100 men; she is in such forwardness, as to sail immediately on getting her men. One of the brest Works, which was mostly calculated to cover the ship, mounts 6 guns, and the other 10, and they were particularly requested to be done by Capt Nicholson. Our Fort at Whetstone is ready to mount 8 guns, and we shall use every exertion to expedite it. We are with due Respect [&c.]

Will^m Lux depy Chn

John Boyd
Jn^o Merryman Junr
Jn^o Sterett.

Thomas Harrison
Jn^o Smith
W^m Buchanan

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

RECEIPT RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

[Baltimore]

Recd 16 March 1776 of Captain James Nicholson on Accot of Ship *Defence* Twenty shillings for flooring & Backing the Cambouse finding all Materials As pr Bill received –
£ 1.0.0.

Thomas Connolly

1. Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, MdHS.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Saturday 16 March 1776.

The Gentlemen appointed the 21st of January last to make a Chart of the Land, and Water at the Mouth of this River specifying the Width and Depth of the Channel between Horn Point and Greenbury's Point, returned a Chart thereof and delivered the same to the Council, which was ordered to lie on the Table.

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

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday, 16th March, 1776.

Wm. Green is appointed Master of one of the Row Gallies to be employed in the Rappahannock River.

Mr. Benjamin Harrison, jun'r, presented to the Committee a license granted him by the Comm'ee of Secrecy appointed by [the Continental] Congress, which is ordered to be entered, and is as follows:

[Here is inserted Secret Committee of Congress to Committee of Safety, February 13, 1776²]

Whereupon the Captain of the said Vessel is permitted to enter and clear out the said vessel, loaded with Tobacco and Lumber for any port in Great Britain, and the charter party between Jo. Hemas Esq're, and Capt. [William] Tokeley, master of s'd vessel, being read to the s'd Tokeley, he was sworn and entered into bond fully and faithfully to comply with the conditions expressed in the said charter party.

By mutual consent between Mr. Wm. Reynolds and this Comm'ee his share of the adventure on board the vessel at present under the command of Captain Goosley is reduced to one-eighth.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 125, 126.

2. See Volume 3, 1262-63.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Cruizer*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY¹

March 76 [Moored off Fort Johnston, Cape Fear River]
 Monday 11th Mode and Cloudy wear
 P M heard several Guns fired in the offing fired 8 Guns to Answer them. Sent out the *Comite Packett* and Murerys tender with pilots.
 Tuesday 12th A M saw a Ship & a brig off [f] the barr
 Fresh Gales & Cloudy wear
 saw the ship come to an Anchor came in a Sloop from Winea Loaded with rice bound to Salem Seizd by the *Falcon*² at 5 came in the brig *Glasgow Packett* from Boston, with Soldiers,
 Wednesday 14th this 24 hours fired 4 guns as Sigls
 Thursday 14th Fresh gales and hazey wear heard severals guns fired in the offing
 little winds and hazey wear
 at 3 came in his Majestys ship *Mercury* with Genl [Henry] Clinton on board
 Friday 15th A M saw 3 Ships in the offing. Sent a sloop out with the pilots. saild the *Terrable* tender.
 Fresh breezes & Cloudy wear. came in the *Mercury* and *Falcons* tenders & a Sloop seiz'd by the *Mercury*³
 Saturday 16th A M came in the *Kitty* Transport with some troops.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

2. The sloop *Adventure*, Francis Boardman, master.

3. The sloop *Hope*, Andrew Brown, master.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Mercury*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU ¹

March 1776 Moor'd in Cape Fear Harbor
 Friday 15 at 5 [A.M.] Anchor'd with the Bt Br off Fort Johnston & Moor'd Ship Oak Island bearing SSW His Majestys Sloop *Cruizer* riding here, Fir'd a Gun & made the Signal for all Masters of Merchantmen at 8 Fir'd a Gun for all Pilots. Fresh breezes and hazey at 5 P M Fir'd a Gun and made the Signal for all Pilots
 Saturday 16 at 11 Anchor'd here the *Kitty* Transport, Saluted Governor Martin with Thirteen Guns.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

HENRY LAURENS TO WILLIAM MANNING, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] 16th March 1776

four Ships or Vessels at Savanna richly laden were burned – about ten after heaving about 2000. Barrels of Rice into the River got down under cover of the Armed vessels escaped to Cockspur & probably you may receive these tidings by Some of them before this gets to hand

Remain in Custody of the Georgians —

Unity, Wardell — on board about 700 bbs Rice

Georgia Packet, Inglis 500.

Amity, Ash — loaded with Live Oak

Rebecca, Rutherford with Lumber.

Fair Lady, Robertson. 30 Hogsd Tobacco

Yorick, – Steel } in Ballast –
Beaufort Wood }

all those will be burnt rather than be Surrendered to the Enemy.

The King's Troops were certainly panic Struck, they not only ran away, when our people fired on them, but cried out for Mercy. – & left two field pieces behind them, which our friends knew not of till they heard that the Negroes belonging to Mr Graham had carried them across Hutchinson's Island to the fugitives with whom the Negroes are connected –

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, No. 10, SCHS.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM SOUTH-CAROLINA, MARCH 16.” ¹

It is generally thought the troops on board the transports at Georgia are to join General Clinton, in North-Carolina. A number of the militia of this colony are gone to Savannah, where there is very little reason to apprehend another attack. In the late skirmish two of our people were wounded, and five of the soldiers.

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

WILLIAM EWEN TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., AND MAJOR
JAMES GRANT ¹

[No. 4.] Savannah, in the Council of Safety, March 16, 1776.

Gentlemen: As we have already pledged our faith to release all the King's officers, and others now in our custody, upon the enlargement of our captive friends, and we, holding it inviolate, are yet willing to perform our engagement. Should this exchange take place, such of them as choose to leave the Province may; and such as do not, may remain upon their parole of honour to refrain from all connection with the King's vessels and soldiery. And we do now declare that we will neither make, or receive, any other terms.

By order of the Council of Safety:

William Ewen, President.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 603.

WILLIAM EWEN TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Savannah, March 16, 1776.

Gentlemen: Since ours of the 4th instant to you, we have neither heard from you, nor have we wrote to you, except by Lieutenant-Colonel Wells, upon a particular business, which, by your assistance, we hope he will soon have effected.

Colonel Bull, with the detachment from your Province, arrived here very seasonably on Sunday last, our own Militia having been so greatly fatigued with marching, keeping out-guards, ambuscades, and watching, that we were under the necessity of suffering a great part of them to go home.

On the evening of the 3d instant, the chief of the vessels which escaped the fire, got up some small distance from the town, and lay under cover of the armed schooner and sloop; and, towards the morning, they sent express to Colonel McIntosh, with the original of the enclosed copy marked No. 1, by which we were entrapped into a cessation, at the same time when we should have done ourselves justice by destroying or taking all the vessels, both warlike and mercantile, which it was in our power easily to do with fire-ships, as they lay in the South River for near two days, and most of them often aground. This mistake was occasioned by our anxiety for the safety and recovery of our captive friends, though, perhaps, a very mistaken policy, for coercive measures might have been more successful.

We enclose to you copies of all the letters which passed upon that occasion, which will convey to you a full idea of the subject. By them you will find that they sued for peace. During this truce, when any of our officers or men went near the shore where any of the vessels lay, (in all which the soldiery were distributed,) they were meanly obsequious.

On the 7th instant, while they were yet within our power in the Back River, we found that they had affected to construe one of Colonel McIntosh's proposals into a consent that the merchant shipping should be carried to Cockspur; and, therefore, by way of explanation, and to make a fur-

ther demand of our prisoners, we sent the despatch marked No. 2, which was delivered as directed, about six o'clock at night. Immediately after which, the whole of the marines, soldiers, and mariners, were set to work, and, after labouring very hard, staving and throwing overboard most of the rice, got out of the Back River, safe into Five-Fathom Hole, about two o'clock in the morning, and in the course of two or three days down to Cockspur.

A few days ago, we sent down a boat, with some necessaries to our confined friends; and by the return, among a number of others, came the originals of the copies we now enclose to you. We are informed that there are many other letters in the packet, both for Carolina and Georgia, which may be had by sending the hard money and as we intend sending down further supplies to-day, we shall send hard money; for all the letters. Those which shall appear to belong or appertain to your Province, we will despatch to you.

By the letters from the contracting victuallers, we learn that our enemies have essayed to make this river a victualling and watering place for the whole forces employed against America; but, with respect to the former, we are determined at all hazards to disappoint them. All we have to guard against is, the being surprised. A number of vessels and troops may arrive below, and be tempted to attack the town at a time when it may be most defenceless. To prevent this, it will be necessary to keep a standing force; in doing which, we are in need of your assistance. If you could spare us about one hundred and fifty or two hundred men, until our officers shall get the battalion recruited, it would enable us, with drafts from our own people, to keep a force sufficient, with our natural advantages, to repel a formidable enemy.

We are much afraid that the enemy will use their exertions to ravage your plantations bordering on our river. They have done it already, as they were making their escape through the Back River, by taking a number of negroes belonging to Mr. Middleton, Mrs. Cuthbert, and others, and by taking the live stock, &c., from the plantations appertaining to the friends of America.

We have ordered a large boat to be fitted out for the purpose of guarding the river. We have some reasons to believe that the transports, with some of the vessels-of-war, are about sailing for Boston; and we are almost certain that the force now upon our coast will not attempt aught against Charlestown; however, the officers below say that Sir Peter Parker sailed on the 5th of December, for America with four forty-four-gun ships, and five thousand soldiers, and that their destination, in particular, was against your Province.

Several of the King's officers and non-associates have taken sanctuary on board the King's ships; and we have six others, besides the two Captains, confined as hostages for the good treatment and enlargement of Messrs. Demeré, Roberts, and Rice. If necessary, we shall trouble some of our sister Colonies with them.

Captain Grant, of the armed schooner *St. John*, has, within a few days past, arrived at Cockspur, and gives an account that the American fleet was

seen off near Providence, and that thereupon he took the powder (amounting to two hundred and seventy barrels) on board, and went out from the Island one way as the fleet came in on the other.

Six or seven large ships have been seen off St. Catherine's, from whence they got a pilot; but whether it is Sir Peter Parker or our friends, we are at a loss to conjecture. The King's ships below have taken the *Georgia Packet*, Captain George Bunner, with four hundred barrels of flour, and other articles of provisions.

By order of the Council of Safety:

William Ewen, President.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 599-600.

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

[Wednesday, March 6
to
Saturday, March 16]

At 6 in the Morning March the 6th Weigh'd from Roze Iland with the remainder of the Fleet & run down to the Barr where we gott a Barr Pilot from [New] Providence, & gott safe into the Harbour and came too off [f] Fort Nausaw in Three fathom Water, Employ'd here getting the Guns out of the Fort & all the Warlike Stores Belonging to it, on board the Fleet, & putting our Ballace on shore, receiv'd on Board 4780 Shott and Sheels of Different Sizes for Ballis, The Comodore took a large Sloop in the Service to Carry, Some of the Cannon;² On March 11th was Join'd [by] the Sloop *Fly* which was supparated from us On the 19th of February who gave us Account of the Sloop *Hornet* Carreing away her mast head two Days after they parted from the Fleet, and suppos'd bore away for some part of the Continent While we lay here our people takeing very Sickly with the fever, altho as much Care as possible was taking to prevent it, On Saturady March 16 having Gott all the stores & Cannon out of the fort, Embark out [our] Marines and receiv'd orders for Getting Under Way;
Moderate Breezes & Clear Wether
at 4 PM Weigh'd and putt to sea with all the Fleet
[12 M.] Cloudy Weather

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. The sloop *Endeavour*. Charles Bulkeley's narrative states, "We took all the cannon from the Fort and elsewhere & louded a Sloop & from thence we sailed for New London." NLCHS.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK ¹

[Harbor of Nassau in New Providence]

Remarks On Saturday [9th of March 1776]
Clear Weather A fresh Sea Breese at 6 PM mored the [torn] Both Carpenders employd makeing the hatches the people [employed about the] Rigion and Blacking the Sides and Bootoping and [torn]

Remarks On Sunday the 10th of March 1776

Clear Weather A fresh Sea Breese the Carpenders Employd mak[eing] the hatches the people Employd About the Rigion and Other Nessea[torn] Jobbs Nothing More Meteril -

Remarks On Monday the 11 of March 1776

Clear Weather A fr[esh Sea] Breese at 10 A:M the Sloop *Flye* arived and Told us that [torn] Sloop *Hornett* in Latitude 33° 1' With hi [torn] mast Carrid away at 4 P:M See a [torn] went out after hir at 6 Do Brought hir [torn]

Remarks on T[uesday the 12th] March 1776

Clear Weather A f[resh Sea Breeze] at 9 A:M See a schoonar to wind[wa]rd Waide anchor went Out arftur hir & Spoke hir She had Been out from hispaniola 42 Days and Lost the mate and one hand at 11 Brought hir in to harbour to anchor put 3 Men on Board

Remarks On Wednesday the 13 of March 1776

Clear Wather With a frash Brezes at 6 A M James Ratleif Swom one Shoar at 10 do Rec'd on Bord 4 Cask of Wewater & 2 Boats Lode of Wood Carpentear Employd macking the grating[s] (Shept one Bord the *Wasp*)

Remarks On Thursday the 14 of March 1776

Clear Wather a frash Brezes at Et a Rived in this Harbour 2 Sloups from Turks Island Recevd on Bord 2 Cask of Wetar & 90 Hand guards Employd drawing of yarns & pecking of Ockem

Remarks On Friday the 15 of March 1776

Cler Wather a frash Sea Brezes Struck the F:T:Mt to put one a Block for the Hallards Employd the peopel a peicken of Ockem a Rived in thes Harbour 2 Shipes

Remarks On Saturday the 16 of March 1776

Clear Wather A fresh Sea Brezes the Carpentear Employd Corking Recevd on Bord 2 Cask of Wewater [12 M.] Fresh Brezes & Cloudy at 4 P M wade & Saild from providence with the Fleat fresh Brezes & Clear Wather

in one Reff the F:S: & M:S.

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/773, No. 10. The journal was found on board the Continental brig *Lexington*, when that vessel was taken in the English channel in September, 1777. It was probably in the possession of Elijah Bowen who was second lieutenant of the *Wasp*, and first lieutenant of the *Lexington*. While it is dated on the cover, "Jany. 18th. 1776," the entries do not begin until March 9, 1776. Unfortunately there is a tear in the upper right hand side of the first two pages, and a hole through the center of about six pages.

QUARTERS STATIONS FOR THE CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*¹

1st Gun

[New Providence, March 16, 1776]²

Charles Gough Capn	Edmund Tillson Capn	Mr [Isaac] Buck & Mr
John Munalay	John Burk	[Joseph] Veasey
James Crawford	Thomas Burns	Station'd forward
Henry Young	Samuel Fry	
John Luton P.M. for 1st & 2d Guns	John Luton P.M. for 2d & 1st Guns	

3d Gun	[4th Gun]	
Olliver Molds Capn	John Prior Capn	Mr [Elijah] Brown &
Samuel Williams	John Darbarrow	Mr [James] Willson
William Arthurs	Christopher Dugan	Station'd Midships -
Thomas Heany	Ezekial Vangilder	Pilot at the Wheel
John Powell P.M: for 3d & 4th Guns -	John Powell P.M. for 4th & 3d Guns	

5th Gun		
John Killen	Jesse Crossman in the	Risdon Robinson &
John Davis	Gun Room	Oliver Quigley Sta-
Philip Heanes	John Williams an	tion at the Peak
Arthur Carity	Assistant	Halliards
To take their own Cartridges up the Hatchway		Marines

Boatswain Station'd at the Starboard Side the Forecastle -	Thomas Lyon Sta- tion'd on the Lar- board Side the Fore- castle Barney Gaff & John Stewart	William Huddle L[ieut] John Thompson John Howell Abraham Sing James Anslow
Matthew Brannon & Mathias Grimes		

Joseph Evitts in his Slings	Doctor [John] Wisen- thall & Mate in the	Benjamin Roberts
Nicholas Caldwell his Mate	Cock Pitt -	at the Main Sheets

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

2. The arrangement must have been made after March 13, 1776, as James Ratleif, who deserted by swimming ashore that day, is not named in the Quarters Stations. The probable date is the departure of the fleet from New Providence on March 16, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ST. EUSTATIA, MARCH 16." ¹

The men of war are taking prizes daily. They took a sloop a few days ago from Providence, Rhode-Island, with a cargo of 3000 l. on board. A gentleman in St. Eustatia received a letter from his friend in Martinico the day before yesterday, informing him of advice from France, that 36 ships of

the line and frigates were waiting, all prepared for an expedition, but their destination was kept a profound secret.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, April 3, 1776.

17 Mar. (Sunday)

JOHN LANGDON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sr

Portsmo 17th March 1776

This moment Arrived a Small Vessell from the West Indies, with abot Six Thousand wt powder belonging to the Continent, – and as I tho't it might be wanted at Headquarters, have Dispatched Major Gains with this information, to your Excellency and should it be wanting, (in part, or all) I shall immediately forward it, on Receiveg your Direction ² – The Bearer will inform what intelgence the Capt Brings, who I should have sent up, had it not been Necessary to keep him on board his Vessell – The Capt informs that at Martinico, and Gaurdaloupe, there is at Least Ten Thousand french Troops, makeing great preparations for War, this he says May be Depended on – Yesterday we had a Small parcel of powder, abt five thousand wt Arrived, belongg to the Colony – We have Several Vessells more at St Lucia, who are takeing in powder –

Please to Accept of the best Wishes of [&c.]

John Langdon

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. *Ibid.*, Washington replied on March 19 requesting that the powder be immediately forwarded to camp.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir

Cambridge March 17th 1776.

I have the Pleasure to inform you, that this morning the Ministerial Troops evacuated the Town of Boston, without destroying it, and that we are now in the full possession; upon which event, I beg leave to Congratulate you, and sincerely wish if the Ministry persevere in the same unconstitutional and despotic measures, which too long have marked their conduct, that our opposition and resistance, in every Quarter, may be crowned with the Success they have been here.

Where their destination is, or what plans they have in view, is altogether unknown; most probably the next attempt will be against New York, or some more Southern Colony. However, I should think, tho' I do not believe they have any design against Rhode Island, that it will be adviseable to keep a strict lookout; and submit it to you, whether it may not be proper, against the time you apprehend they might arrive, to call in a Number of the Militia and have them posted in proper places. I do not mean to direct

Nichtige Abbildung der von den amerikanischen Provinzialisten belagerten und wiedereroberten Hauptstadt und Festung Boston in Amerika, im Monat März 1776.



A German view of the British evacuation of Boston.

the Measure, but only to mention It for your Consideration; to me it appears worthy of attention. I am &c

G Washington.

N.B. March 19th,
the Fleet is still in King and Nantasket Roads.

G W

1. Washington Papers, Varick Transcripts, LC.

MEMOIRS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH¹

[Cambridge] 17th [March].

In the morning the British evacuated Boston; their rear guard with some marks of precipitation. A number of cannon were left spiked, and two large marine mortars, which they in vain attempted to burst. . . . The troops on the Roxbury side, moved over the Neck and took possession of Boston; as did others from Cambridge, in boats. On the Americans entering the town, the inhabitants discovered joy inexpressible. The town had been much injured in its buildings, and some individuals had been plundered. Some British stores were left. The British army went on board their transports below the Castle. A number of American adherents to them, and the British cause, went away with the army.

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 35-36.

DIARY OF ENSIGN HENRY SEWALL¹

Sunday, 17th [March]. At Lechmere Point -

a general alarm throughout the camp about eight o'clock. Before this, saw the enemy leave Bunker Hill. Saw Gen. [John] Sullivan, with a party take possession of Bunker Hill without opposition. Saw also the shipping in Boston get under sail, the wind blowing fresh northwest, and making down the harbor. Could discover no regular sentinels as usual on the back of Boston on which concluded the enemy was gone. About eleven o'clock a party of our army who had had the smallpox landed and patrolled Boston without the least shadow of opposition.

1. "Diary of Captain Henry Sewall, of the Army of the Revolution, 1776-1783," *The Historical Magazine* (Morrisania, N.Y., 1871), 2nd series, X, 129.

COLONEL JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JABEZ HUNTINGTON¹

Hon'd Sir

Roxbury Camp 17th March 1776

This Morning we had the Agreeable Sight of a Number of Ships leaving the Town of Boston with a large Number of Boats full of Soldiers, about ten of Clock several Lads came to our out Céntries and informed us that the Troops had intirely left the Town and that the Selectmen were coming out to see us soon after we had the Pleasure of seeing Messrs. [Samuel] Austin, [John] Scolly, [Thomas] Marshall etc. they had an interview with the General and gave him the best Intelligence they could concerning the state of

the Town and the Intentions of the Enemy. the Enemy are now all laying between the Castle and Light House in full View from the Town and make a very formidable Appearance. we shall keep a sharp look out till they are out of Sight at least. the Talk of the Town is that the Troops are gone to Hallifax. the Country ought to be well on their Guard in every Place where it is likely they will make a Descent. I expect most if not all the established Regiments will be ordered from this Station as soon as the Enemy are gone from the Bay. where my Destination will be I know not I hope it will give me an Opportunity of seeing Norwich. my Love and Duty to Mother and all and remain Your dutifull and affectionate Son,

J. Huntington

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, XX, 34.

COLONEL JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON TO ANDREW HUNTINGTON, NORWICH
MERCHANT¹

[Extract]

Roxbury Camp 17 March 1776

Dear Sir Never was Joy painted in higher Colours than in the Faces of the Selectmen of Boston & other of the Inhabitants of that distressed Town when we first had an Interview this forenoon – I have been in several Parts of the Town – there seems to be much Mischief done out of mere Wantonness – saw several Holes where the Cann[o] Shot from our Lines at Roxbury had passed – two 13 Inch Shells from Cobble Hill fell just over Mr Sherburnes House a little above Kings Chapple – I just stepped into Mr [John] Hancocks to see what Damage he had suffered expecting to see every Thing laid waste but found it much otherwise – All his good Furniture Family Pictures &c are preserved & but little Hurt done to the House or Gardens – one of his Dependants told me Mr Phillips House had been improved by Mr Winslow & was left in good Order – I intended to have gone to Mr Masons but had not Time . . . I imagine some Hulks will be sunk in the Channel which together with our Forts & Batteries I hope will secure to us the Possession of the Town where the Enemy will get another such Foothold I know not . . . the oppressed Town is once more freed of its cruel Masters – I hope it will see good Days according to the Days wherein it has see[n] Evil –

J. Huntington

1. Jedediah Huntington Letters, ConnHS.

ABIGAIL ADAMS TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

[Braintree] Sunday Noon [March 17]

. . . I find the firing was occasioned by our peoples taking possession of Nook Hill, which they kept in spite of the Cannonade, and which has really obliged our Enemy to decamp this morning on board the Transports; as I hear by a messenger just come from Head Quarters. Some of the Select Men have been to the lines and inform that they have carried of [every] thing they could [po]ssibly take, and what they could not they have [burnt,

broke, or hove into the water. This] is I [believe fact,] many articles of good Household furniture having in the course of the week come on shore at Great Hill, both upon this and Weymouth Side, Lids of Desks, mahogona chairs, tables &c. Our People I hear will have Liberty to enter Boston, those who have had the small pox. The Enemy have not yet come under sail. I cannot help suspecting some design which we do not yet comprehend; to what quarter of the World they are bound is wholly unknown, but tis generally Thought to New york. . . . I feel glad however that Boston is not destroyed. I hope it will be so secured and guarded as to baffle all future attempts against it. - . . .

From Pens Hill we have a view of the largest Fleet ever seen in America. You may count upwards of 100 & 70 Sail. They look like a Forest.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 357-61. Continuation of letter begun March 16.

SAMUEL COOPER TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN¹

[Extract]

[Boston, 17th March, 1776]²

. . . You will hear before this reaches you that the British Troops and Fleet have left Boston: They have retir'd with Disgrace from before the General & Forces of the united Colonies. I congratulate you on this Honor to our Country. Should the War continue, prepar'd as we now are, we should have been well contented they had remain'd here - The Bombardment & Cannon[a]ding from our Lines, reaching all Parts of Boston, was unexpected, and troubled their Host; our taking Possession of Dorchester Hills in so judicious & masterly a Manner compleated their Consternation, & left them no Time to deliberate: They embarqu'd with Trepidation; & most of them I am just told sail'd this Morning - Where they are bound remains a Secret; whether to Hallifax, or the Southward, or to both in Divisions. Boston stands, to the Surprize of Many, but much plunder'd - I am a Sufferer among a Multitude of Others. My House was let to a Capt Cockran of the British Army upon written Engagements - He had the Use of all my Furniture, but has not left a Bed, Coverlid, Sheet, or any Pewter, China, or Crockery - many other Things of great Value carried off or destroy'd - but This is a small Specimen of the Perfidy & Villainy of British Officers & Soldiers - I esteem it however an Honor in such a Cause to suffer with & for my Country - Shall we have a Nego[tia]tion this Summer - Must we return to the mild & gracious Governm't of Britain? - How is *Common Sense* relish'd among you; it is eagerly read and greatly admir'd here. The Inability of our Enemies to subdue us by Force is more & more apparent; I doubt not our Councils will avail themselves of this and evr'y Circumstance. I am dear Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Cooper.

Dr. Franklin

1. Franklin Papers, IV, 82½, APS.

2. The date is established from the contents of the letter.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Chatham King Road, Boston

Harbour 17th March 1776.

Sir,

Since my last to you of the 8th, the Fleet and Army have been busily Employed in Embarking the Ordnance and other Stores belonging to the King, in which the Rebels have given us little or no interruption, tho' their Cannon and Mortars have not been totally unemployed, and this Morning the Embarkation of the Troops was completed without the loss of a Man, and the Transports proceeded to, and Anchored at this place, but I find a considerable Quantity of Ordnance and other Stores are rendered useless, and left behind by the Army for want of time, as well as Shipping to carry it away, tho' the Troops are allowed but one Ton a Man in the Transports, and the extreme want of Provisions will not allow us to wait, I have therefore Appropriated a Transport (the *Francis*) to take on board all the Naval Stores I could collect, which the *Adventure* Storeship could not contain, and have the pleasure to inform you as little will be lost in our Department as could be expected in so sudden and unprepared-for an event; I have also appropriated the *Richmond* Transport to the use of an Hospital Ship, 'till the Arrival of one from England for that Service.

Of the Ships taken up by the Commissioners of the Victualling, a List of which you transmitted to Vice Admiral Graves, accompanying your Letter of the 28th of September, those in the Margin² are not arrived, nor have I any Account of them, by which Disappointment, and the Necessity I have been under of Supplying the Army, there is but a small Quantity of any Provision remaining, especially Beef and Pork, proportionate to the Squadron, as you will please to observe by the Agent Victuallers Account of Remains accompanying this.

Nantasket Road at the Entrance of this Harbour being at too great a distance for my observation of the Occurrences constantly passing there, I Ordered Captain [Francis] Banks of the *Renown* to Superintend and Command the Necessary Duty at that place, and as he is the Senior Captain at present under my Command, and an Active Officer, to hoist and wear a Distinguishing Pendant, except in the presence of a Senior Captain.

I informed you in my Letter of the 26th past of the number of small Vessels detained at this Port by Order of Vice Admiral Graves, several of which, that I could refit and Man, I have taken with me, and the others, either Sunk or destroyed, to prevent their being of use to the Rebels, among which are two Vessels of Three hundred Tons belonging to the Notorious Rebel [John] Hancock, which were upon the Stocks.

As the *Chatham* and *Centurion* drew too much Water to be moved from their Station before the Town, except with a particular Wind, and at a Critical time of tide, as soon as our retreat was determined on, I ordered their Captains to take the first favorable opportunity of moving those Ships down to King Road, and Ordered Captain [George] Montagu in the *Fowey* up to Boston to Defend the Embarkation of the Troops and Transports, and

Cover the retreat, which he has done with the greatest propriety and Officer-like Conduct; Captain [John] Raynor had the Command and Regulation of the Embarkation on Shore, in which He, and the Officers under him, acquitted themselves with equal Propriety, and in the disposition formed in concert with the General, shewed themselves Active, Attentive, and Intelligent Officers; I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the greatest Unanimity and Harmony subsists between His Majesty's Fleet and Army, each party endeavouring to emulate each other in giving the strongest proofs of their Zeal and forwardness in the Discharge of their mutual trust and duty to His Majesty and the important Cause we are Engaged in. I am Sir [&c.]

M:Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. The transports *Resolution*, *Layton*, *Manners* and *Killingsworth*, which had been driven by contrary winds into Antigua.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU¹

- March 1776 At Anchor off Boston N W off shore $\frac{1}{2}$ a Mile to Cover the Troops Embarking.
- Monday 11. at 7 AM weighed And came to off Hancock's Wharf in 5 fm to cover the Embarkation of his Majesty's Forces.
- Tuesday 12. Light Winds AM Veered to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable and got out the stream Anchor to steady her, and a party of the Artillery came on board & mounted two Howitzers on the Quarter deck to Cover the Embarkation
First and Middle parts do Wr latter fresh breezes, reced Amunition & Shells for the Artillery & Coals for the use of the ship.
- Wednesday 13. AM sent the Carpenters to scuttle & destroy some useless Vessells, weighed the stream Anchor And hove in to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Cable, the boats of the fleet tending to Embark the Troops.
- Thursday 14. Light winds & hazey boats as before.
- Friday 15. Do Weather sent the boats on shore to Attend, And got up Topgallant Yards.
- Saturday 16. First part light breezes Middle fresh gales latter light Airs
At 1 AM prepared for Embarking the Troops at 2 the Wind veered to the Eastward, & struck the Topgallant Yards.
- Sunday 17. Moderate & Clear at 5 AM the boats attended at 8 the Troops were all embarked, and the Transports got under sail at 10 they being abreast of the Castle we got under weigh at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 came to in King road in 13 fm towed to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable, found riding here the *Chatham*, *Centurion* & Transports at Noon Saluted the Admiral.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Chatham*, CAPTAIN JOHN RAYNOR¹

- March 1776 Moor'd in King Road
- Sunday 10 during the Night heard a Constant Canonading at Boston
A M little wind Inclinable to Calms. Cleard Hause –
Mode & Cloudy wr
P M Sailed for Boston H M Ship *Fowey*. Came down &
Anchord here the *Lord Hyde* Packet & several Transports
at 7 Came on board a Captain 2 Lieutenants & 103 Privates
belonging to H M 43 & 47th Regiments, sent all the Boats
up to Boston with 13 Officers & 129 Men by ordr of rear
Adml Shuldham
- Monday 11 at 5 A M Hoisted rear Adml Shuldham's flag. Departd this
Life Edwd Gulliver Seaman, recd on board Several species
of Provisions & ca Do Wr at 1 P M Came down and
Anchor'd here a transport & Several small Vessels at 7 the
Canonading began & Continued all the Night
- Tuesday 12 Fresh Gales & Cloudy Wr P M Anchor'd here H M Ship
Centurion and Several Transports, one of the Ships in
Sailing past us Carried away our Ensign Staff, Poop Lant-
horns, & Stove in the Larboard Quarter Gallery, recd 8
poop Lanthorns from the *Centurion*, during the Night
heard the report of several Great Guns from Boston
- Wednesday 13 A M fir'd a Gun & made the Signal for a Boat the Carpen-
ters Employ'd fixing the Poop Lanthorns & repairing the
Quarter Gallery
- Thursday 14 Little Wind & clear
A M fresh Gales & hazey with rain the Carpenters Em-
ploy'd as before –
Fresh Gales & hazey
P. M Sent the pinnace away to assist a Ship that was on
Shore on Bird Island
- Friday 15 A M More Mode & Clear got the Ship off Came to an
anchor the Pinnace Return'd.
- Saturday 16 Little winds and Cloudy A M Sent a party of Seamen to
assist in rigging a Ship Made Coats for the Main & Mizen
Mast & a Tarpaulin for the Main Hatches. –
Do Wr & Rain at ½ past 11 P M the Canonading began
at Boston & Continued till
- Sunday 17 8 A M at 9 Observed all the Ships at Boston to be under
sail at 11 they all Came to an Anchor here. Came on
board Major General Howe, Earl [Hugh] Percy, General
[Róbert] Pigot & several other Officers & Saluted them with
15 Guns at 12 H M Ship *Fowey* Saluted with 13 Guns
retd 11 Guns. All the Officers & Seamen Retd on board &
Sent the Officers & Men belonging to H. M 43 & 47th Regi-

ments to their own ships. —

Do Wr P M Sailed from hence H M ship *Fowey*

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Centurion*, CAPTAIN RICHARD BRAITHWAITE¹

March 1776

Moored in King Road

Sunday 17

AM the Troops Embarked onbd the Transports & came down here with His Majesty's Ship the *Fowey* & 3 Arm'd Vessels, the Officers & Men sent to assist at the Embarkation returned on bd their respective Ships.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/177.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Glasgow*, CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE¹

March 1776

Porpus Quas Point NEbN Mount Hope ENE

Sunday 17

AM observ'd the Rebels on Rhode Island breaking ground & fortifying a Hill near Newport at 11 AM hove short Modt & Cloudy at 1/2 past noon weigh'd & Came to Sail at 4 Anchor'd on the Et Side of Prudence

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

LORD STIRLING TO SAMUEL TUCKER¹

Sir

New York March 17th 1776

As a large number of the Inhabitants of the province of New Jersey are now called upon to assist in Fortifying and defending this City, which by the Accounts received from General Washington by express and this day confirmed by the post, is certainly the Object of the enemies Intentions; And as I am informed that many of the Inhabitants of the province are Intimidated from leaving the province by an apprehension of their own private affairs Suffering by the Common process of the Civil Law; I must therefore Submit it to your Committee of Safety whether it is not at this time of Eminent danger Absolutly necessary to Suspend the Operations of the Civil Law; at least untill the destination of the Army at Boston is more Certainly known. By the last Accounts it appears that five thousand men were actually embarked and the remainder preparing to get on Board as fast as possible And it is General Washingtons Opinion they intend to make a Sudden push on this place I am Sir [&c.]

Stirling,

To Samuel Tucker Esqr president of the Committee of Safety of New Jersey at Trenton

1. Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, 724, Box 1, HCL.

RICHARD HENRY LEE TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR.¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia 17 March 1776

Dear Sir, I received your account of the retaking Hudsons ship and the flight of the enemy with great pleasure — I hope you will make wise use of

the opportunity to render the avenews to yr flourishing Town inaccessible to the enemy I think you have the means of doing this most effectually, and sure it ought not to be neglected. I suppose the *Defence* and her Tender will now be employed in keeping your Bay Coast as far as Potomac clear of Sloops and Tenders from our Enemies – I am sure Capt. Squires will not interrupt your Trade so long as he knows Capt. Nicholson is with you, and as for larger Ships, if they should come, which is not very probable, it will be no difficult matter to get out of their way by retiring to shallow waters . . .

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia 17. March 1776.

. . . I think it will be a good way for you to forward a particular list of such articles as will be wanted for the ship that cannot be procured there and I will do my endeavors to have them sent you as soon as possible: it would give me great pleasure to hear that the *New Hampshire* ² is the first ship at sea. . . .

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, I, 103, LC.

2. Despite Whipple's identification, the frigate built in New Hampshire was eventually named the *Raleigh*.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

[Annapolis] 17th March 1776

Pray send us an Account of the Continental Pay of the Officers and Men in the Navy, we are informed there have been some alterations lately made in them by Congress and shall be glad to see them – they will be useful to us in settling the Wages for the *Defence* –

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

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Sunday, March 17th, 1776

Ordered that the whole adventure on board the Brigg *Liberty* be taken for the use and on account of the public. That Capt. Thomas Lilly repair to Cumberland Town and take charge of the s'd Brigg and procure her cargo to be brought to the city of Williamsburg, either by unlading it into Flatts at Cumberland, to be sent to the Capitol landing, or by bringing the Brigg to the mouth of Queen's creek and engaging Flatts to bring her cargo up the creek from thence, as he shall judge most prudent and safe, the cargo to be delivered to the comm'y of prov's for the public use.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 126, 127.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, MARCH 17." ¹

I embrace this opportunity of informing you of the present state of our affairs, and beg you'll communicate the same to Captain M—1, having waited

here ever since October last for a cargo either to Tobago or England, find our hopes quite fruitless from the Congress's proceedings of the 4th instant, to set fire to and consume the merchant ships in this port, in consequence of the men of war demanding the release, and using means of compulsion; before the tenders could cover the shipping, the Provincials devised methods and consumed a brig belonging to Liverpool, and a ship to London, the *Inverness*, Masilberry, master, the rest of the shipping found retreat from being light, and we narrowly escaped by remaining still, and expeditiously cutting from along side the vessels on fire in the same tier with us. We are now prisoners of theirs, the Captain has been under confinement ever since the sad catastrophe, and yesterday marched into the country unknown to us where, but generally supposed to Philadelphia. We are to remain on board till further orders, and agreeable to their desire have unshipt our rudder, and sent the running rigging ashore, to prevent our escaping. This is a melancholy circumstance to all of us, nor do we know how to extricate ourselves, no person can fly from the town either up or down the river to prevent intelligence. There are several other vessels which share the same fate with us, particularly the *Georgia Planter*, Capt. Inglis, who accompanies Capt. Wardell both in the character of prisoners, and I must confess are both genteely and honorably treated; there was a slight skirmish near this place between a party of the King's troops and a smaller one of the Americans, when three of the latter were taken prisoners, who are now on board the men of war.² I should transmit the particulars of all the proceedings here, but am pushed for time by an expeditious and secret conveyance of this to one of our packets down the river at Cocksborough, where the men of war lye, and per first convenient opportunity will give you the particulars as near as possible; we have none killed or wounded, though we have taken up on our decks near a hundred small shot. I imagine the Chief Mate will send Capt. M—I as minute an account of the ship as time will permit of, Capt. Wardell being deprived of that privilege. We know not the fate yet either of the ship or the rice, being about 700 barrels, not being allowed to discharge it or move the ship, on pain of being burnt immediately. Most of our people have left us, and the boy Sam is run away, and is now in the Provincial service, from on board the ship *Unity*. Yours,

F. F—n.

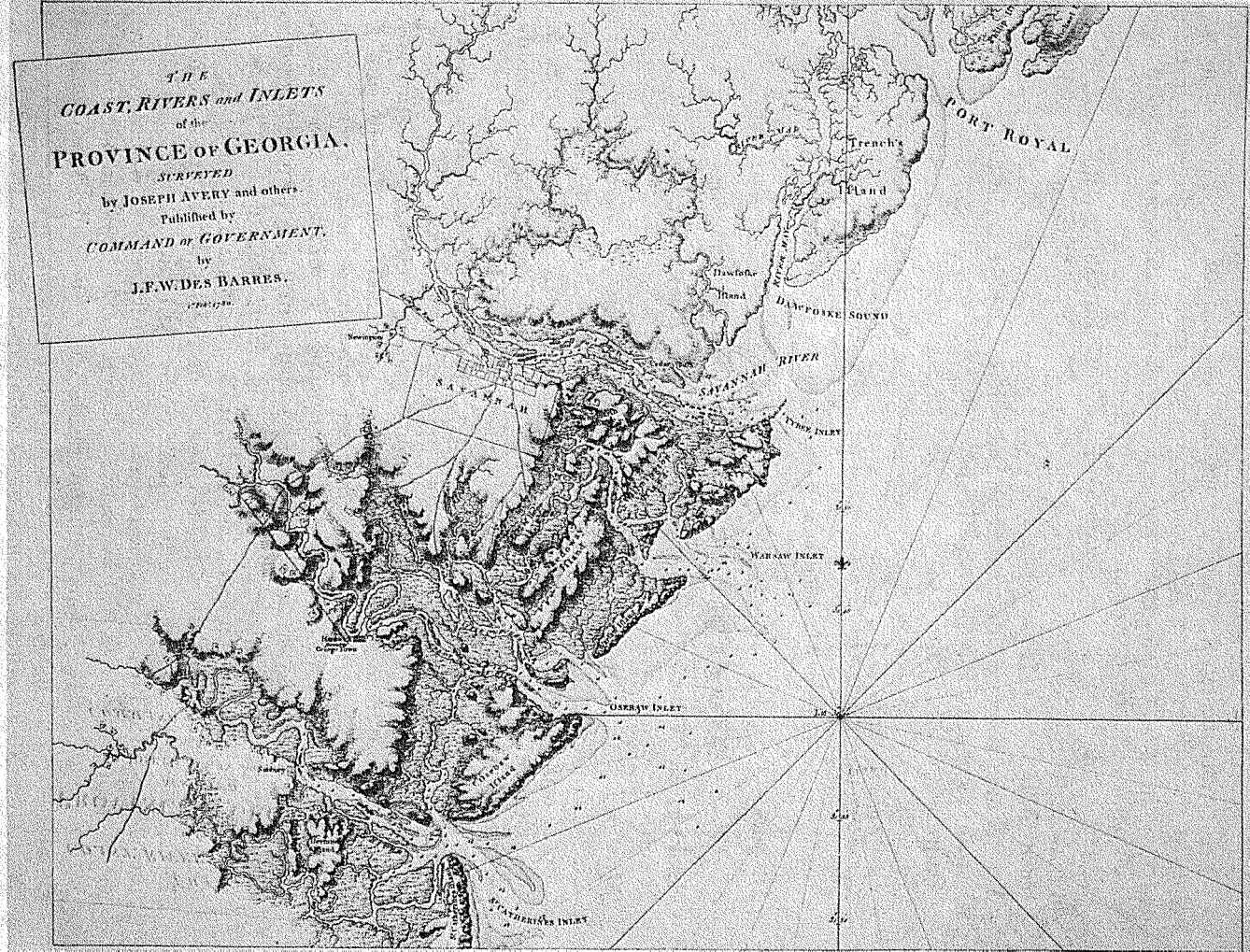
1. *Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser*; May 15, 1776.

2. The three men on board the men of war were Captain Joseph Rice, who had been sent by the Council of Safety to execute their order to dismantle all ships in the harbor and had been forcibly detained; Captain Raymond Deméré and Lieutenant Daniel Roberts who had gone under a flag of truce to demand the release of Captain Rice.

GOVERNOR MONTFORT BROWNE TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

My Lord I am now a close Prisoner on board the *Alfred* Frigate belonging to the Americans and prudence in my present distressed situation will not allow me to say more at present, than that I have been tore away from my family at a moment's notice, — I refer your Lordship to Mrs. Browne and to Mr. Chief Justice [Thomas] Atwood for the particulars of what has happen'd

THE
COAST, RIVERS and INLETS
of the
PROVINCE of GEORGIA.
SURVEYED
by **JOSEPH AVERY** and others.
Published by
COMMAND of GOVERNMENT.
by
J.F. WILDES BARRES.
1764/70.



to this Colony, my person as well as his Majesty's Garrisons and Stores (Powder only excepted) has been shamefully betrayed to the Enemy; —

I have requested the Chief Justice and Mrs. Browne to forward without loss of time the minutes of Council, etc. to your Lordship; I write in the greatest haste and dread that these few lines may be intercepted, as I have innumerable Senterys over me.²

I am My Lord Your Lordship's [&c.]

From on Board the *Alfred* }
frigate March 17, 1776 }

Montfort: Browne

P.S. I have been cruelly treated by a few here. I have saved his Majesty's Powder by sending it at the nick of time to St. Augustine

[Endorsed] R. 15th June

1. *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, XLIX, 366. Browne was governor of the Bahama Islands.
2. Trevett's Journal, NHS, reads: "I kept him [Governor Montfort Browne] safe until our Fleet ready for sea. Then I had orders to wait him down to the barge, and we brought him to New-London with 2 more gentlemen, passengers, who were prisoners."

18 Mar.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

[Extract]

Halifax 18th March 1776

No. 61

My Lord. As by the last Intelligence from Boston, the General Informs; That there was great probability, that the Rebels woud attempt the Reduction of this Province, early in the Spring, I thought it an essential Duty in me, to use my Utmost Endeavours, to collect all the Force that coud possibly be Muster'd, within this Province to oppose their attempts. . . .

The number of Families from the Continent hath been much fewer than I expected, it seems, the Rebels took every Method to prevent their coming, by Stopping all their Vessels, and Seizing their Effects so that the Friends of Government among them, have in amanner been Totally ruin'd, those who came here early took the oppertunity, and bringing with them their Vessels and Effects, have most of them been Employ'd in the Fishery, and in Trade, so that their demands on Government, have been trifling, not above three Families have applied for Relief, which I have Order'd Agreeable to His Majesty's Instructions, and have not as yet drawn for more than One hundred pounds on the Treasury; but the last letter from General How[e], informs me, that two hundred Families will Embark from Boston to this place, among whom are many necessitous, which will distress us greatly, as Provision is not to be, purchas'd on any Account, the small Supplies we have had for the support of the Town, has been from Boston and the West Indies; I hope therefore the Provision I wrote for to be sent here in my Letter No 52, wherein I have more fully explain'd the Circumstances of this Province, has been thought an essential Measure, and that it will soon arrive, and relieve us from that Scene of Distress, which is likely soon to take place here.

I inclos'd in my Letter No 58 Several Memorials from the Inhabitants of Cumberland, and other places; by Advices since receiv'd from thence, We are inform'd, that the Inhabitants there, have had Meetings and Consultations of a very treasonable and alarming nature, that there has been persons among them from the Continent, and that about fourteen of the Inhabitants had gone to New England, suppos'd with an intent to Invite the Rebels into this Province, these matters I laid before the Council, and it was by them advis'd that application be made for three hundred Men to March into that District, to Support the Authority of the Crown and for the Security of such as were well attach'd to Government, this General [Eyre] Massey thought he could not Comply with, as it would be greatly lessening the defence of the Naval Yard, but has at last agreed to send a Captain with fifty Men, who are to Sail for that place, as soon as the Navigation of the Bay is Clear of Ice.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52, DAC Photocopy.

JONATHAN JACKSON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.¹

Newburyport 18th March 1776

Immediately after the date of the beforementioned Letter, Capt Hodge who was the Bearer of it, set out for to deliver it, but met with some of the Council who informed him that the honble Board were adjourn'd upon which he returned home – the Committee after some Delay procured an Agent to supply Capt [Jeremiah] Obrien & he is now nearly fitted for Sea² – they would still beg your Honour's Direction whether Capt Obrien should depart hence without his full Complement of Men which it does not appear probable he can procure in this place –
P Order of the Committee

Jon^a Jackson

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 302.

2. Captain of the armed sloop *Machias Liberty*, formerly the British tender *Margaretta*, taken by O'Brien and a sloop-full of men from *Machias* on June 12, 1775. See Volume 1.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM LITTLEDALE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL¹

William Littledale Commander of the Snow *James* from Whitehaven brot into this port sometime since by the Privateer *Yankee Hero*, begs of the honble Council the Liberty to transport himself & Son & four Apprentices, & the rest of his Crew to Great Britain, in a small Vessell he proposes to purchase for that purpose – This he is emboldened to ask of your Honours, as you have given the like Liberty to others in his Situation –

William Littledale

Newburyport 18th March 1776.

[Endorsed]

In Council March 22d 1776 Read & committed to Jas Prescott, Charles Chauncy & Joseph Palmer Esqrs – Perez Morton D Secy

In Council March 23d 1776 Ordered that the Petitioner have leave to withdraw his Petition – Perez Morton D Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 209, NA Photocopy.

COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SANDWICH
COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Sir I have it in Command from His Excellency the General, to tell you that the Men of War's Men at Sandwich, who are prisoners, had better be removed to Some Secure Goal where they may be taken Care of

Plimouth he is informed, is As Convenient a place as any, wherever you place them it will be right, that a proper watch be kept Lest they may escape I am Sir [&c.]

Cambridge 18th March 1776

Stephen Moylan ADC

1. PS.

THOMAS CUSHING TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE¹

[Extract]

Watertown, March. 18, 1776 -

I received your Favor of the 6th Instant, am Glad to hear more Powder is arrived at Philadelphia . . . I am very sorry to Inform you that I cannot find that we have any Oar [ore] in this Province that will do to make Cannon - I applied some time ago to the Owners of the Furnace at Providence to make the Cannon for the Ships Building in this Province, but they sent me word that they could not supply me, as they had Engaged to make as many for the Colony of Rhode Island as they could possibly finish by the time they would be wanted, and Mr Durfy has been there lately to procure Some & finds those they have made prove to be bad; they have made some Since but have not as yet proved them, they hope they will answer. I can expect no Supply from that Quarter & therefore if pigs Cannot be sent from Philadelphia we must have the Cannon from thence, and therefore should be glad you would immediately Inform me Whether Cannon Can be had from Philadelphia New York or Maryland & how Soon - Mr [Aaron] Hobart is Building an Air Furnace but is so Slow in his Motions that I fear whether he will be able to make the Cannon Seasonably. he designs to use sea Coal in his Air furnace, he has engaged one hundred Tons, thro my interposition, at Plimouth which will be handy for him. People here think you are mistaken in apprehending that Pig Iron is not so good as Oar. They say Vast Quantities have been transported from America to Great Britain for the Purpose of making Cannon - our Ships are Going on very fast,² as many Men are Employed about them As Can possibly be of any Service - I have been very lucky in getting Hemp, as also a Number of large Anchors that weigh from 25 lb to 31 lb weight which our People have lately taken from the Men of Warr. The British Troops have evacuated the Town of Boston in great precipitation & in a very ignominious Manner but upon this subject must refer you to Mr Hancock, to whom I have wrote p this Conveyance - A Detachment of our Troops have gone into

Boston and this Day General Washington & his Suit[e] dined with Captain Erving – in great haste I remain [&c.]

T Cushing –

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.
2. The two Continental frigates building at Newburyport.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Monday, March 18, 1776

a Bill for repealing an Act made & passed by the Great & General Court at their Session in February last, intituled an Act for encouraging the fixing out of Armed Vessels to defend the Sea Coast of America, and for erecting a Court to try and condemn all Vessels [that] shall be found infesting the same–

Having passed the House of Representatives to be Engrossed–

In Council Read a Second time and passed a Concurrence to be Engrossed.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 663, 664.

WILLIAM WATSON TO COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN ¹

Sir

Plymouth 18 March 1776.

In obedience to His Excellencys Commands I have inclosed an Inventory of the stores belonging to the Continent taken from on board the Schooner *Harrison*, which stores are safely housed & shall be taken particular care of: –

I inclose also Mess [James] Hall & Grindale [Jonathan Grindal] Paroles, which hope will be agreeable; I had no form, & am perfectly unacquainted with matters of this nature, wish therefore that any Inacuracys in the draughting may be excusd. –

Capt [Charles] Dyar will inform His Excellency that he has inlisted 36 men for the sea Service, and will wait on his Excellency for orders respecting them

I shall get the *Harrisons* account in order as soon as possible, & will when compleated transmitt them to Head Quarters. I have settled with Mr [Daniel] Adams the owner of the Schooner & have paid him the Ballance, after deducting the 156 dollars you mention I am Sir [&c.]

Will^m Watson

1. Washington Papers, LC.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1776

Newport, March 18.

Last Tuesday [March 12] as a freight boat was coming from Updike's Newtown to this place, the ministerial fleet lying up the Bay, took out a quantity of butter and poultry, and the week before they took out of the same boat about 20 barrels of cider:

Last Wednesday some men from the ministerial fleet landed on the

Bonnet at North-Kingstown, where they killed 3 cows, big with calf, two of which they carried off, but a few men appearing, they were obliged to leave the other behind.

Last week a ship of three hundred tons, loaded with coals, potatoes, porter, raisins, dry goods, and 33 live hogs, was taken near the Vineyard, by a schooner and several whale boats, who lightened her of about half her cargo, and then carried her into Bedford: She had about 20 hands and was bound to Boston, but had been to New-York ¹

On Friday, as Messrs. Hubbard and Reed, of this town, millers, were coming down the river in a boat, with a quantity of corn for the use of the inhabitants here, they were taken by the ministerial fleet, notwithstanding the truce with this town.

In the late storm, a large sloop laden with naval stores, &c. from Virginia for New-York, which had been taken by the *Asia*, and ordered to Boston, was cast away at the Vineyard.

1. The *Harriot*, Weymes Orrock, master.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Lunae, 10 HO. A.M.

March 18th, 1776.

Elias Nixsen, the port master, showed a list of articles to be carried on board of the ships of war and Governor Tryon's ship. He was informed that he might take them with him on board. He was also informed that he was permitted to bring on shore a list of all the letters on board in the mail for citizens of New-York, [and] any of the said letters which he might be requested by the citizens to bring on shore; but that he must produce all such letters as he may bring on shore to Mr. [Joseph] Hallett and Mr. [Comfort] Sands, for their inspection, before he delivers them out.

The petition [of] Mr. Bernard Romans, attending at the door, was read and filed, and he was called in. He assigns such reasons as he could give for his absence, and for the charges he had made in his account against this colony. After he was heard, he withdrew.

Ordered, That Mr. [John] Berrien be requested to attend here at 4 o'clock this afternoon. to give information as [to] the moneys by him charged as advanced for Bernard Romans.

A letter from John Chatfield, Esqr. chairman of the committee of East Hampton, was read in the words following, to wit:

Easthampton, March 11th, 1776.

Gent. — On Wednesday, the 6th instant, the ship *Sally* (that belonged to Mr. Samuel Franklin, of New-York, and taken by the men of war at New-York and sent for Boston) was driven on shore in a gale of wind at Montauk. The committee of Easthampton ordered the commander, vizt. Charles Smith, mate of the *Asia* man of war, and Mr. Young, of Philadelphia, Mr. Elder, and Mr. McDermott, who say they were passengers on board the ship,

and that they were bound to Boston to procure a passage home to England; also Mr. Woolcomb, who was mate of a transport lately taken at Amboy, and served as mate of this ship, and ten seamen that belong to the *Asia*; all which persons we sent to New-York under a guard commanded by Lieut. John Foster, in the minute service. We also send you by Lieut. Foster, all the letters and papers that we could procure from on board her. We have employed a number of men to endeavour to save as much of the sails, rigging, &c. as possible; her cargo, being salt, is all lost, and expect to save very little of the ship, as she lies upon rocks, with the surf continually breaking upon her. We are [&c.]

Signed by order and in behalf of
the committee of East Hampton.

The examinations of the prisoners, taken before the committee of East Hampton, were read, and are in the words following, to wit:

The examination of Mr. John Young, who saith that he was born in Philadelphia, has been in New-York about a week, took a passage in the ship *Sally* for Boston, in order to get a passage to London, and there were only ten muskets put on board the ship *Sally*; and that Capt. [Charles] Smith have a number of guns overboard after the ship got on shore, but don't know how many.²

The examination of Mr. Wm. Elder, who saith, he was born in Scotland, and came into this country about the first of May last, and that he had no recommendations to Rhode Island or Boston, and that he was on board the *Asia* about three weeks.

The examination of Mr. Wm. McDermott, who saith, he was born in Ireland, has been in America about five years; has been a lieutenant in the 47th regiment; had sold his commission about eighteen months ago; and that he was bound to Rhode Island or Boston to get a passage home.

The examination of Joseph Wolcomb, who saith, he was born in England; has been in this country about four years; came last mate of a transport taken at Amboy,³ and had been on board the *Asia* about a fortnight.

Thomas Lambo, Willm Hatch, Robert Craw, Wm. Philips, Rowland Walter, Hugh Hall and Patrick Pendergrass all say that they belong to the ship *Asia*, Capt. Vandeput.

The above examinations were taken before the committee of Easthampton

Attest.

John Chatfield, Chairman.

A number of letters taken from on board of the ship *Sally*, some from Governor Tryon, Captain Parker and others, to Genl. How and other persons at Boston, were transmitted by the said committee with the prisoners taken from on board of the said ship, were filed.

Die Lunae, 4 HO. P.M. March 18, 1776.

Mr. Oliver Templeton applied for liberty to go on board the ship *Phoenix*, to obtain leave of Capt. Parker for his vessel, laded by order of the Continental Congress, to go to sea.

An oath was administered to Mr. Templeton in the words following:

You do solemnly swear on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that you will not give an intelligence or information whatever to any person or persons on board of the ships of war in this harbour, or on board of Governour Tryon's ship, or the packet or any of them, relative to any fortifications erecting for the defence of this city and Colony; and that you will not carry on board any or either of the said vessels, or deliver to any person on board of or belonging to the said vessels any letter or paper writing until you shall have read the same, and know that it does not contain any information relative to the said fortifications, or any of them: so help you God.

Ordered, That Mr. Oliver Templeton be, and he is hereby, permitted to go on board His Majestys ship *Phoenix*, with the port master, and to return, he having been previously sworn that he will not convey any intelligence relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of this city and Colony.

The committee took into consideration the case of John Young, brought from East Hampton, now a prisoner at the barracks, and the letters and examinations relating to him, and thereupon made the following order, to wit:

Ordered, That John Young, a native, and the son of a gentleman of Philadelphia, who, contrary to the will of his father, has entered as a volunteer into the ministerial service, and is now in custody in the barracks of this city, be safely conveyed to Philadelphia, together with certified copies of the several letters of recommendation found upon him in his passage to Boston; and the Right Honourable the Earl of Stirling is hereby requested to supply such guard and furnish such other necessary means for the safe conveyance of the said John Young to Philadelphia so as his Lordship shall think proper.

A draft of a letter to the committee at Philadelphia was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety, New-York, March 18th, 1776.

Gentn. — The unhappy excursions of the son of any gentleman friendly to the general interests of America give us great pain. Upon the subject of Mr. Young, we thought the best thing we could do, would be, to secure his conveyance to your committee, not doubting that the good sense of the parent, cooperating with filial piety, will bring the young gentleman to a proper sense of his

THE
S P E E C H
Of WILLIAM TR--N, Esq;

Who was executed on Thursday the 18th of March, 1776.

REBELS and TRAITORS behold me now, and take warning by this my deserved Death.---Had I but have tarried in my *Native Country*, when there last, I might, for a little while longer, have escaped this ignominious Death; but by the Persuasion of *Bute* and the *Devil*, I returned to America, to pursue my old Practice of shedding the Blood of the Innocent, the Fatherless and Widow.---But, alas, the *Devil* hath forsaken me, as he will all such Traitors; wherefore I beseech you *Gage*, *Burgoyne*, *Howe*, *Clinton*, *Dunmore*, and *Vandeput*, and many more of such like infernal Acquaintance, to quit the Steps you are now treading, and let my shameful End be the Means of turning you from following the damnable Advice of North and a cursed Ministry, or you will, when too late, curse the first Moment you ever listened to them. On Account of my innumerable Treacheries to this much injured Country, I cannot expect the Prayers of any good People; nor have I the least Hopes of my own Prayers being heard, so I die only in Expectation of meeting my before-mentioned Acquaintance, and some others of the same Kind, in a Hell only fitting for such infernal Wretches as they and myself.

duty. We enclose the papers necessary to elucidate his case, and are [&c.]

By order of the Committee of Safety.

To the Genl. Committee of Assn.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and transmitted; and the Secretaries prepare and enclose therein copies of the sundry letters and papers brought from East Hampton, which relate to the said John Young.⁴

Captain Wyncoop attended the Committee and informed that, in pursuance of the directions of the Provincial Congress, given to him on [March 16, 1776] last, he had called on Major [William] Douglass and delivered to him a copy of General Schuyler's letter of the [8th] instant, relating to the service on the lakes; that Major Douglass declined giving him any definite answer on that subject, and intimated that if he did undertake that service he would not be able to attend it sooner than two months hence.

Thereupon a draft of a letter to Major Douglass was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety, New-York, March 18th, 1776.

Sir – A gentleman engaged in the public service should be always ready to determine upon any question of service submitted to his option. Mr. Wyncoop, we are informed, communicated to you the copy of a letter from Major-General Schuyler; from which it appears that the Continental Congress has reserved for you the office of commodore on the lakes, and designated Capt. Wyncoop for service under you in that department. The General has recommended Mr. Wyncoop to that command, in case of your refusal. Lest you should have forgot the contents of the general's letter, we enclose you a copy of it. We request your immediate answer. If you accept of the appointment, we expect you will stand ready at a minute's notice for the execution of duty, whenever the service requires it. We are, sir [&c.]

By order of the Committee of Safety.

To Major Douglass.

1. *New-York Provincial Congress*, I, 369–72.

2. *Ibid.*, II, 156–57, John Young writes:

A journal of the most important occurrences of my life; beginning in my nineteenth year, when I first commenced a citizen of the world.

Having long abhorred the new form of government erecting in America on the ruins of the Constitution of my country, and disdaining to submit to it on the 24th January, 1776, I set off, in company with my friend Mr. [Benjamin] Boynton, from Philadelphia, the place of our birth, for New-York, where two British men of war then lay. Having previously procured a few clothes and other necessaries, and hired horses, we mounted about 7 in the morning, with our portmanteaus behind us, and about £20 in our pockets; with all which we arrived safe the following evening at Powle's [Paulus] Hook ferry, on the North river, opposite New York, where we were obliged to leave our horses, the horse boats having been all pressed to transport the Jersey troops, who were then returning from disarming the Royalists on Long island. We got to Hull's tavern in New-York, about eight o'clock in the evening, where we passed the night. The next morning, after breakfast, we went to the Fly

Market ferry, and desired one of the watermen to put us on board the *Asia*, but he refused taking us unless we obtained a permit from the committee; We accordingly went to the house of the chairman, who was not at home. After this disappointment, we sauntered down upon one of the wharves, rather with a view to pass away the time till the chairman should return, than any thing else. While we were in this situation, a well dressed man came down to us, and asked us if we wanted to go on board the Governour's ship, (which lay opposite, moored astern of the *phoenix*.) we told him that we had a little business with the Governor and would be very glad to go, had we but an opportunity. He then informed us, that he was himself going on board, and that we might go with him. He immediately hailed the ship, and a boat being sent to us, we stepped in with joyful hearts, and were in a few minutes on board. This gentleman, to whom we were so much indebted, was Major [Robert] Rogers, who was then a prisoner in New-York on parol; He was so obliging as to present us to the Governor, who treated us with the greatest hospitality and politeness. We dined with him that day, and in the evening went on board the *Phoenix*.

3. The *Blue Mountain Valley*.

4. Including two pleading letters from his father, January 29 and 30, 1776.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1776

New-York, March 18.

By a Letter from St.Eustatia of the 22d of February, we learn, That Part of the Fleet of Transports that was blown off this Coast last Fall passed by that Island the Day before, under Convoy of the *Viper* Sloop of War; and that the Remainder, about 20 Sail, were to follow the next Day, under Convoy of his Majesty's Ship the *Experiment* of 50 Guns; that Provisions were very scarce and dear in the West-Indies, Flour being no less than 9d. per lb. at Coracoa, and all other Sorts of American Produce in Proportion.

A very fine, and almost new Ship, loaded with Salt, lately seized in this Port, by his Majesty's Ships on this Station, and ordered for Boston, was, on Wednesday, the 6th Inst. cast away on the Rocks on Montock Point, at the East End of Long-Island; the vessel is entirely bilged, and the Salt all run out; the People had great Difficulty to save their Lives; some of them being much bruised when taken out of the Water. There were 14 Men and an Officer on board who are all properly secured.¹

1. The ship *Sally*, John Bagley, master, originally from Alicante to New York, seized February 3 by H.M.S. *Phoenix*, PRO, Admiralty 51/693. She was the property of Samuel Franklin, a New York merchant.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT¹

March 1776

Moor'd off Bedlows Island

Monday 18 A M Long Boat & Cutter Watering came on board Wm Phillips; Seaman & gave an Account of the Ship *Sally* being cast away on the East end of Long Island

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1776

[Advertisement]

To be sold at public Vendue in Elizabeth-Town,
On Monday the 18th instant, (by persons appointed for that purpose,)

the ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, with all her tackle, apparel and cargo, consisting of a quantity of excellent New Castle coal, a quantity of London porter, beans, peas, bread, flour, beef, pork, cannon, powder, and a number of articles too tedious to mention, the vendue will begin at ten o'clock in the forenoon, when the conditions will be made known. — The coal will be first sold, and the vendue continue from day to day till all is sold.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday 18 March the Congress was again in Comee on the privateering Business, several Resoluts were come to after an able Debate — by the first, Leave is to be given to commission Privateers and Letters of Marque to cruize on British Property the Vote stood thus, For the Resolution New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, N York, Virginia and North Carolina, against it Pennsa and Maryland, the other Colonies not sufficiently represented to vote, Ireland was excepted & the other British Domins with the Consent of all but [Samuel] Chase & myself (it appearing to me very absurd to make War upon Part only of the Subjects & especially after the Irish Parl[iament] had declared decisively agt Us). Leave for the Comee to sit again on the same Affair

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety,

Philad'a, 18th March, 1776.

Resolved, That Capt. Thomas Forrest be allowed a Drummer and Fifer to his Company of Marines, to be employed on board the floating Battery.

Resolved, That Commodore [Andrew] Caldwell order Capt. [Charles] Alexander, & Lieut [John] Hennessy on the Recruiting Service to New York, agreeable to the Instructions of this Board.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 519, 520.

ALEXANDER WILCOCKS TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety,

Philadelphia, 10th [*sic* 18th] March, 1776.

Gentlemen — The naval armament that is preparing for the defence of this Province requiring a considerable number of seamen, more than can be raised in this city, this committee has thought it advisable to send Capt. Chas. Alexander and Lieut. John Hennessey, two of the officers of our armed boats, to recruit a number of seamen for the naval service of this Province. The committee has been induced to take this measure in consequence of information it has received that there are a great many sailors in the city of New-York destitute of any employment by reason of the entire stop put to trade by the late act of Parliament, and that there is danger that

they may enter on board the men of war if means are not taken to engage them in the service of the Colonies.

This committee begs leave to recommend to your countenance the above mentioned gentlemen, and trust you will give them any assistance that may be necessary to enable them to execute the business entrusted to them.

By order of the committee [&c.]

Alex. Wilcocks, Chairman.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 149, where it is misdated by the editor March 10, 1776. Wilcocks was chairman of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety.

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON TO CHARLES CARROLL, SR.¹

[Extract]

Ph[iladelphi]a 18th March 1776 Monday

... The Difficulties and objections to reconciliation & dependance are every day encreasing – the restraining bill, or rather the bill for confiscating american property, breaths such a Spirit of depredation & revenge, that I am satisfied peace with G.B. is at a great distance, & Dependence out of the question. These Colonies will never again be dependent on G B – neither side is as yet disposed to make peace, and the longer the war continues the greater will be the animosity of the contending powers, all affection will be eradicated; distrust & hatred will take place of former confidence & friendship: in short neither interest nor inclination will lead us to our former Dependence: such a dependance as heretofore subsisted cannot again subsist – we must either be totally independent, or totally dependent, or in other words entirely subdued and reduced to the condition of a conquered People to be kept under & made subordinate to G B. I am fully convinced G B has not the means of reducing us to this abject condition; if she is wise she will, before the war proceeds to greater lengths and enganders incurable hatred, she will I say adopt the advice of Dean Tucker,² declare these Colonies independent & guarantee their independance against all powers; such a step will induce the Colonies, added to other causes to trade principally with GB.

1. Carroll Papers, MdHS.

2. Josiah Tucker, Dean of Gloucester, England.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA DATED 18TH MARCH 1776.”¹

We are all hearty and in good Spirits. The People from the Country are coming in and enlisting daily. On the 16th February Francis Proctor with Seventy Montrosses Sailed for Carolina in a Brig.²

On the 17th Fleet Sailed from the Old Kill Road; the Pilot left them about three Leagues distance from the False Cape, Steering to the Southward.

On the 27th a French Tartan arrived with Arms and Powder, a Brig belonging to one Hodges of this place with 300 Stand of Arms 24 Tons of Powder and Linnen from Amsterdam.

Our floating Battery is Launched, she is to mount Eighteen 9 Ponders, 200 Men and 18 Oars to be Stationed at the Fort, where Two Piers is to be sunk to swing the Chain, A Brig and three New York Pilot Boats arrived with Powder, the Brig was a Sloop Lengthened at New York, she is purch[as]ed by the Congress to carry 110 Men and to Mount Sixteen 4 Ponders and 16 Oars.³ They have been trying the River to Sink Shiver De Frieux at Marcut's Hook. The association Act does not take the effect they expected, they talk of a Convention and lay aside the Assembly but it is opposed.

... There is a great many people who want to get on board His Majesty's Ships if they could tell how. they go on very brisk with their Frigates, the Guardship will be launched next week, she that belonged to New York is now called the *Lexington* Captain Barbut;⁴ I believe she will not be readily manned, if the people could get any encouragement to go into His Majesty's Service and be sure of a Discharge at the end of the Troubles, for a great many has engaged out of necessity, but are very unwilling. They have used the Prisoners very ill that was taken at Egg Harbour; put five of them in a Dungeon in Irons.

... They expect many Vessels and there is several going out to Sea. There is a great many New England Vessels here for Flour and other Provisions, which will be ready to Sail next week, I wish we could have a Cruizer or two to intercept them.

1. Enclosure No. 6 in Vice Admiral Shuldhham to Philip Stéphens, May 20, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
2. "30th [March 1776] 250 Dollars a Bill of the Commee of Safety 17 Jany 1776 by Tho Lynch Chris Gadsden & E. Rutledge to Willing & Morris endorsed to John Dorsius being for expences of Mr. [Francis] Proctor with 35 Recruits for the Artillary—directed to be paid by the Treasurers," *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 210.
3. The brig *Wild Duck*, James Tibbett, master.
4. Captain John Barry.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1776

Philadelphia, March 18.

By a gentleman from Annapolis we learn, that the *Otter* sloop of war, and five tenders went up to Annapolis in quest of provisions, which he requested by letter to the Governor, but was plumply refused by the people; that his arrival there had much frightened the women and children in Annapolis, so that the town was entirely deserted by them. — The *Otter* then proceeded towards Baltimore, and in her way fell in with a ship loaded with flour, bound out, which had run ashore, but not being able to get her off, the people of Baltimore pushed off their armed ship, retook the flour loaded ship, got her off, and brought her back. — The *Otter* and her five tenders lay in sight a great part of the time.

The sloop *Joseph*, Captain Raddon, from this port for Georgia, three days after leaving our Capes was taken by the *Gen. Gage* privateer from Boston, who, the next day took a sloop from Dominica for the northward, on board of which they put five seamen, and Mr. [James] McKnight, Capt. Radon's mate, and ordered her into Virginia; but Mr. McKnight stood for our

Capes, which missing, he ran the sloop on shore at Egg Harbour, where he delivered the five seamen into the hands of the Committee.

By Capt. Waterman from Dartmouth we learn, that Capt. [George] Dawson in an armed brig of 18 guns (formerly the *Sea Nymph* of this port, but since stolen and fitted out by our enemies at Boston)¹ came out in order to decoy our privateers, when two of them, a sloop and a schooner, from Plymouth, pursued her, on which a smart engagement ensued, which lasted upwards of an hour, when the sloop's powder being expended, and night coming on, they returned to port, without any loss, except a few holes through their sails, and two or three men slightly wounded – what damage the brig received is not known, but no doubt some, as she thought it most prudent to return to her den.

1. H.M. Brig *Hope*.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE¹

At a Meeting of the Committee 18 March 1776 –

A Reply to the Address from this Committee to Capt Jas Nicholson was delivered in, and ordered to be printed in the Papers together with the Address –

Permissions were granted to John Abbott & John Martin Baker [t]o depart with their two Vessels N15 & 16 taken up for the Publick Use at Whetstone Point, they having produced Certificates, that said Vessels were not wanted –

Capt James Philips is directed by the Committee to superintend and oversee the compleating of whatever is wanting about the Cannon now mounting at Fells Point, & to employ whatever Carpenters, Blacksmiths, or other Trades People are wanting to compleat the said Business & collect the Account of all such Works, and deliver them into the Committee, for which Service Capt Philips shall be paid by the Committee –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND¹

15th [March
to 18th March]

Having received information of several Vessels being up James River and a quantity of Provisions and Stock on a Farm, that were intended for the Rebel Army, I sent a party of Men on board one of the Prizes, which joined another fitted by the *Liverpool*, having also on board a party of the 14th Regimt and dispatched them upon that Service. The Wind and Weather at first getting out was very favorable but the Night proving Foggy they had the misfortune to run aground just under one of the Rebel Guard Houses and being ebb tide, only one of the Schooners could be got off, which they effected under a hot fire from the Enemy. They however took out all the Guns and Ammunition and set fire to the

Vessel, when they found they could not get her off, after which they proceeded up the River, took a considerable number of Cattle a Sloop and two Schooners, the former laden with different sorts of Merchandize and returned to the Fleet the 18th

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO THOMAS PARKIN ¹

On Board the *Palliser* Transport
Cape Fear River the 18th March 1776

Thos Parkin Esqr Dy Commissary General

having been informed since my arrival that a quantity of Rice has been sent into this River in Vessels taken by His Majestys Ships & Cruizers upon the Coast, and as this Article will be much wanted for the use of the Troops under my Command – I am to desire, you will purchase the whole or such part thereof as can be had on the best terms you can obtain, acquainting me with Your proceedings herein I am &c

H Clinton

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

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Saint John Schooner St Augustine Harbour

Sir

18th March 1776

As the Snow *Elizabeth* Abraham Figtree sails immediately from this Port for London, I take the Liberty to beg that you will be pleased to lay before my Lords Commissioners of the Admty the inclosed Copy of my last Letter to the Admiral or Commander in Chief in North America, acquainting them with a most disagreeable Event on my Station, as the Packet was sailing on my arrival off this Barr with the Powder, I could not be more explicit on the Subject, I therefore beg leave Sir to Trouble you with a few occurrences on that Event.

On the Appearance of the Fleet off Providence I prepared for resistance and Stationed the *St John* in the Channel where they were expected to enter to approach the town, and by requisitions made by the Governor and Council, I removed the Schooner from that to several other Stations most likely to annoy and Gall their Troops on their March to Town, all our Guns loaded with grape & small Shot and moved within Pistol Shot of the only pass they could enter the Town; afterwards by the same request transported and Mo[o]red with her broad side to cover the Entrance of the Fort –

Upon the Rebels landing the Governor sent a Message to know their Business and received for Answer that they were come here to carry off the Powder and destroy the Kings Schooner which was their Orders and which they were determined to execute. The Governor and Council conceived the Rebel force to be considerable and the people of New Providence not to be depended on and were of opinion that under these circumstances the best

Step to be taken was to carry off the Powder with the Schooner which we effected with some difficulty. Upon my arrival at Saint Augustine I dispatched a Sloop immediately with intelligence of it to the commanding officer at Georgia and South Carolina and to Captn Buckley [Andrew Barkley] of the *Scarborough* then at Savannah as I am informed they saild from the Delaware in January and that they are destined either for Pensacola or some of the West India Islands to procure Powder.

It will be a particular happiness to me to be any ways instrumental in the distruction of the Rebel Fleet and armament – I have a just sense of your Favours and wish to be able to give you the strongest proofs of that esteem and regard with which I am &c

W^m Grant

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 51b.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS' SAILING ORDERS FROM NEW PROVIDENCE ¹

Sir You are to keep Company with the Ship I am in if possible – but should you Separate by accident you are then to make the best of your way to Block Island Channel, and there to Cruise in 30 fathom Water South from Block Island six days in order to join the Fleet.

If they do not join you in that time you may Cruise in Such places as you think will most annoy the Enemy, or go in Port as you think fit and acquaint me by the first Opportunity so that you may Receive further Orders.

Ship *Alfred* March 18th 1776

E.H. Cr in Chief

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO LIEUTENANT ELISHA HINMAN ¹

Sir

You being appointed Master of the Sloop *Endeavour*, you are to keep Company with the Fleet till further Orders – but if you should loose Company you are to use your best endeavours to get into Providence – if you cant get in there you are to go in on the East Side of Rhode Island, Howlands Ferry under the Fort, or into New London – And wherever you get in to port, you are to Land your Guns and Stores, and send to Governor Nicholas Cook at Providence, or Governor Trumbull for further Orders till you hear from me.

Ship *Alfred* March 18th 1776

E.H. Cr in Chief

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO THE DARTMOUTH COMMITTEE ¹

On board the *Alfred* March 18th, 1776

Gentlemen I understand by Captn Jennings ² that you was in want of Guns, and I have Sent by him two 9 lb Guns and some Shot which please to accept and make such use of them as you think best – And if Opportunity permits send the Shot he has onboard that are too big for your Guns to

Providence or Howlands Ferry and you will Oblige you[r] and Your Country's Friend

E.H.

1. Hopkins-Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Probably master of one of the vessels which happened into New Providence during the American occupation. See journal of the *Wasp*, March 9. to March 16, 1776.

19 Mar.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE¹

March 1776 Remarks &c, In Quebec

Tuesday 19 pm saw a Battoe cross the River from Wolfes Cove to the other Side where they Erected a pier as we supposed to get a Gun out Launch'd 3 Batteaus one with a 3 pounder & Swivel & one with a 3 pounder & the *Lizards* Pinnace & Cutter & sent them Armed up the River but they return'd after being about 3 hours not being able to gain the opposite Shore for the Ice

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Exeter] Tuesday, March 19th, 1776.

Voted, That Noah Emery Junr be and hereby is appointed forthwith to repair to the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, and request of the Honble Benjamin Greenleaf Esqr at Newbury Port, the Honble Timothy Pickering Esqr at Salem, or any other Gentleman furnished therewith, to Favour this Colony with copies of the Acts of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay lately made relative to the seizing & condemning Vessells infesting our Sea-Coasts; also Copies of the Commissions given to Judges and Registers of the Admiralty.

The Committee appointed to lay Capt. Eliphalet Ladd under proper restrictions, &c., made the following Report, viz:

Provided this Honble Court think it adviseable to give Capt. Ladd permission to Prosecute a voyage to the West Indias in a private capacity, we are of opinion that it is absolutely Necessary he should be laid under the following restrictions, viz:

1st That he shall Exert himself to the utmost of his Power to Procure Powder, Arms, Salt-Petre, Sulphur & German Steel.

2d That he shall proceed to no other ports but those that are Foreign, Beginning at St. Lucia and Ending at Hispaniola.

3d That if he will agree to comply with the first request, he may be permitted to load on board such produce as is not forbid by the Continental Congress, giving this Court or a Committee appointed by them sufficient bonds for his performing the abovesd voyage.

4th That he shall not be permitted to purchase with the Net proceeds of his Cargo, any of the Produce of the West Indies, If Powder, Arms, Salt-Petre, Sulphur & Steel can be had at any of the ports aforesaid; but if at the

first, second or third Island, he cannot sell his Cargo, and those articles can be had there and at no other port, he must Proceed from the Island he may sell at after he has received his Cash & purchase the same – he must leave no stone unturn'd to accomplish this End – and when Performed he must proceed home here and give the refusal of the same to this Colony.

Pierce Long, Joseph Wait, Ichabod Rollins.

Which Report being read and considered,

Voted That the same be received, and that Capt. Long, Mr. Rollins & Mr. [Samuel] Cutts be a Committee of this house to join a Committee of the Honble Board to take proper security of Capt. Eliphalet Ladd for his proceeding on the voyage mentioned in the above report under the second Restrictions therein mentioned.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 98, 102–03.

TIMOTHY PICKERING, JR. TO RICHARD DEVENS ¹

Sir

Salem March 19. 1776

The selectmen of Salem this day delivered to John [Jeremiah] Obrien two hundred pounds of powder for the use of the privateers *Diligent & Machias Liberty* in the service of this colony, as will appear by the inclosed receipt. The said Obrien shewed us a letter from Francis Abbot written for you as Commissary General, to Richd Derby jr Esqr requesting him to furnish Obrien with that quantity of powder; but as the town had purchased the whole his vessel brought home, Obrien applied to us; and as the necessity appeared to be urgent we supplied him upon certain expectation of receiving the same quantity of you when requested, to be delivered at Salem without any expence to the town, or paid for at the price mentioned in the receipt, as the selectmen shd. chuse. Of all which they give you this early notice; & pray that provision may be made for replacing the powder on the shortest notice, if they should judge it necessary for the town's safety. I am, sir, [&c.]

By order of the Select-men

Tim Pickering jr

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 294, NA Photocopy.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Head Quarters Cambridge 19 March 1776

Sir It is with the greatest pleasure I inform you that on Sunday last, the 17th Instant about 9 O'Clock in the forenoon, The Ministerial Army evacuated the Town of Boston, and that the Forces of the United Colonies are now in actual possession thereof. I beg leave to congratulate you Sir, & the honorable Congress on this happy event, and particularly as it was effected without endangering the lives & property of the remaining unhappy Inhabitants. –

I have great reason to imagine their flight was precipitated by the appearance of a Work, which I had Order'd to be thrown up last Saturday



Obverse and reverse of medal awarded to General Washington by Congress to commemorate the British evacuation of Boston.



Night, on an Eminence at Dorchester which lay nearest to Boston Neck, call'd Newks Hill. – The Town, although it has suffer'd greatly is not in so bad a state as I expected to find it, and I have a particular pleasure in being able to inform you Sir, that your house has receiv'd no damage worth mentioning. Your furniture is in tolerable Order and the family pictures are all left entire and untouch'd. – Capt [Isaac] Cazneau takes Charge of the whole until he shall receive further Orders from you. –

As soon as the Ministerial Troops had quitted the Town, I order'd a thousand Men (who had had the Small Pox) under Command of General Putnam to take possession of the Heights, which I shall endeavour to fortify in such a manner as to prevent their return should they attempt it, but as they are still in the Harbour I thought it not prudent to march off with the Main Body of the Army until I should be fully satisfied they had quitted the Coast. – I have therefore only detach'd five Regiments, besides the Rifle Battalion, to New York, and shall keep the remainder here till all Suspicion of their return ceases. –

The Situation in which I found their Works evidently discovered that their retreat was made with the greatest precipitation – They have left their Barracks & other Works of Wood at Bunkers Hill &c all standing, & have destroy'd but a small part of their Lines. – They have also left a number of fine pieces of Cannon, which they first spik'd up, also a very large Iron Mortar, and (as I am inform'd) they have thrown another over the end of your Wharf. – I have employ'd proper Persons to drill the Cannon & doubt not shall save the most of them. – I am not yet able to procure an exact list of all the Stores they have left; as soon as it can be done I shall take care to transmit it to you. From an Estimate of what the Quarter Master Gen'ral has already discover'd the Amount will be £25 or 30,000£. –

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 537–38, NA.

LIEUTENANT HENRY EDWIN STANHOPE, R.N., TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS
COOKE ¹

Sir

Northampton March 19th 1776

No Opportunity having offered, of writing to Providence; I have not had it in my Power to return You my Thanks, for the Portmanteau You sent me up, & the Bearer of the letter did not perform his Promise, of calling on me, before he return'd I have sent You the enclosed from General Washington, for your Perusal (which I will beg the Favour of you to return) it is in Consequence of my Application to go to Providence, & from his Refusal, I am oblig'd to hire the Bearer to transact my Business I have taken the Liberty of enclosing some Letters to You, which I did, fearing the Jealous part of Mankind would have suspected some Plan; whereas I was sensible that your Name would be a sufficient Sanction for them.

I labour under a very disagreeable Circumstance in Respect of my boarding my Landlord being fearfull as I am sent up by you, whether he will be allowed the Dollar a Week, which is paid for the other Gentlemen;

therefore, to remove his Anxiety for the present, I have been obliged to pay him a Part of my Board, till you can be so good as to satisfy me in that Particular.

You are so obliging as to inform me that Mr Dyar has a Trunk for me, & by my Inventory I find there is a pr of Boots, & Shoes in it therefore, if not trespassing too much on your Kindness, have sent the Key, & should be glad, if you would send them pr Bearer, & the Trunk itself as soon as Convenient I imagine I should get it the sooner, if it was sent thro' Cambridge, as Mr Moylan no doubt will do me the Favour to forward it from thence With many Thanks for your Favour – I beg leave to subscribe myself, [&c.]

H.E.Stanhope ²

P S The letter directed for Mr Barns Treas desired to inclose to you by a fellow Prisoner who will be much obliged if you will forward it.

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 307–08.

2. Stanhope, acting lieutenant on board H.M.S. *Glasgow*, was taken prisoner in Newport on November 29, 1775. See Volume 2.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Colony of Rhode Island &c
East Greenwich March 19th 1776

Sir The General Assembly of the Colony of Rhode Island &c acknowledge with Gratitude the timely Notice you have been pleased to give them of the late Movement of the Ministerial Troops. The necessary Orders have in Consequence thereof been given to the Militia of this Colony to hold themselves in Readiness should any Attack or Lodgment be made here by said Troops. But we must inform your Excellency that the great Number of Troops sent out of this Colony have considerably thinned our Numbers; that the Troops raised and stationed within this Colony have necessitated the Colony to take the Arms out of the Stands of a great Part of the Militia which hath made us greatly deficient in Arms. The singular Situation of this Colony will we hope excite your Excellency's immediate Attention, Rhode Island and the many other Islands in our Bays and Rivers with the extensive Sea-Coast renders it very difficult to defend ourselves against the present ministerial Forces. What our Situation must be if a large armed Force should make a Landing upon Rhode Island or any other Part of the Colony your Excellency may as easily suggest as we can describe. It will we are sure be your Excellency's great Concern to defend every Part of the Continent as far as possible. Should your Excellency see fit to order any Part of the Forces from the Vicinity of Boston to any of the Southern Colonies we would wish your Excellency to order their March through this Colony by the Sea Shore that we might have the Chance of their being present should the Colony be immediately invaded, and whether it may not be necessary that a considerable Force should be immediately stationed here till the Intention of the Enemy can be known. We also submit to your Excellency. We are extremely solicitous of all the Assistance your

Excellency can afford us consistent with the general Good; and doubt not but the utmost Attention will be paid by your Excellency to our peculiarly distressed and dangerous Situation.

At the Request and in Behalf of the General Assembly I subscribe myself [&c.]

Nich^s Cooke

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Albany March 19th: 1776

On Saturday the 16th Instant two Sloops arrived here, – but that with the heavy Cannon & Shot is not yet come up altho' I desired that she might be brought up as far as the Ice would permit, to take the Advantage of the first fair Wind after the River opened.

The whole of the Batteaus I was ordered to build will be finished in eight Days as far as they can be for Want of pitch and Oakham, which is not yet arrived from New York. – I have however a Sufficiency to transport the Troops now here. . . .

[March 20]

The heavy Cannon arrived this Morning, and they will be moved with all possible Dispatch to Fort George, and from thence as soon as the Lakes are passable – Not a Sailor for the Vessels, nor any Artillery Companies are yet arrived here.

Apprehensive that Difficulties would arise in transporting the Cannon and Military Stores from hence by Land at this Season of the Year when the Roads are almost impassable, and frequently overflowed between this and Fort Edward, I caused ten Batteaus to be [sent,] and happy it is, as the Waters are now out and many parts of the Road rendered thereby impassable – In the Transportation of these Stores only, considerable more than the Cost of the Batteaus will be saved, Even if the Water had not rendered the Roads useless, they being so very deep that Carriages at the very utmost can carry only half Loads – I hope to be able to venture a Ride to Fort George by the Time the Cannon are moving from here, that they may not be retarded on the Way or on their Arrival at that place should the Lake be open.

If no Sailors come up in Time, I will Man a sufficient Number of the Vessels with Men from the Troops for the present Occasion. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 57–60, NA.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Martis, 10 HO. A.M.

March 19th, 1776.

Capt. [William] Mercier applied to the Committee of Safety for an order to take 25 water casks from the stores, for the use of a vessel purchased by the marine committee for an armed vessel. Thereupon

Ordered, That Capt. William Mercier have leave to take immediately twenty-five such water casks as he shall choose of those now in store, or yard, near Warren's wharf at Hudson's river, the same being for public use for one of the Colony armed vessels.

The Chairman and Capt. [Anthony] Rutgers informed the Committee that, in pursuance of the direction of the Provincial Congress, of the [11th] day of March instant, they had purchased a sloop to be made an armed vessel for the defence of the trade of this and the neighbouring colonies; that they had agreed to pay the sum of £430 for the said sloop.

Ordered, That the Treasurer pay to Captain Anthony Rutgers the sum of four hundred and thirty pounds, to pay for the said vessel, and that the Treasurer take Mr. Rutgers' receipt for the same.

Abraham Lott, Esqr. agent victualler, and Thomas Horsefield, the brewer at Broeklyn ferry, at the door, were admitted. They stated the difficulties attending the sending on board beer to the ships of war, under the attendance of, and with, the port master only; as it happens at times that his other necessary engagements in his duty and going to the ships in the harbour, will not permit him to go at the hours they want his attendance. Mr. Lott and Mr. Horsefield withdrew.

The committee having considered of the said application, are of opinion and determine not to make any alterations in the mode fixed for supplying the ships, or either of them.

Mr. Horsefield was called in and informed of the determination of the committee.

John Murray at the door, was admitted. He requested a permission to send bread on board the ship *Dutchess of Gordon*. After having fully heard Mr. Murray, the Committee consented that Mr. Murray shall have a permit delivered to the port master, to send five hundred weight of bread on board the said ship, but that he shall not have any further permit until he produces an account of the provisions and stores on board of said ship, for ship's use.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 372.

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

March 1776

Moor'd in Graves End Bay.

Tuesday 19th P M our Tender *James* brot up and Anchor'd here the *Mary* Brigg from St Kitts Loaded with Rum.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

2. Brig *Mary*, Anthony Shoemaker, master, John Ellis, owner, from St. Christophers said to be bound for Cork, with 172 hogsheads of rum, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, March 19, 1776

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to supply the Brig *Lexington*, Captain Barry, with one ton of powder.

Resolved, That Mr. [William] Whipple be appointed a member of the Marine Committee

Resolved, That the value of the passage boat, *York*, be made good to Michael Kearney, Junr the owner thereof; it appearing that she was impressed into the continental service, and employed in taking the ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, and for that reason, afterwards seized and detained by order of Captain Parker, commander of the British ship of war *Phoenix*; and that Lord Stirling be desired to appoint proper persons to value the said boat, and report such valuation to Congress.

The Congress proceeded to the election of a member of the Secret Committee, in the room of Mr. [Josiah] Bartlett, who is absent, and

The ballots being taken.

Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee was elected.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 213-15.

MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA
COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gent.

Phila March 19. 1776.

The Convention of Maryland voted a considerable Sum of Money to defend the Harbour of Baltimore Town the most considerable place of our Trade. Fortifications & Batteries are now erecting and every Means in our power to procure Cannon have failed. If your Colony can spare us four eighteen Pounders or eight Twelves or eight Nines, which shall be returned as soon as others can be procured, they will be of infinite Service in defending a Boom now or very nearly ready to be laid across the River. We are Gent. [&c.]

Th Johnson Junr Sam^l Chase W^m Paca

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, Case 1, Box 20, HSP.

MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE MARYLAND
COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Gent. Capt Tibbit [James Tibbett] in a Brig from Statia, purchased & loaded by Abram Vanbebber for our Province, arrived here last Week,² the Capt applied to us for Orders agreeable to Directions, he had received for that Purpose from Vanbebber; We ordered the Cargo to be landed & stored, and the Hands to be discharged – a few Days since Application was made to Us, for the Sale of the Brig to the Congress, which We agreed to, and have delivered her up with the Guns Stores &c the Accts relative to her, will be settled in a few Days, & shall be transmitted – You have inclosed a List of the Goods imported, all of which, will be forwarded by the Stages, except the Duck, We have retained this, till your Orders, it is an Article very scarce & dear in this City, if you do not want the whole Quantity, We can sell it, at a Price that will leave a considerable Profit – . . . We make no doubt you have heard various Reports relative to a Mr.[Robert] Temple,

who came passenger in the Packet & is now in this City, before his Arrival here it was asserted, that he was charged with Dispatches from the Minority to Congress, that Commrs were appointed with full powers, and that if on their Arrival in America, the different Assemblies refused to treat, they were to treat with Congress; Temple on his Arrival, delivered his Budget, which was truly Garnial, being only a Button of his Coat, in which was contained a Scrawl from Arthur Lee informing Congress, that Troops were to sail from Ireland, & for the Particulars, referring to Temple who could give Information, as he Lee had acquainted him with the State of Affairs & the Designs of Administration; We have now seen Temple, it is said, he is sick, some say he is mad, from his Conduct in taking this Journey to deliver such a trifling Letter, if this is his sole business, the latter Opinion seems well founded. – the Packet Letters are put on Board the *Asia* Man of War, the Post Master, it is reported has refused to deliver any Letters, unless the Postage of the whole is paid – We are in Expectation of an Express from Boston; Genl Washington took Possession of Dorchester Point which commands South Boston, it is said by the [receipt of] a Letter to Congress that Howe was embarquing his Artillery Stores &[c] in the greatest Confusion We are with Respect [&c.]

The Delegates of Maryland

Phila 19 March 1776.

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.
2. The *Wild Duck*; also referred to in some letters as the *Wild Dick* and *Wicked Dick*. She subsequently became the Continental brig *Lexington*.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a., 19th March, 1776.

By order of the Board, an order was drawn on John M. Nesbitt, Esq'r., in favour of Charles Alexander ² for £150, being so much advanced him for recruiting Seamen to be employed in the Naval Armaments of this Province.

Resolved, that the Wages of the Pilots employed in the service of this Province, be ten pounds per month, to commence the 21st and continue for one Month.

Resolved, That John Hennessy, Lieutenant of one of the armed Boats, ³ be appointed first Lieutenant to the floating Battery.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 520, 521.

2. Captain of the galley *Chatham*.

3. The galley *Effingham*.

Dunlap's Maryland Gazette, TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1776

Baltimore [March 19].

The *Otter* sloop of war, commanded by the famous Captain Squire, and her tenders, who lately paid us a visit, is now prowling about the Bay, a few miles below Annapolis, and making prey of every thing that floats within their reach – among many others they took two poor industrious French

Neutrals, so called, as they were crossing the bay in a small boat, and robbed them of their all, being the hard earnings of ten years honest industry – The infamous [Bridger] Goodrich, the younger, commanded one of the tenders, and his father was in the *Otter* as Pilot – The violence and barbarity of the former towards the prisoners will hand down his detested name to posterity loaded with the curses of his ravaged and oppressed country – The other officers in general treated these and other prisoners not only with humanity but politeness; but this native barbarian, the reproach of his country, and basest of all Paracides, added brutal insult to his robberies – he tore from these poor people every thing that they had on board, even down to an old razor and a peck of meal, and picked their pockets of 97 l. the fruits of many years sweat and labour – We are told the Committee have taken the depositions of several of the prisoners relative to these matters, which it is hoped, will be published.

During the late alarm, and since, most of the people in town have moved their families and effects into the country, so that we shall not be so much moved at Capt. Squires' second visit with which he has threatned us, and which we expect in a few days, with double fury and double force – however, our Committee, with the spirit of men determined to protect their and the peoples lives and properties at all risks, are taking every precaution to repel the intended invasion; two batteries begun on Fell's Point is now compleately finished mounting 19 guns, another of 18 guns will be finished in a few days on Whetstone's Point, about two miles down the river, opposite to the narrowest part of the channel, where there are a number of vessels sunk to obstruct the passage: a strong boom will be laid across the river at the same place, in a very short time, and a schooner tender mounting ten guns with swivels, begun and finished in 8 days, is ready to attend the *Defence* mounting 20 guns, manned with 200 resolute men on any emergency – These defences together with the number and spirit of our people, we make [no] doubt, will be sufficient to protect the lives and properties of the inhabitants of this town against the wanton and unprovoked depredations of our most savage and cruel enemies – It must give pleasure to every lover of this country, and the glorious cause in which we are now engaged, to be told of the numbers and resolution of the country militia that flew to our assistance the moment they were acquainted with the impending danger – There are now in this town great plenty of powder, arms and all necessary military stores.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GEORGE MASON AND JOHN DALTON ¹

No 66

To George Mason and John Dalton Esqrs

Gent In Answer to your Favor of the 15th we have directed Colo [Joshua] Beall to deliver to your Order ten Barrels of Gun-Powder; ² We shall do

every Thing in our Power to promote the general Welfare, and for that Purpose are now encreasing our Marines.

[Annapolis] 19th March 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.
2. Imported in sloop *Molly*, Thomas Conway, master.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

No 67

Gent We have your Favor of the 9th of this Month and as we are convinced of the Expediency of constructing the Beacons in the Manner you propose, on the Points of the River Potowmack; we shall readily join you in any Expence, that may attend the Erection of them, & have appointed the Honble George Plater Esqr and Brigadier John Dent to act with the Gentlemen nominated by you, for the carrying that Measure into Execution.² – We shall acquaint them of their Appointment, and we are persuaded they will attend for that Purpose on any Notice, your Commissioners will be pleased to give them – We have heard little of the *Otter* and her Tenders since their leaving this River, except that they pillaged a small Island on our Eastern Shore. We are not without expectation of another visit from them and shall be extremely obliged for any Intelligence you may be pleased to communicate to us of their Movements.

[Annapolis] 19th March 1776

P.S. We have just received a Letter from Geo: Mason and John Dalton Esqrs requesting the Loan of ten Barrels of Powder, which we have supplied them with for the Use of your Colony. –

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.
2. *Ibid.*, the Council notified Platter and Dent of their appointment the same day.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GEORGE PLATTER AND BRIGADIER
GENERAL JOHN DENT¹

No 68

[Annapolis] 19th March 1776

To George Platter Esqr & Brigadier General [John] Dent, severally

Gent In consequence of the inclosed Letter from the Committee of Safety of Virginia, desiring us to appoint Commissioners to cooperate with the Gentlemen nominated by them for erecting Beacons on the Shores of the River Potowmack, We have taken the Liberty to appoint yourself and Brigadier George Dent [*sic*] and we hope it may be agreeable to you to attend at any Meeting their Commissioners may desire for carrying the necessary Measures into Execution.

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

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW, R.N.¹

Roebuck at Hampton Road
in Virginia the 19th March 1776

Sir Captain Squire in the *Otter* being arrived from his Cruize, I think it

necessary to acquaint you that I am going to proceed in the *Roebuck* to the River Delaware; It was my intention that the *Liverpool* under your command should have accompanied me thither had I not lately been under the necessity of sending one of my Squadron to Boston; But from the earnest request made to me by his Excellency the Earl of Dunmore, and considering the present state of this Colony, I think it absolutely necessary that two Ships at least should remain here for its defence, and for the protection of the Governor and his Majesty's loyal and obedient Subjects of this Province, who have taken Shelter on board Ships now lying off Norfolk: It is therefore my desire that you take the *Otter* under your command and afford every protection and assistance in your power to his Excellency the Governor, to His Majesty's subjects in the Fleet at Norfolk, and to the entrenchment lately made there; Using at the same time every means that may occur to you of annoying and distroying the Rebels, and acting in every respect to the people of this Province as well as the other Twelve united Colonies, as to an enemy in time of open War.

And as I expect the *Kingsfisher* or some reinforcement, will very Shortly arrive here, You are in that case immediately to join me in the River Delaware, leaving Orders with the Senior officer to cooperate with and give every possible protection to Lord Dunmore and the Friends of Government on board the Fleet at Norfolk.

I desire you will employ the Tenders most diligently in order to prevent any supplies whatever from getting to the Rebels, and once in Ten days to send one of them round to me with an account of your proceedings, and any intelligence that may be necessary to communicate to me.

You are also to use your endeavours to procure Pilots for any part of the Coast of America in order to Supply them to any Ships that may be in want of them, which you are to bear on Supernumerary List for Victuals untill you have an opportunity of sending them to me. I am &c

A S Hamond

I. Hamond Letter Book, 1776-1777, UVL.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO LORD DUNMORE¹

[Extract]

No 24

Cape Fear River 19th March 1776

A very unexpected opportunity offers of sending Your Lordship two lines. No Troops arrived, but as Sr P Parker probably sailed from Cork with seven Régiments about the middle of January we may expect them the latter end of this month, not sooner . . . Commissioners are certainly to be named to receive the submission of the different provinces but all this you will hear by your dispatches which are arrived in 9 weeks from Falmouth & to which I refer you - [Andrew] Barkley has made a stroke, 16 sail of Rice ships greatest part of their Cargoes gone to Boston - The Philadelphia Fleet gone to [New] providence, and from thence supposed to the Dutch Islands,

but for particulars I turn your Lordship over to the Commodore² – believe me &ca

H: Clinton

[Endorsed] by the *Duke of Cumberland* Packet Sailed

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Miscellaneous Letter Books, CL.
2. Captain Andrew Snape Hamond.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE
HAMOND, R.N.¹

No 25

Cape Fear River 19th March 1776

We arrived here the 12th after a tedious Voyage hard Gales &c we met the *Syren* at Sea and by the accounts she gave us I did flatter myself that we should have found this Province armed in favor of Government; The attempt to arm tis true had been made, but what I dreaded, too much precipitated, the whole disaffected part of the Province was in arms to intercept them, as they were betrayed by the person sent by Govr Martin to assemble them, in short after a very trifling Action they were dispersed, one or two of their Leaders killed, and in general the rest taken, not above 1400 were assembled & of those not 800 armed, they got within 17 miles of Wilmington, and in attempting to force a Bridge they there received a check. I have not yet received Govr Martin's account of the whole Transaction, nor his opinion wheather affairs can, or by what means be restored. – I did intend to have detained the *Fincastle* till I could give you information of the arrival of the Fleet from England, or inform you what was likely to be the operations of this early part of the Campaign, but the arrival of the *Hinchinbroke* from Savannah with news of some importance for you to be acquainted with, obliges Capt Montagu to dispatch her; to his Letters I must refer You for particulars; From Europe, report says, all breathed fire and faggot, 7 or 8 Frigates are coming out with Sir Peter [Parker], 7 Regts 3 Companies of Artillery &ca &ca I rejoice much to find that my friend Lord Cornwallis is with them, he sailed by all accounts the 31st decr from Portsmouth, we may fairly give them a fortnight to arrive at & sail from Cork, and therefore do not expect them here before the end of this month – Commissioners are certainly to be appointed to receive the Submission of the seperate Provinces, but all this you will hear by your own dispatches which are probably contained in the Virginia Mail, from opening which I will not detain you longer than to assure you &ca

P S I am it seems to expect additional instructions by the Fleet – I wish to communicate with you by the Cypher – it will be un[inte]resting how I am pressed – too tedious, entre nous mais tres entre nous pouvons faire des belles choses ensemble – I depend on hearing from you

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

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Pomona*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM YOUNG¹

March 1776

High Lands of St Eustatia NW dist 2 Miles

Tuesday 19 at 7 A M spoke a Sloop from Antigua bound to Bermudas at

10 Do took possession of a Sloop from Antigua bound to St. Eustatia and sent her to Sandy Point [St. Christophers] Moderate and fair at 3 P M hove too and sent a boat on board the Sloop (we sent to Sandy Point Yesterday) with 4 Men and brought her people on board us and made Sail.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

2. *Ibid.*, on March 22 Captain Young cleared the sloop and returned her crew.

20 Mar.

COLONY BOND FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATE ARMED VESSEL *Washington*¹

Know all Men by these presents That we Joseph Stockman Stanton Pr[e]ntice & Eliphalet Flint – in the Colony of the Massachusetts bay are held and stand firmly bound and obliged unto the Treasurer and Receiver general of the Colony aforesaid in the full and just sum of one thousand pounds lawful money to be paid unto the said Treasurer and receiver general or to his Successors in said Office to the true payment whereof we bind ourselves our heirs Executors and Administrators Jointly and Severally firmly by these presents Sealed with our Seals dated the twentieth day of March Anno Dom 1776

The Condition of the aforewritten obligation is such That whereas the said Joseph Stockman hath on the day of the date hereof received a Commission to command an Armed Vessell called the *Washington* burthened about Seventy five tuns to make reprisals of all armed and other Vessells that shall be found Supplying the enemy or acting counter to a law of this Colony entitled an Act for encouraging the fixing out of Armed Vessells to defend the Sea Coasts of America and for erecting a Court to try and Condemn all Vessells that shall be found infesting the same

If therefore the said Joseph Stockman shall and do in and by all things well and truly observe and fulfill such Instructions as he shall receive from the Council of this Colony and shall in all respects conform himself to the directions given in and by the Act aforesaid then the abovewritten obligation to be Void otherwise to remain in full force

Joseph Stockman Stanton Prentice Eliph^t Flint

Signed Sealed & Delivered in presence of
Joseph Jackson W^m Holmes

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 7, 298.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, March 20, 1776

Whereas the Judge of the Court of Justice for the Counties of Suffolk, Essex and Middlesex (appointed in pursuance of an Act of the General Court at their Session in November last, intituled an Act for Encouraging the fixing out of Armed Vessels to defend the Sea Coast of America, and for Erecting a Court to try and condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting

the same) has appointed certain days for holding his Court for that purpose, at Ipswich, viz the Eighteenth nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty First, Twenty Eighth, and Twenty ninth days of March instant, and it being inexpedient that those Courts should be held untill some further Regulation shall be made relative to the proceedings therein –

It is hereby Resolved and ordered that the Court aforesaid appointed to be held on the days aforesaid (which are not already Elapsed) be adjourned until Monday the First day of April next to be held at Ipswich in the County of Essex, and all Processes, Pleas, and every matter and thing whatsoever which might or could have been heard, considered and determined by the said Judge in Virtue of the appointment of those days for that purpose shall and may be heard and determined by him on the said First day of April next, and they are hereby continued accordingly. And all Jurors and Witnesses who have been summoned to attend in pursuance of the appointment aforesaid shall be hereby holden and are accordingly directed to attend said Court on the said First day of April next, and shall be liable to the same penalties for Nonattendance as if the said Court had been held on the days appointed for holding the same.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 667, 668.

WILLIAM JACKSON TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE ¹

Nantasket March 20th 1776

May it please your Excellency

Having done the duty of a Subject in the detection & discovery of Persons concerned in fraudulently taken away the property of divers Merchants I claim no merit more than Honesty – I now Sir make you a tender of my best Services to the further preservation of said Goods and the property on board the *Elizabeth* under the care of Mr [Crean] Brush in case your Excellency should see cause to appoint any One to the same – I have served my term to that way of Life and in regard to my reputation it is well known to Major Sheriff, Mr Paxton & every Gentleman of the Town of Boston If Sir you should require any Security I make no doubt I can find the same for my fidelity I am Your Excellency's [&c.]

Will^m Jackson

[Endorsed] A true Copy attest Seth Loring Clerk in the Secys Office
No 44

1. The Revolutionary War Prize Cases: Records of the Court of Appeals in Cases of Capture, 1776–1787, No. 2, “The *Elizabeth* and Cargo, Wentworth Appellant,” NA.

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

[Providence] Wednesday Evening 20th March 17[76]

Meeting in being according to adjournment. –

Voted. That Daniel Tillinghast Account Amounting to Forty two

pounds Twelve shillings & Eleven pence be paid him out of the Committee's Treasury. –

Whereas. This Committee have purchased a Considerable quantity of Sparrs more than will be wanted for the Ships now building here.

It is Voted that they be sold to any persons that may want the same after the ships are supply'd at the following prices Viz for all sparrs under 8 Inches at one shilling P Inch for Topmast above 8 Inches and not exceeding 10 Inches at $\frac{1}{6}$ P Inch for Booms & Bowsprits as they may be for length & Bigness from five to Ten Dollars P piece, for Masts from 12 to 20 Inches Diametar to be from 6 to 9 shillings P Inch. –

Reckoning [blank]

Meeting adjourn'd to Fryday Evening. ²

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

2. No business was transacted at the Friday meeting.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL
CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

Providence March 20th 1776

In Consequence of the Agreement made with You in Jany Last by John Brown to Import Warlike Stores in behalf of the Contenent we Dispatched a Small Sloop Capt B Comstock to St Estatia with a Cargo Amountg with the Charges to £[blank] L Money & we have now the pleasure of Adviseg you of her Safe Arivel at Howlands Ferry on the East Side of Rhode Island with 193 Bolts Roushie Duck 43 pcs Roushie Sheeting & a pr Swivel Guns 14 Small Arms with 12 C powder & 30 lb Ball to keep off a Barge, Capt Wallace with his Fleet now Layg between Bristoll & Prudence prevents the Sloops Comg up to this Town we shall take Care to Watch the Motions of the Enemy, So as to Secure the Duck &c here till we have Your Orders What to do with them, the Roushie Sheeting will be Usefull for the Lite Sails of the Ships buildg here, but the Committe havg procured 95 Bolts & Govr [Stephen] Hopkins Sent them 200 Bolts more of Heavey Duck from New York it will not be Wanted for these Ships, perhaps You may order it forwarded for the Ships buildg in the Other parts of New England, no Quantity of powder nor arms was to be bot but the Capt Informs us that a Large Quantity was Soone Expected their, we have with much Difficulty procured about 200 Tons of Oil being obloiged to Cart a Considerable part of it from Cape Cod to ship it with safety which with Other Valuable Articals Such as Sper Cands Walebone &c Shall Soone Ship for France & Spain one Vessel Directly from Nantuckett being now ready & one or Two from here So as to Compleate our Contracts You'l please to Acquaint the Navil Committe of the Arivel of this Duck &c and give us Such Orders Respecting the Same as You May think prop[er].

Capt Comstock was Chased Very Clost for 10 Hours from his Leavg St Estatia by a Small Armed Cutter but being will Fitted with Lite Sails & a prime Sailer Escapd being tacon, he Advises that a Brigg belongg to a Rich Jew had come up from Curraso a few Days before he arived & that She had

Saild for the Contenent, he beleaves for Philada or Verginna Loaded with Powder & arms to the Amount of £18,000 their we hope before You Receive this You'l have an Act of her Safe Arivel the Ministerial Troops havg. all Left Boston & the Fleet Dropt below the Cassell its Expected they take their Departure tomorrow mornng as the wind is now Shifted to N W The Common Taulk of their Distination by the people Left in Boston is Hallifax, we have the pleasure of adviseg of the Safe arivel of Six Thousand wt of powder & 400 Small arms at New london or Stoneington from the Cape belongg to Messrs Clark & Nightg & 30 Thous'd Wt of Pow[d]er with Abt 140 Arms, 11 m flints Lead &c With a Qty Rousian Duck Ozenbrg &c Imported by Our N B. from Curico – We apprehend You Omitted Lineing for the Clothg Mentiond in Your last Contract – As its proble. One of the Vessels May go to Hambbrg May it be agreebl to take Some Hemp for to fill up Where Other thing Wont so well Store – if this or the Linens are worth Notice you may proby give by Notices before the last Vessel Sails

To the Honorable Saml Ward

B Franklin, Josiah Bartlett

Robt Morris & Thos McKean Esqrs

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, A.M.

March 20th, 1776.

Abraham Lott, Esqr. Treasurer, attending, was admitted. He requested a permit to go on board the *Asia* and *Pheonix*, ships of war, to settle accounts with the pursers of each ship.

Thereupon, a permission was given to Mr. Lott, in the words following, to wit:

Ordered, That Abraham Lott, Esqr. be, and he is hereby permitted to go on board the ships of war in this harbour, (in company with the port master,) and to return, he having been sworn that he will not convey any intelligence relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of the city and Colony.

A certain William Powell sent a letter to the Committee requesting a permit to go on board Capt. Parker's ship the *Phoenix*, to solicit his consent to proceed to sea, that he may go the the West Indies.

The committee refused to give him a permit.

Die Mercurii, 4 ho. P.M. March 20th, 1776.

A certificate from the committee of New-London, in Connecticut, dated the 11th instant, was read and filed. They certify that Peter Vandervoort is requested to ship 100 barrels of superfine and 30 barrels of common flour, to Nathaniel Shaw, Junr to be shipped to the West Indies on account of that Colony, and that all prudent care will be taken to prevent its falling into the hands of their enemies.

Thereupon, *Ordered*, That the general committee of the city of New-York, or the sub-committee for exports, be and hereby are at liberty to permit Mr. Peter Vandervoort to export to Nathaniel Shaw, Junr. in New-London, one hundred barrels of fine flour and 30 barrels of common flour, to be shipped to the West Indies on account of the Colony of Connecticut.

To Messrs. Ray & Hyer and to Mr. Wm. Mercier.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 376, 377, 378.

MAJOR WILLIAM DOUGLASS TO JOSEPH HALLETT ¹

Sir:

Brooklyn, March 20, 1776.

I this moment am honoured with yours of the 18th instant, and at present observe the contents. It appears, by Major-General Schuyler's letter, that the honourable the Continental Congress have honoured me with the command of the lakes, and that Captain Wynkoop should be employed under me. I am now upon furlough by Major-General Schuyler, which directs me to wait until I receive orders from the Congress or from the General respecting my destination. I told Captain Wynkoop what I now tell you, that, whenever I should receive orders from the Congress or the General, I was willing to comply, if my health would permit; and as Captain Wynkoop is desired by the General to get his men and go up, I beg you would assist and forward him, and, if I am not called upon, shall endeavour to serve my country in some station of as much importance as to command the lakes.

I hope you will excuse my not answering your letter before now, as it was not handed to me, but to a soldier, who laid it on my table with other papers, and did not acquaint me of it; and it was by mere accident that I found it this evening. I am, sir [&c.]

William Douglass.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 437-38.

MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gent. On the Arrival of Capt Tibbet we engaged a Boat, on Board of which was shipped the Powder & Arms, together with one Ton of Powder advanced by Congress & 1875 lbs returned by Congress for the Quantity borrowed by Col [Benjamin] Harrison, this Boat went to Christiana Bridge, from whence the powder was sent to Balt. in Waggon, of this Transaction, we advised you by the Return of the Express, that brought the Intelligence of the *Otter* & her Tenders arrival in Patapsco The Qty of Powder that was private Property in Tibbet was very small, part of it was owned by a Gent. in Accomack County in Virginia, the Residue about 6 or 8 qr Casks, Mr Bowley informs us, is the property of a Gentn in Balt. to whom it was sent - Powder is an Article that cannot be purchased in this City - Mr. [Thomas] Johnson [Jr.] had a Sum of Money lodged in his Hands by Col [Jesse] Hollingsworth of Cecil County to purchase a small Qty of Powder for

that County, the Money being raised by Subscription for that Purpose; this he could not accomplish; and at the pressing Instance of that City, We procured from Congress 5 Barrels which is sent down.— the Demand from the Eastward being very great, and our Magazine almost empty, prevents our making any further Application. We are [&c.]

Phila 20 March 1776.

R. Alexander for self & Colleagues

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a., 20th March, 1776.

Upon application of Capt. Falconer for a sum of Money for the use of the Committee appointed to fix Signals, &ca., in the Bay and River Delaware; By order of the Board, an order was drawn on John Nixon & others, the Committee of accounts, in favour of Capt. Nathaniel Falconer for £ 300

Resolved, That Capt. Leeson Simmons be joined to the Committee for fixing Signals in the Bay & River Delaware.

Resolved, That Francis Feauss be appointed First Lieutenant to the Provincial Ship of War.

That Edward Yorke be appointed Second Lieutenant to the said Provincial Ship.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 521.

JOSEPH SMITH TO ELNATHAN SMITH ¹

(1st Letter.)

Baltimore, Maryland, March 20th, 1776.

My dear Brother Elnathan,

I was just on the point of returning to New England when the convention appointed me a Lieut. of Marines on board the ship *Defence*. She is a fine ship, and mounts 18 guns, sixes and nines, and is commanded by Capt. James Nicholson who is universally considered a brave man. The crew of the *Defence* are as fine a set of men as were ever seen on shipboard. After I entered the *Defence*, news was brought that a British sloop of war which mounted 20 guns, with two tenders, one of 8, the other of [4], was just below the town, and had taken a large ship valued at £ 14,000, and eight or ten small craft. Though unprepared, Capt. Nicholson gave orders to fall down the river. When the news arrived we had in but 10 guns, but we got in 8 more that night, though they were in very bad order. We went down the river in a fog with 220 men & had proceeded about ten miles when we discovered the enemy & the ship they had taken & the small craft within two miles. As soon as we saw them all hands gave three loud cheers that made the very welkin ring, but the enemy immediately made sail, and left all their prizes in our possession. Another vessel of the enemy lay four miles below, and we waited for them to come and give battle, as they had orders to take the *Defence*, or not return again to



Chart of the upper Chesapeake.

Virginia. Though our ship was inferior to that of the enemy, we were much disappointed in not attacking them, for some time before night the British made sail & we have not seen them since. They have left the whole bay clear, but we hope to sail this week, unless we have orders to stay and guard the town. We received the thanks of the Council of Safety, Committee and County in general. Give my best love to my Father, Brother, Sisters and your family, and believe me ever most affectionately yours.

(signed). Joseph Smith

1. Edmund Kirby Smith Papers, UNCL.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Wednesday 20th March 1776.

Ordered That all Vessels loaded with Country Produce on Account and Risque of this Province proceed as soon as may be on their Voyage agreeable to Contract.

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO HUGH YOUNG ¹

No 70

Sir We should have answered your Letter of the 11th Instant by Mr. Smyth before now, but the Variety of Business before the Council has prevented us. We would have you send out the *Nancy* Capt. [George] Wise immediately under the Orders heretofore given, and finish loading the Schooner *Ninety Two* as speedily as possible and send the Captain to us for his sailing Orders.

[Annapolis] 20th March 1776

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

MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COMMITTEE ¹

Northampton County Virginia 20th March 1776.

In Committee. Capt Thomas Kell commander of the schooner *Dolphin* having put into Charriton Harbour being chased by one of the Tenders who have made several attempts to take possession of her since and the said Capt Kell having appeared for the committee and desired their opinion what part to act, and there appearing no probability of getting safe out, and thinking it would be attended with fatal consequences to suffer such a valuable cargo to fall into the hands of the enemy, Recommend to the captain to unload her without loss of time and run her up the creek, and wait the farther direction of the owners.

Drury Stith C. Com.

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

PROTEST OF CAPTAIN THOMAS KELL AND OTHERS ¹

Northampton County Virginia March 20th 1776.

Personly appear'd before me one of his Majesties Justices of sd

- Little wind & hazy, at 8 P M anchored with the B Bower in 7 fam off Sharpes Island.
- Monday 11 At 7 A M sent the Pinnacle & Gigg in Chace of a Schooner
At 11 hove up & dropt lower down.
The first part little Wind & hazy, the latter fresh Breezes and cloudy. At 2 P M anchored with the B Bower in 6½ fam off the lower end of Sha[r]pe's Island. At 3 the Boats returned with a Schooner loaded with Tobacco & Oysters.
- Tuesday 12 At an Anchor under Point Lookout
Fresh Gales & squally At 2 P M weighed & came to sail, in Company the Tender & Prizes. At 10 P M anchored with the B Bower in 12 fam under Point look out.
- Wednesday 13 Point lookout bore N b E 2 Miles
At 6 A M weighed & came to sail. Fired two Guns as Signals for the Prizes to get under weigh, & 3 six Pounds to bring to a Pilot Boat. At 10 anchored with the Prizes in Co
Mode & cloudy. At 2 P M joyned Company the *Samuel* Tender with a Sloop Prize loaded with Corn. Opened a Cask of Pork, contents 110 pieces. Sent the *Samuel* & Prizes into St Mary's for Shelter.
- Thursday 14 At 8 A M fired 2 Guns for the *Samuel* & Prizes to come out.
At 9 weighed & came to sail. At 10 anchored with the B Bower in 11 fam & veered to ⅓ of a Cable.
- Friday 15 Light airs & hazy, joyned company the *Samuel* & Prizes & anchored by us. Departed this life John Resterich Seaman. The first part light airs & foggy, middle & latter moderate & fair.
- Saturday 16 At 2 A M veered to ⅔ of a Cable. At half past 11 A M weigh'd and came to sail, in company the Tender & Prizes. Little wind & cloudy. At 3 P M anchored under Smiths point with the B Bower in 7 fam as did the Tender & Prizes.
- Sunday 17 Gwins Island bore West 4 Miles
At 6 A M sent the Gigg in chace of a small Schooner crossing the Bay. At 10 do weighed & came to sail, in compy as before. Departed this life Jno Hunkhop [Seaman].
The first part squally with rain. The middle & latter little wind and foggy. Opened a Caşk of Pork No 11 contents 110 pieces. At 5 P M close reefed the Topsails. At 8 anchored with the B Bower in 6½ fam off Gwins Island.
- Monday 18 At ½ past 11 weighed & came to Sail, the Prizes in sight. Little wind & inclinable to Calms; At ½ past 4 P M anchor'd with the B Bower in 6 fam off Cherry Stone Harbour. At 5 do weighed & came to sail, in company the Prizes. At 11 anchored off Welloughbys Spit with the B Bower in 5 fam the Prizes in Company.

- Tuesday 19 Do Wr at 7 P M weigh'd & drove up with the Tide & Boat ahead. At 11 anchored in 10 fam in Hampton Road
- Wednesday 20 At an anchor in Hampton Road
At 7 A M weigh'd & shifted further in. Found here H M S *Roebuck*. Point Comfort bore N E & Sewells point S S E. Distance off Shore 3 miles.
Little wind & fair the first part, the middle mode & clear, the latter fresh Breezes & fair. The Lieut & People belonging to the *Roebuck* returned to their Ship.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

2. For the prizes brought down from the foray up the Chesapeake, see journal of the *Liverpool* of this date, and footnote.

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

- March 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia
- Wedensdy 20 arrd our Tender with 5 sail of small Vessels taken from the Rebels ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

2. These were the prizes taken by the *Otter* and her tender, the *Samuel* and the *Liverpool's* tender, *Edward*, in their foray up the Chesapeake. They were: *Philadelphia Packet*, from Elk River for Baltimore, with different goods; *Vulcan*, S. French, master, R. Evers, owner, from Elk River for Patuxent, with stone and iron; *Nancy*, J. Robinson, master, E. Carr, owner, from the Eastern Shore for Elk River, with tobacco and feathers; *Nancy*, L. Gallehugh, master, J. Taylor, owner, from Neabscoe for Baltimore, with Indian corn, and an unidentified schooner with "nobody on board her," Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

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

- March 1776 At Single Anchor in Hampton Road Virginia
- Wednesday 20th at 7 in the morning Anchored here the *Otter* from the Cheseapeak bay, with 6 Sail of Sloops and Schooners taken by her and Tenders; at 8 Anchored here the *Lord Howe*, and Ship *Grace*, her prize in Ballast from Philadelphia.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. *Ibid.*, the *Lord Howe* had gone out of the Capes on a cruise on March 15, 1776. The *Grace* was bound for Baltimore, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

- 20th of March The *Otter*, which had now been absent a fortnight longer than was expected arrived with the Tenders, and Six small Vessels, laden with Flour, Indian Corn, Tobacco and Groceries which they had taken in Chesepeak Bay. A Privateer of 20 Guns, attended by several small Armed Vessels, came out of Baltimore to attack her, and she happened to appear in sight when the *Otter* had unfortunately got aground, however notwithstanding this disadvantage she did not chuse to come within some Miles, and then hauled her Wind and went back again. The *Otter*, soon after got

a float, but for want of a good Pilot and the Channel being extremely intricate she could not follow her. The same day the *Lord Howe* Tender arrived, with a Ship in Ballast, which she had taken off the Delaware, but without any Success in regard to a Philadelphia Pilot.

I. PRO,Admiralty 1/487.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO GOVERNOR SIR JAMES WRIGHT ¹

Georgia

Cape Fear River 20th March 1776

Governor Wright

Upon my arrival in this River on the 12th I was honored with Your Excellencys Letters of the 21st of february and 3d March, and have since received that of the 10th by the *Hinchinbroke* armed Schooner – It is with the greatest concern I learn from Your Excellency the deplorable State to which the Province of Georgia is reduced by the Rebellious proceedings of the inhabitants – and I can only lament that it is not in my power to afford the least aid towards the protection of the Friends of Government and the Support of legal authority – The Troops expected from England and to be employed under my Command, are not yet arrived, and when they do, it may be doubtful whether I can direct that force or any part of it towards Your Excellencys province, having hitherto received no positive instructions upon the subject of the intended destination of those Troops; but as I am led to expect explicit orders upon the arrival of the Fleet I shall then be enabled to form a judgment if any, or what support can be given towards the establishment of good Government and order in the Province of Georgia, and I shall lose no time in giving Your Excellency the earliest information of it.

I had flattered myself from some intelligence I received previous to my arrival at Cape Fear, that I should have found a considerable number of people armed in favor of Government in this Province, but was greatly disappointed to hear that the attempt had been rendered ineffectual by too much precipitation – ² Govr Martin will doubtless inform Your Excellency of the particular Circumstances attending that transaction, I have therefore only to add that I am &ca

H:C –

[Endorsed] By The *Hinchinbroke* armed Schooner sailed 20th March

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

2. *Ibid.*, Governor Martin of North Carolina in a letter to Clinton this date wrote: "I have not been so much deceived in my expectations from the good disposition of People in the Country as I have been disappointed with regard to the arrival of His Majestys Troops which instead of being here as I computed, I hope reasonably, very early in February are not yet arrived."

GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN TO GENERAL HENRY CLINTON¹

N. Carolina, Snow *Peggy*
in Cape Fear River March 20th 1776

Sir As you have been pleased in consequence of the Communication I have had the honour to make to you of the Earl of Dartmouths letter bearing date the 7th day of November last to signify to me your wishes to receive, in writing my sentiments on the present posture of Affairs in this Province so far forth as may be necessary to enable you to form your own judgement of the practicability or impracticability of carrying into execution the King's intentions in sending Forces under your Command to this Province; I sit down with every desire to answer your expectations from me according to my idea of them.

The object His Majesty has in view as I conceive from the letter of Lord Dartmouth above referred to, is to accomplish the Restoration of Government with the assistance of the well disposed persons within this Colony, which my assurances encouraged His Lordship to reckon upon largely whenever their efforts should be called forth, and properly supported: and, you must be satisfied Sir from what you have learned since I had the honour of meeting you here that I have not been so much deceived in my expectations from the good disposition of People in the Country as I have been disappointed with regard to the arrival of His Majestys Troops which instead of being here as I computed, I hope reasonably, very early in February are not yet arrived.

I understand further Sir, by Lord Dartmouth's letter, that The King's Troops now in expectation are designed to act here on certain conditions and provisions; and that you, as His Majesty's General, and Commander in Chief of the Expedition, have alternative objects to pursue.

As I apprehend, in the present state of things, and while we have no communication with the Country it is altogether impossible without experiment to establish in certainty the points, on which it is expected you will determine to employ the Troops here or direct your attention to another object, I have only to offer my very humble opinions with regard to them.

The efforts lately made by the friends of Government within this Colony without the aid, or even countenance of The King's Troops, however ineffectual and much more feeble than I had every reason to expect, owing to causes which you have had more opportunity than I to learn from The Gentlemen you have seen from the Country are sufficient ground, as I conceive, for the best hopes on the arrival of the Troops and their cooperation. The check the Gallant Loyalists have received in a recent attempt of a small and ill armed body of men to force its way down here, very near succeeding, with the particulars of which you are acquainted by the written account presented to you, by the Gentlemen before alluded to, I do not imagine has lost us much ground of good expectation. I humbly apprehend it is still practicable to penetrate to Cross Creek, and to draw forth in redoubled strength all the aid of the brave and faithfull Highlanders, as well

as the other numerous friends to His Majesty's Government inhabiting the circumjacent Country; who will eagerly meet your wishes as I believe not only on my own opinion of the good disposition of those people, but on the better knowledge and assurance of those who have been latest among them.

I own myself much inclined to think that a body of Troops once landed even in this neighbourhood would draw numbers of the people of the Country to your Standard, and that the facilities to enable an army to penetrate into the Country would grow upon you continually; among which Carts and horses I have no doubt will be forthcoming.

Nothing yet I confess discourages me as to the Success of the expected Armament under your Command in its operation in this Country but the delay of its arrival and the hasty advance of the hot season, the inclemency of which I know by fatal experience Europeans cannot well endure in the lower regions of this moist Country after the month of May. Whatever is to be effected by British Troops here, not inured to this Hemisphere must be done at this time instantly, & immediately on their arrival or the Climate consumes them: but once arrived at the high ground of the interior Country they may be preserved in a state of health and vigour fit for action through all Seasons

The point once gained of carrying a body of Troops into the heart of the Country, I do verily believe a force might be collected and formed upon it out of its own people that would be competent to the maintenance of order and Government if it should be thought expedient to withdraw the regular troops after their restoration of which however it is to be wished a small part may be spared to be advantageously posted on or near the Sea Coast. The inducements I should lay before the Country people I am of opinion would be sufficiently powerfull to attach them to the side of Government by making it their immediate interest; for added to the power given me by The King to offer to them the pay of His Majesty's Regular Troops, I consider myself warranted by the Subsisting Militia Law of this Province to hold out the further encouragement of Two Shillings Currency pr. diem to privates, which I think will be an allurement of such effectual weight as to draw a number of Men to The King's Standard that would assure The Sovereignty of this Province to His Majesty, by its own internal Strength, if it should be judged adviseable, at the same time, to make a diversion on the side of Virginia.

Having now Sir, under a load of business that presses me on every side, given you my general ideas, on the practicability of carrying into execution The Kings views, for the restoration of His Majesty's Government in this Province; I will beg leave to add, that I shall be most happy, & heartily disposed, upon all occasions, to cooperate with you, in the manner that may best correspond with your own intentions for carrying on His Majesty's Service and if I have omitted in this letter any information that you wish for, or expect of me, I shall very readily hereafter fulfill your commands as far as may lie in my power. I have the honor to be with great respect Sir [&c.]

Jo Martin

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Syren*, CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX ¹

March 1776 Moor'd in Cape Fear River North Carolina
Fort Johns[t]on N N W

Wednesday 20th A M: at 9 saw Land from Mast Head N Wt at 11 hauled up to Clear the [Frying] Pan –
Mode & Clear – P:M: at 1 saw a Schooner fired a Gun & hoisted our Colours, spoke the *Scarborough's* Tender from Cape Fear, at 6 run over the Bar ½ past Anchored with the Best Bower; Found here His Majesty's Ship *Mercury* & *Cruizer* Sloop with 2 Transpts 2 Pacquets & many Prizes.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Wednesday, March 20, 1776.

The Congress being informed of the arrival of a Committee from North-Carolina, to concert with a Committee of this Congress, a plan of measures for mutual defence and assistance.

Ordered, That the present members of the Council of Safety, together with Col. Gadsden, and all the other field officers of the several corps of regular forces of this colony, be a Committee to confer with the Committee from North-Carolina, and with them to concert a proper plan.

Col. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, from the Committee, to prepare proper rules and regulations for the government of the navy of this colony, delivered in a report;

And the said report being read.

Ordered, That the consideration thereof be postponed.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 82, 83.

HENRY LAURENS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town So Carolina
20th March 1776

We know nothing of the Continental Fleet except that the Sloop *Hornet* was on this Coast about a Month ago sent her Boat with two Warrant Officers & five Men on shore ² these are still here but we have heard no more of the Sloop ³ there was indeed at one time a glorious opportunity for disconcerting the whole plan of our Enemies, a time when, the Ships of War at Savanna as well as those infesting your River might have been totally destroyed. – we can only hope that some what of equal importance has been done . . . We are told the Enemy's Ships of War which were lately at Cockspur are all sailed if so you will soon hear more of them

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 206, 207.

2. *Ibid.*, 209, an order of March 26, 1776, from Henry Laurens to the Colony Treasurers, reads: "a Bill for £8- to pay Jeram Sharp for piloting the *Hornet's* Boat from Sante, the Bill is for £11. 7. 6-£8 supposed to be a full allowance charge to Continental Congress."

3. "The weather was excessively cold and tempestuous as the fleet approached the coast, and the nights were so dark and hazy, that even signal lights were invisible from one vessel to

another. On one of these black and stormy nights, the *Fly-tender*, 'ran foul of the *Hornet*,' and unfortunately carried away her mast-head and boom. By this accident, which was altogether irreparable on such a night, the *Hornet* was separated from the fleet, and the next morning was discovered to be almost a wreck, with not one of her consorts in sight. In this situation, it was the joint opinion of the captain and our friend Barney, that it would be prudent to steer for the nearest coast, and with such assistance as might be procured, repair the damages of the sloop, before they attempted to follow the course of the fleet. They reached the coast of South Carolina, but were for several days unable, owing to the boisterous state of the weather, to send a boat on shore; and when at last they effected it, so violent a gale came on before the boat could return, that they deemed it advisable rather to leave her and put out into the open sea, than encounter the risk of being driven ashore where all must have perished. They did all that was in their power under the circumstances, and were fortunate enough, after much labor, fatigue, and danger to arrive off the mouth of the Delaware." Mary Barney, ed., *A Biographical Memoir of the late Commoaore Joshua Barney*: . . . (Boston, 1832), 31-32. Hereafter cited as Barney, ed., *Life of Joshua Barney*. This account placed the collision with the *Fly* as taking place during the return from New Providence, whereas it occurred on February 21, 1776, a week after the fleet had sailed from the Delaware. The *Hornet* did not participate in the capture of that island; *Andrew Doria Journal*, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

South-Carolina and American General Gazette, FRIDAY, MARCH 8 TO
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1776

[Charleston, March 20]

The last Accounts from Savannah informs us, that the Men of War have all gone down the River, and have carried with them sixteen Merchantmen; the latter were carried through the Back River, and were obliged to be lightened of great Part of their Cargoes, which were thrown into the River. We are informed that a Number of Negroes have been taken off a Gentleman's Plantation, lying on Savannah River, and carried on board the Men of War.

COUNT D'ARGOUT TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG ¹

Sir,

At Fort Royal, Martinique, 20th March, 1776

M. De Marguy, ship's lieutenant and commanded of his Majesty's frigate *Ceremes* will have the honor to greet you on my behalf and to present to you my compliments. I beg your Excellency urgently to add faith to all that he tells you which is obliging, and to the assurance that he gives you of my eagerness to anticipate everything which can interest you in these Islands, of which the King, my master, has just appointed me Governor-General, succeeding M. the Count De Nosier who is crossing over again to France.

I busy myself with the greatest care, Sir, in maintaining the understanding and the union which exists between the subjects of our Sovereigns and I will be very pleased to prove to you my good will in maintaining the arrangement so favorable to both nations and so justified, particularly to demonstrate to your Excellency the desire which I have to merit his esteem and friendship.

M. the Count De Nosier communicated to me the letter which your Excellency wrote him on the subject of M. Begorras, wholesale merchant at St. Pierre. He has entrusted to me a copy of the declaration of this man,

which I have the honor to send to you appended here. It affirms that he has never procured either arms or powder for the rebellious subjects of His Britannic Majesty and that he has never engaged in any similar commerce with them. Since my inauguration, I myself have taken the most rigorous safeguards in this respect, and supposing that there were some abuses, they would not have been able to succeed at all to the knowledge of the Government. But I beg Your Excellency to be persuaded that I will take all possible steps to discover them and present their action henceforth.

I have the honor to be [&c.]

d'Argout

[Enclosure]

Account given to M. the General on the subject of intelligence given to Vice Admiral Young

The ship *Bachelor*, Captain John Scot of Virginia, has arrived at St. Pierre, Martinique. There it was siezed and confiscated by the King's frigate the *Perin* on account of 141 barrels of flour which she was carrying. The ship as well as its cargo was sold.

The ship *Molly*, Captain Connerway [Conway] actually arrived at St. Pierre. The ship and cargo were sold here. It is false that it was loaded with 500 muskets. It was outfitted for going to take a cargo of mullet. There has been no shipment made from St. Pierre for the islands St. Pierre and Miquelon with 500 muskets and 60 barrels of powder, registering them in the realm of Fort Royal.

The ship *Charles*, Captain Denison overtook the brigantine *Liberty*, taking its cargo of molasses nothing more.

The brigantine of Captain Corsells was sold to one named l'Haribert, who loaded it with coffee for Marseille.

There is no ship at St. Pierre named *Industry*, Captain Sewell of Rhode Island.

Richard Harrison is not a merchant from Philadelphia. He is a young man of 20, come in the ship *Baltimore*, to St. Pierre in order to be treated for venereal disease. He is in treatment at the house of a good surgeon here. He has bought neither powder nor arms, and his youth prevents him from it being suspected that he is an agent of the Continental Congress. He was recommended to Sr. Begorat who has the order to furnish him to the extent of his needs.

The original is signed by Pierre Begorat [Begozzat]. This is a true copy.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309. A translation from the French.

21 Mar.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge, March 21, 1776.

Gentn.: Er'e now, I was in hopes of congratulating you on the departure of the Ministerial Troops, not only from your Capital, but Country. That

they still remain in the Harbour, after having been five days embarked, affords matter for speculation, and, collected as their Force is now, of apprehension. This Circumstance, the Security of Boston by a work on Fort Hill & demolition of the Lines on the Neck, and preservation of the Stores, for Continental use, belonging to the King, by a proper search after them, rendered it indispensibly necessary for me to throw some Troops into the Town immediately (It coming within the line of my duty); but notwithstanding all the precaution, which I have endeavoured to use to restrain and limit the Intercourse between the Town and Army and Country for a few days, I greatly fear that the Small Pox will be communicated to both.

So soon as the fleet sets sail, my attention must be turned to another Quarter, and most of the Continental Regiments now have march'd off. It may be necessary therefore, for you, Gentn., to consider the state of your Harbour, and think of such works as shall be found necessary for the defence of it, and the Town, in case another Armed Force (which I by no means expect) should be sent hither. I shall leave three or four Regiments, as circumstances may require, for security of the Stores, and throwing up such works as shall be deemed necessary for the purposes above mentioned; and shall direct the Officer Commanding them, to receive such Instructions, in respect to the latter, as you may think proper to give.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 416-18.

JOSEPH WILLIAMS TO WILLIAM COIT ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge 21st March 1776

. . . The Enemy's fleet Lyes down below the Castle yet, which they Employ themselves in blowing up & destroying as fast as Possible, they burnt what buildings there was in it Last Evening - I am [&c.]

Jos Williams

Mr William Coit Merchant Norwich

1. Trumbull Papers, YUL.

JOSIAH QUINCY TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Braintree March. 21st 1776.

Since the Ships and Troops fell down below, we have been apprehensive of an Attack from their Boats, in Pursuit of live Stock; but, yesterday in the Afternoon we were happily relieved, by the Appearance of a number of Whaleboats, streching across our Bay, under the Command (as I have since heard) of the brave Lieut Colo [Benjamin] Tupper, who in the forenoon had been cannonading the Ships, with one or more field Pieces from the east Head of Thompson's Island, and, I suppose, last Night cannonaded them again from the same Place, or from Spectacle Island.

This judicious Manoeuvre had its genuine Effect; for, this Morning the Admiral, and all the rest of the Ships, except one of the Line, came to sail, and fell down to Nantasket Road, where a countless Number is now

collected: In Revenge for their burning the Castle last Night, were we provided with a sufficient Number of fire Ships and fire Rafts, covered by the smoke of Cannon from a few Row Gallies, this Night, might exhibit, the most glorious Conflagration, that was ever seen upon the watery Element, and the probable Consequence of it, a Period to the present War, otherwise Humanity revolts at the Destruction of so great a Number, even of our Enemies.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL STEPHEN KEMBLE ¹

[Nantasket Road] Friday [*sic* Thursday], March 21st.

About 4 o'Clock in the Afternoon a Signal made for an Attack at Sea, from the Light House. The *Savage* Sloop of War, and a Brig, the *Diligence*, ordered to Slip and pursue at five; saw four Schooners in chase of a Brig making for the Port; about six the Schooners fired; the Brig let fly all her Sails; but, our Vessels coming up fast, the Schooners did not choose to wait to take possession, and we recovered the Brig, from the West Indies, with Coal, Porter, and Sour Crout, having been drove off the Coast the preceeding Fall. The Rebel Privateers escaped our Vessels, one of them had a Flag hoisted at the Main Topmast Gallant head as a mark of Distinction.²

1. "The Kemble Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, I, 74.

2. Washington's schooner *Hancock*, flying John Manley's commodore's pennant.

JOURNAL OF H.M. BRIG *Diligent*, LIEUTENANT EDMUND DOD ¹

March 1776

In Nantasket Road

Thursdy 21st AM at 11 the *Fowey* made the Sigl for Weighing – repeated it; The *Fowey* & Convoy got under Sail, soon after she made the Sigl for Anchoring which we repeated, came down from King Road the *Chatham*, *Centurion* & all the Transports –
Variable Weather.

PM at 3 a Sigl from the Light house of an attack in the offing, Slipp'd pr order as did the *Savage* & made Sail out of the road, Saw 5 Rebel Privateers & an English brig wth them, Sett the Steerg Sails & gave Chace, – The boat broke adrift & was lost with all her Materials – When the Privateers found we come up wth them they bore away for Plymouth ² & left the Brig which we retook at 7 left off Chace, close reefed & handed the Topsl Boston light-house NWbW 7 or 8 Leags at 11 Sett the TSls.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4109.

2. See letter from Sarah Sever, March 23, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Glasgow*, CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE ¹

March 1776 Laying too off[f] the Island of Prudence
 Thursday 21 at 11 AM weigh'd & Came to Sail at Noon brot too of the
 So end of Prudence –
 Modt & fair at 1 PM ran out of the harbour at 2 joind
 Compy the Brigg Tender at 6 our Signl to Chase to the S W
 at 7 spoke the *Belona* Tender & a Sloop her prize do bore
 away at 9 lost sight of the Squadron.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Jovis, 10 ho. A.M.

March 21st, 1776.

Mr. Elias Nixen, the port master, attending, produced a list of supplies wanted for the use of the *Swallow* packet.

Thereupon, *Ordered*, That the port-master be and he is hereby, permitted to convey on board the *Swallow* packet, for the use of the said packet, the following supplies, vizt: 8 barrels bread, 4 barrels flour, 5 barrels pork, 5 barrels beef, 200 scupper nails, 3 lb. 20d nails, 1 quarter fresh beef.

Abel Hetfield attending, requested permission to go on board the *Asia* ship of war to get his clothes, which he had left on board when taken in his boat coming from New-Jersey, loaded with iron, and which was seized by Capt. Van Deput.

Thereupon, *Ordered*, That Abel Hetfield be and he is hereby permitted to go on board the *Asia* ship of war, with the port master, and to return; he having been sworn that he will not convey any intelligence relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of this city and Colony.

Mr. Nicholas Low had, on the 26th day of Feby. last obtained from the Provincial Congress a permit to ship – flaxseed and lumber on board of the ship *Polly*, Thomas Kennedy, master, to be exported to Cork, in Ireland, in return for military stores imported, to the amount of eight hundred and ninety-six pounds and ninepence, which he brought back and returned to the Committee of Safety. Mr. Low informed the Committee that he had laded the said flaxseed and lumber, but that through the stoppage of the ports by the ships of war, he cannot get the said vessel and cargo out of port, and therefore requested that he might have a permit to export to the amount of the sum above mentioned, in provisions, to the West Indies, in lieu of the said flaxseed and lumber, on condition that the same shall not be exported.

Ordered, That Mr. Nicholas Low be permitted to export provisions to the West Indies to the amount of eight hundred and ninety-six pounds and ninepence, in lieu of the said flaxseed and lumber, on condition that the said flaxseed and lumber shall not be exported.

Die Jovis, P.M. March 21st, 1776.

Ordered, That Peter Van Brugh Livingston, Esqr. as Treasurer of the Provincial Congress of this Colony, advance to Capt. Wm. Mercier the sum

of five hundred pounds on account, towards enabling him to fit out the vessel lately purchased by order of the Provincial Congress, and ordered to be fitted out and armed by the marine committee, or their order.

A second letter from Wm. Powell, requesting a permit to go on board the ship *Phoenix*, was read and filed.

Ordered, That he be informed that this Committee if well assured Capt. Parker will not permit him to pass to sea, and therefore the Committee will not give him a permit to go on board.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 378, 380.

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

March 1776 Moor'd in Graves End Bay.
Thursdy 21st the Pilot Sloop brought in and Anchor'd here the Sloop
Wanton ² Fired two Guns to bring Vessels too.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

2. Taken by the tender in Cranberry Inlet. She was in ballast, owned by Samuel Burling, with John Mount as master, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON TO CHARLES CARROLL, SR. ¹

[Extract] [Philadelphia] Thursday 21 March 1776

. . . the floating battery wh I have spoken of in my former letters will be ready in a few days: yesterday they were getting in her masts: the Province Ship carrying 20 guns 12 pounders will be launched next Saturday.

1. Carroll Papers, MdHS.

JOHN ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN ¹

[Extract] [Philadelphia] March 21, 1776

You will soon see a sett of Resolutions, which will please you – the Continental Vessells the Provincial Vessells and Letters of Marque and Privateers will be let loose upo British Trade.

I hope, and believe it will not be long before Trade will be open. Foreign Nations, all the World I hope, will be invited to come here, and our People permitted to go to all the World except the Dominions of him, who is adjudged to be *Nerone Neronior*.

I think the Utmost Encouragement must be given to Trade, and therefore We must lay no Duties at present upon Exports and Imports, nor attempt to confine our Trade to our own Bottoms or our own seamen. This for the present.

We have so much Work to do, by sea and Land, and so few Hands to do it, that We shall not be under any Necessity, nor will it be good Policy, I think, to attempt such Restrictions as yet.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 213.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 21st March, 1776.

Resolved, That the following mentioned officers on board the Provincial Ship, be allowed the pay as affixed to their respective stations:

First Clerk	10	Dollars	per	Month.
Second Clerk	8			do.
Boatswain's Mate	8			do.
Quarter Masters	8			do.
Quarter Gunners	8			do.
Gunner's Mate	8			do.
Steward	10			do.
Steward's Mate	8			do.
Cook	8			do.
Carpenters Mate	12			do.

Resolved, That Mr. John Mitchell be appointed Master to the Provincial Armed Ship.

That Joseph Greenway be appointed 3rd Lieutenant to the Provincial Armed Ship.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 522.

WILLIAM LUX TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Baltimore 21 March 1776.

Gentlemen. By a letter I recd from Mr Bowly by this days post he tells me our delegates had ordered all the sail cloth to be left at Phila the other things were to come in the Packet on Tuesday, I expect they mean to sell the sail cloth as the price is very high there, we sold ours at £9.10 pr Bolt, If the Gentr have not wrote you their reasons for doing it, I think you had better order it down, as perhaps you may not soon meet a further supply. Genl Lee got here last night and has been to view our Battery, he thinks it very well executed, and that it will answer the intention. He has taken Mr [Felix Lewis] Massenbaugh ² with him to Virga & says he understands his business & that he cant do without him -

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

2. Massenbach was an engineer and second lieutenant of Captain John Fulford's company of matrosses.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday, 21st March, 1776.

A warrant to Capt. John Calver[t] for £50 and 1 Do. for £50 upon account for purchase of materials for the Row Gallys.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 132.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck* ¹

March 1776 Remks on bd His Majestys Ship *Roebuck*
 Wednesday 20th A M at 7 Anchord here the *Otter & Liverpool's* Tender
 with 6 Sloops & schooners ² which they had taken at 8
 the *Lord How[e]* Anchord with a Ship she had taken from
 Philadelphia ³ . . . at Noon Anchord in 10 fa Point Com-
 fort ENE 1/2 Mile.
 Moderate & fair weathr P M receivd some Provision out
 of the *Lord How's* Prize & Fired 2 Nine pd Shott to bring
 too our Pilot Boat.

Thursday 21st A M the *Lord How* & her Prize went to Norfolk Do
 Musterd the People & servd Slops
 First part moderate & fair Latter fresh gales & cloudy P M
 at 3 Weighed & made sail . . . at 6 Anchord in 7 1/2 fath
 Cape Henry ESE 3 Miles

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

2. The prizes are noted in the *Liverpool's* journal of this date and footnote.3. The ship *Grace*, from Philadelphia to Baltimore, in ballast, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777,
 PRO, Admiralty 1/487.GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

[Extract]

No. Carolina Snow *Peggy* in
 Cape Fear River March 21st. 1776.

My Lord, By The *Duke of Cumberland* Packet Boat which arrived here on
 the 18th. instant I have had the honour to receive Your Lordship's circular
 Letter – bearing date the 10th. day of November, notifying the King's ap-
 pointment of Your Lordship to be one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries
 of State and signifying The Royal Pleasure that my future dispatches be ad-
 dressed to you. pursuant to this command My Lord I have now the honor
 to open my correspondence with Your Lordship, and I beg leave to embrace
 this opportunity to offer my humble congratulations to Your Lordship on
 your taking upon you the high department in Administration to which His
 Majesty has been graciously pleased to call you and to commit to your care.

The same Packet has also brought me the honor of Your Lordships Dis-
 patch No. 1. containing an Account of the Nature and strength of the
 Armament intended to be sent to the Southern Colonies; and of its readiness
 to proceed according to its destination. and requiring me to exert every ef-
 fort to carry into execution the orders contained in Lord Dartmouth's letter
 of the 7th. of November, of which I have received the Copy enclosed in
 Your Lordship's Dispatch, the Original having reached my hands safely in
 the beginning of January.

I own My Lord it is difficult for me to express my amazement on find-
 ing By Your Lordship's letter, that the Armament, which I have computed
 to be on its way from Corke, from the very beginning of December, or sooner,
 is only in a state of readiness to proceed towards the latter end of that
 month; and I regret this unfortunate delay the more sincerely, because it has

contravened a plan and purpose of mine, not originally formed but necessarily pursued, and correspondingly as I conceived after the Receipt of the orders contained in Lord Dartmouths Dispatch, that would have had the happiest effects and consequences, as the issue of it though unlucky has certainly evinced.

Moved by the pressing & reiterated assurances given me by some well affected persons living in the County of Brunswick adjacent to the station of the Ship in which I was embarked, that the people of their neighbourhood and a multitude of others of their friends & acquaintances throughout the Country were groaning under the Oppressions of the little Tyrannies they had been deluded to vest with authority under the denomination of Committees; solicited to relieve them from the self made yoke which they now found intolerable; informed by the concurring testimony of these People, and all others from the Country with whom I communicated, of the weakness of the Rebel Troops, affectedly called Regulars, who by the best efforts of their leaders, were not yet provided with arms for a third of their number, and that they were equally deficient of ammunition; persuaded too by all report of the soreness of the common people under their new fangled Government and of their disposition to revolt from it, Compassion, and sense of duty to The King's Government, and the distresses of His Majesty's Subjects, wrought upon me to attend to the wishes of these People, who invited me to their relief, by the most confident assurances, that they would engage, in a month's time, to join me with two or three thousand men. I thought upon these good presages My Lord, the happy moment was arrived, when this Country might be delivered from Rebellion, and Anarchy, that it was not to be neglected or lost, and determined accordingly, to try by the efforts of the People themselves, in such proneness to make the experiment, and while I had no prospect of aid from without, at once to restore lawfull Government.

Forming this design My Lord, I resolved to unite the strength of the numerous Highlanders, and other well affected people of the interior Counties, to the force these people promised to collect in the lower Counties, more contiguous to this neighbourhood. and it was concerted between me, and the People of Brunswick, who had made such advances to me, that they should assemble as secretly as possible, and put themselves in motion together. The day appointed for the whole to join me was the 1st. of February . . .

. . . the *Syren* Frigate arrived, and brought me Lord Dartmouth's Dispatches numbered 20, 21 & 22, which gave me the first hopes of effectual external aid . . .

I furnished Mr. Maclean, my unwearied, persevering Agent, with powers to proper persons to raise and embody men; and instructions to them, being in sufficient force, to press down to Brunswick by the 15th. of February, or as soon afterwards as might be possible . . .

After this, my first intelligence came by the person who had accompanied Mr. Maclean in his last Expedition into the Country. it was a verbal

message from my most trusty friends, importing, that the Loyalists were in high spirits, and very fast collecting; that they assured themselves of being six thousand strong . . . that they intended to post one thousand at Cross Creek, and with the rest, I might rely on their being in possession of Wilmington (the principal town on this River, and within reach of The King's Ships) by the 20th., or 25th. of february at farthest. the time of my expecting the approach of the Loyalists being at hand, I was on my way up the River to meet them when I received this advice, that corresponded with all my hopes, and insured the accomplishment of my wishes, to restore the peace of this Country. Some communication that I had with the People of Wilmington, of whom I made a demand of a quantity of flour, still encouraged my expectations: but their change of language, soon afterwards, abated them greatly ² having not the least intercourse with the Loyalists, I still remained in doubt, as well about the route they had taken, as concerning all reports of their operations, until the 6th. instant, [*sic ultimo*] that a certain Mr. Reid, who failing in an attempt to join them on their route from Cross Creek (owing to the intervention of a party of the Rebels) wonderfully escaped them, and found his way down to me. his intelligence reduced the number of the Loyalists to 3,500 men but nevertheless assured me they were in condition to make their way good, unless they were obstructed by some unfordable water, which from a better knowledge of the Country he supposed, might happen, at a point where he computed them to be, and that it was practicable to relieve them by small Vessels; on which opinion, that I communicated to Captain [Francis] Parry of the *Cruizer*, that Gentleman, after consulting with the Pilots, made the necessary preparations for giving every possible succour, with his usual alacrity: but before this purpose could be executed, our intelligence from various quarters assured us, that the meeting of the loyalists was out of hope; that they had been checked about 17 miles above Wilmington by the Rebels, in an attempt to pass a Bridge on the 27th. of February, and after sustaining the loss of Captain Donald McLeod, a gallant Officer, and near 20 men killed, and wounded, had dispersed.³ This unfortunate truth My Lord, was soon confirmed, by the arrival of Mr. MacLean, Mr Campbell, Mr. Stuart, and Mr. Mc.Nicole, who with infinite fatigue, danger, & difficulty, and by a vast [labour] made their way to the *Scorpion* Sloop of War, which lay at Brunswick . . .

Constrained to be my own Amanuensis, for want of opportunity to obtain a better in my present situation, and writing under every possible inconvenience, in the Cabbin of a little Vessel, I am sensible this letter needs apology, which I flatter myself Your Lordships goodness will admit, when you are pleased to consider the wretched state of a man not of Neptunes element, in the tenth month of his confinement on board ship. I have the honor to be, &c,

Jo. Martin

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/318, LC Photocopy.

2. See Martin's exchange of letters with the Magistrates and Inhabitants of Wilmington, February 27 and 28, 1776.

3. The battle of Moore's Creek Bridge.

HENRY LAURENS TO WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON ¹

Dear Sir,

Enclosed you will find Colonel [Christopher] Gadsden's orders, for eighteen men to be put on board the armed schooner *Peggy*, of which, Lieut. Sherman ² is to be the commander. The mate of the schooner has consented to go, which I am glad of; as he is acquainted with the vessel, and every thing about her.

I am of opinion, that two of your 4-pounders which may be hoisted in, in an instant, will be of great service; and, although there are no ringbolts in the schooner, the seamen will soon make a contrivance for fixing and working the guns, sufficient for the intended short service.

Your lieutenants will be deliberate, in taking every necessary article on board – dispatch is absolutely necessary – she must be at, or over the bar, by daylight. You will give the necessary orders; and I would for the encouragement of the men, besides the value of the prize, promise thirty-five pounds per man, for every prisoner taken; and the like sum, for every man killed of the enemy. I am, dear Sir, [&c.]

Charlestown, 21st March 1776.

Henry Laurens.

A light in the main shrouds, will be a signal to the fort, to pass.

The Hon. William Henry Drayton Commander of the Ship *Prosper*

1. Drayton, *American Revolution*, II, 183.

2. Lieutenant Thomas Sherman, first lieutenant of the *Prosper*.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Thursday, March 21, 1776.

Resolved, That the ship *Port-Henderson*, Henry Aitken, master, now lying under the cannon of fort Johnson, and bound for London, be forthwith seized, and brought up to Charles-Town, under the care of the *Prosper* ship of war. That upon the said ship being brought up, the cargo on board be forthwith landed, and sold. And that, the said cargo being sold, the monies arising from such sale, be lodged in the Colony Treasury.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 90.

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

Scarborough, Savannah River

Georgia March 21st 1776

Sir.

I beg leave to Inform you that I sailed from Boston the 4th of Janry last in His Majesty's Ship under my Command with two Transports under my Convoy bound to this Port in Order to Purchase or seize a Quantity of Rice for the use of His Majesty's Troops & to have the assistance of Sr James Wright Governor of this Province in procuring the same.

Upon my Arrival here I found this Province in the utmost Confusion & in open Rebellion, they had taken away the Kings Cannon that lay at Cockspur & mounted them at the Town of Savannah & likewise sunk Vessels in

the narrowest part of the Channell, so as to prevent any Ship of Force getting up, they had likewise confined their Governor & Council, a few days after my Arrival Sr. James Wright found means to escape from his Confinement & got on board the *Scarboro*. where he & his Family now remains.

The Rebels had detained about twenty sail of Ships & Vessels partly loaded with Rice Therefore the only way of getting a Supply of that Commodity was to seize upon the Shipping which was done accordingly & I have got in my possession Sixteen hundred barrells of Rice, & I am now loading the two Transports with the same & then to proceed to Boston with them, where it is much wanted.

On the fifteenth Inst arrived here the *Duke of Cumberland* Packet, from St Augustine who brought me Letters from Governor Tonym, & Lieut. [William] Grant of the *St John* Schooner, Copies of which I herewith Inclose you, upon the perusal of which you will find the Rebels have sent a number of Armed Vessels to Sea & have attacked [New] Providence, but I imagine before I received the information they were gone as they declared they only came to carry away the Kings Cannon & Powder & to take the *St John* Schooner, I inclose you the Names & description of the above Rebel Vessels.²

Yesterday came in here a Sloop from St Augustine who brought me a Letter from Governor Tonym dated the 8th of March with Copy of one he received from Govr Brown Copies of both I herewith Inclose by which you will percieve they have some Intentions of paying a Visit to West Florida.

I therefore think it my duty to give you the earliest Information in my power. Mr Chambers who brings you this was at Providence the time the Rebels arrived there. There has been a report here that those Ships & Vessels had left Providence & got into Charles Town So Carolina, which has been partly Confirmed by the Information of Andw B[r]edon which I herewith Inclose you,³

I have sent a Vessel to look into Charles Town to know whither they are there or not, but as it may be of the utmost Consequence to His Majesty's Service for your being made acquainted with this Intelligence I will not detain Mr Chambers untill her return which may be some days. you will be pleased to observe they mean to attack our Trade from Jamaica which I make not the least doubt but they will endeavour to do.

Sr Peter Parkèr is expected upon this Coast every hour with a Small Squadron & [7?] Regiments, in order to reduce the Southern Colonies. I am afraid the Force is too small;

Governor [Josiah] Martin has got at Cape Fear, between three & four thousand Men in Arms for Government. the moment the Troops makes their Appearance, he expects to be joined by many more.

I beg leave to recommend Mr Chambers the master of the Sloop that brings you this, upon my Expressing a desire to send you this Intelligence,

he Immediately Offered his Service for that purpose, he thereby deserves every Encouragement & favour that can be shown him I am Sir [&c.]

And^w Barkley

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. *Ibid.*, "A List of Ships and Vessels fitted out by the Rebels at Philadelphia to Cruize against the English which were ready to put to sea on the 12th February 1776."

3. *Ibid.*, Andrew Bredon's declaration of March 20, 1776.

22 Mar.

ISAAC SMITH, SR. TO JOHN ADAMS¹

Mr. Adams

Salem, March 22d. 1776

You will by this itt likely have heard, of the departure of the Troops from Boston. I went in this week and found my home in good Order, though great devastation as to many Others.

I here Mr. Gearey [Elbridge Gerry] has wrote to his brother about purchaicing a Cargo, of fish – and have been with me, About purchaicing some I have. I Understand, itt is by the Order of Congress, I dont purpose parting with itt, unless I can have the chance of shiping itt by my Own Vessells As choose to imploy them, and think I have as good a right, to have them imployed as any man in the government, as I question whether any One will suffer more – and iff you could let me know, in what Manner the Vessells and Cargo's are to be fixt Out upon. – I sent three or four Schooners for Virginia As grain will be wanted and would be a publick benifit, but dont know but they will be taken. One Crew returned Yesterday being taken in the Capes of Virginia, by which I shall suffer Two hund. pds. ster.² I have a Number of Schooners laying by as well as larger Vessells which should be glad to get imploy for, and One att Baltimore hauld up there. Iff any probabillity of any liberty to go as private property to foreign ports let me know – We hourly expect to see the fleet come along.³

I am with regard Sr. Yr. hum Servt.,

Isaac Smith

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 364–65.

2. The schooner *Joseph*, John Hill, master, taken February 14, 1776, by the frigate *Liverpool*, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

3. Smith refers to the British fleet in Nantasket harbor, part of which, two frigates and a fleet of transports, sailed for Halifax on the afternoon of March 25, 1776.

"RETURN OF ORDNANCE STORES LEFT BY THE ENEMY IN BOSTON MARCH 17TH
1776 –" ¹

7 --- 12 Pounds	} In the North Battery all useless.
2 --- 9 Do	
4 --- 6 Do	

3 --- 28 Ponders	}	On Cobs Hill
177 --- 28 Pound Shott		
1 --- 8 Inch Shell		
273 Wads		
2 Handcrow Levers		
2 Drag Ropes		
Half a Side of Leather	}	At West Boston
3 --- 32 Ponders		
39 --- Shott		
154 --- Wads		
1 --- 13 Inch Iron Mortar & Bed		
1 --- Large Chain		
2 --- 12 Ponders	}	On B[e]acon Hill
23 --- Shott		
23 --- Wads		
1 Cohorn in the Dock at Hutchinson's Wharf		
3 --- 24 Ponders at the Hay Market Battery		
1 --- 28 Pounder	}	On the Neck.
1 --- 24 Do		
8 --- 12 Ponders		
3 --- 5¼ Ponders		
1 --- 3 Pounder useless		
3 --- 24 Ponders	}	In the Blockhouse Battery.
3 --- 32 Do		
1 --- Cohorn		
3 --- 12 Ponders at Hatches Wharf		
A Number of Shot and Shell	}	In the Dock at Hatch's Wharf.
10 Swivels in the <i>Washington</i> armed Vessel		
2 --- 24 Ponders	}	In South Battery.
1 --- 32 Pounder		
7 --- Iron Wheels for Carriage Guns		
31 --- Cannon useless		
1 --- 4 Pounder	}	At How's Wharf
19 --- 4 Ponders useless		

Cambridge March 22d 1776.

Errors excepted

Signed, Ezek¹ Cheever, Comy Artillery

1. John Hancock Papers, LC.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.¹

(Copy)

Notwithstanding former Orders, You are hereby required and directed, to Order Captain [Tyringham] Howe of His Majesty's Ship *Glasgow* on his

Arrival at Virginia, and delivering the Packets which are to be forwarded to the Southward, to put himself under the Command of the Senior Officer on that Station, and follow his Orders for his further proceedings.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* in Nantasket Road 22nd March 1776.

M.Shulldham.

To Captain Wallace Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Rose*, and Senior Officer of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Rhode Island.

By Command of the Admiral E Bragge

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Chatham*, CAPTAIN JOHN RAYNOR¹

- March 1776 Moor'd in King Road
- Wednesday 20 during the Night Saw a great fire on Castle William & from 6 AM till Noon heard the report of Several Great Guns from thence. Serv'd Porter to the Ships Company – Fresh Gales
at 3 PM the Rebels began firing from Thompson's Island at a party of men belonging to one of the transports, whilst watering Sent the Pinnace & Cutter to assist in bringing them off. Came on board a party of Marines Consisting of one Lieutenant & 39 Ptes Recd on board Water & Brandy at 9 Saw Castle William all in a Blaze
- Thursday 21 AM thick Wr & Snow at 10 fir'd a Gun & made the signal to Unmoor At Noon made the signal, weigh'd & made Sail for Nantasket Roads –
Mode Gales & fair Wr at 1 PM Came too in Nantasket roads & moord a Cable each way, Long Island WBN the Light House EBN found rideing here H M Ships *Renown Lively, Fowey, Nautilus, Savage & Diligent* Schooner with all the Transports &ca Returnd the *Savage's* Salute Anchord here the *Dispatch* & *Tryal* Schooner at ½ past 2 heard the Reports of several Guns in the Offing, the Light House made the Signal for an Attack in the Offing. HM Sloop *Savage & Diligent* schooner Slip't & went out to Sea²
- Friday 22 Fresh Gales with Sleet & Rain PM Came in Anchord here HM Sloop *Kingsfisher* retd her Salute also HM Sloop *Savage & Diligent* Schooner with a Brigg from London loaded with Coals & porter the Vessel that the Rebels Attack'd yesterday.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

2. See Journal of Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Kemble, March 21, 1776.

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

Rate	Ships	Commanders		Disposition
4th	<i>Chatham</i>	{ Rear Admiral Shuldham Capt John Raynor }	At Boston	In Nantasket Road, Under Orders to proceed with a Fleet of Transports to Halifax.
"	<i>Renown</i>	" Frans Banks		Do Under Orders to Cruise and Rendezvous occasionally in Nantasket Road, and Boston Bay.
"	<i>Centurion</i>	" Richd Brathwaite		Do Ordered to accompany and protect the Fleet of Transports to Halifax and then to return, and put himself under Command of Capt Banks.
6th	<i>Lively</i>	" Thos Bishop		Do Ordered to accompany . . . Fleet of Transports to Halifax.
5th	<i>Niger</i>	" Geo: Talbot		Cruizing in Boston Bay under the Command of Capt Banks.
6th	<i>Fowey</i>	" Geo. Montagu		In Nantasket Road Under Orders to proceed with those Transports which are ready to Halifax and then to return and put himself under the Command of Capt Banks.
Sloop	<i>Savage</i>	" Hugh Bromedge	Do	Ordered to New York under the Command Capt Parker
"	<i>Nautilus</i>	" John Collins	Do	Ordered to Rhode Island with Dispatches (to be sent Southward by the <i>Glasgow</i>) and from thence to proceed to the Island of Bermuda.
"	<i>Kingsfisher</i>	" Alexr Graeme, Actg	Do	Ordered to Accompany and Protect the Fleet of Transports to Halifax.
Brig	<i>Diligent</i>	Lieut Edmd Dod	Do	Ordered to proceed with the <i>Fowey</i> , to accompany and protect the Fleet of Transports to Halifax.
Storeship	<i>Adventure</i>	" John Hallum	Do	Ordered to accompany the Convoy to Halifax.
Brig	<i>Hope</i>	" Geo. Dawson	Cruizing in Boston	Bay, under the Command of Captain Banks.
Schooner	<i>Tryal</i>	" John Brown	In Nantasket Road	{ Ordered to accompany and protect the Fleet of Transports to Halifax.—
"	<i>Dispatch</i>	" John Goodridge	Do	

	6th	<i>Rose</i>	Capt James Wallace	} At Rhode Island {	Ordered to Halifax to refit.	
	"	<i>Glasgow</i>	" Tyrm Howe		Ordered to the Southd with Dispatches and remain at Virginia	
Sloop		<i>Swan</i>	" Jas Ayscough		} Ordered to Cruize between the Latitudes of 42.00 and 43.20 N and Longitude of St Georges Bank and to be under the Command of Capt Banks at Nantasket.	
Brig		<i>Bolton</i>	Lieut Edwd Sneyd			
	5th	<i>Phoenix</i>	Capt Hyde Parker	} At New York		
	3d	<i>Asia</i>	" Geo: Vandeput			
Sloop		<i>Viper</i>	" Saml Graves, Actg		Supposed to be blown off the Coast when on her passage to New York, and by late Intelligence Arrived at Antigua.	
	5th	<i>Roebuck</i>	" A: S: Hamond	} At Virginia.		
Sloop	6th	<i>Liverpool</i>	" Heny Bellew			
		<i>Otter</i>	" Mattw Squire			
Sloop		<i>Cruizer</i>	Capt Frans Parry	} At North Carolina	Ordd to Boston this Spring by V: A: Graves.	
"		<i>Scorpion</i>	" John Tollemache			
	6	<i>Mercury</i>	" James Montagu			Supposed to be Cruizing off Cape Fear with General Clinton on board and three Transports with Troops under her Convoy -
Sloop		<i>Falcon</i>	" John Linzee		Supposed to be Cruizing off Cape Fear.	
"		<i>Tamer</i>	" Edwd Thornbrough		At South Carolina - Ordered to Boston this Spring By Vice Adml Graves.	
	6th	<i>Scarborough</i>	" Andw Barkley	} Supposed to be at Savannah		
Sloop		<i>Raven</i>	" John Stanhope			
Schooner		<i>St Lawrence</i>	Lt John Graves		At St Augustine. Ordered to Boston this Spring by Vice Adml Graves	
"		<i>Hinchinbrook</i>	" Alexr Ellis		Sailed with the <i>Scarborough</i> to relieve the St Lawrence.	
"		<i>St John</i>	" Willm Grant		At the Bahama Islands.	
Arm'd Ship		<i>Cherokee</i>	" John Ferguson		Supposed to be Surveying the Southern Coast	
Sloop		<i>Merlin</i>	Capt Wm Chair Burnaby	} At Annapolis Royal	} Nova Scotia.	
"		<i>Senegal</i>	" Wm Duddingston			At Liverpool
	5th	<i>Orpheus</i>	" Chas Hudson			} At Halifax refitting
	6	<i>Cerberus</i>	" John Symons			

“DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY’S SHIPS AND VESSELS IN NORTH AMERICA UNDER THE COMMAND OF
 REAR [VICE] ADMIRAL SHULDHAM”¹—Continued

Rate	Ships	Commanders	Disposition
Schooner	<i>Halifax</i>	Lieut Wm Quarme	
	6th <i>Lizard</i>	Capt Wm. Hamilton	} At Quebec.
Sloop	<i>Hunter</i>	“ Thos Mackenzie	
Brig	<i>Gaspee</i>	Lt Willm Hunter	Lieut Hunter and part of the Crew taken Prisoner (by the Rebels) at the Island [sic] St John.

Chatham in Nantasket Road, Boston 22d March 1776.

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

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

- March 1776 Abrest of Gould Island.
- Thursdy 21 A M Weigh'd and came to Sail as did the Squadrn Steering down the River.
Fresh Breezes with Sleet at times at 1 P M abrest the Light House Brot too Join'd *Fortune* T[ende]r at 2 past 3 saw 2 Sail SE. gave Chace at 2 past 4 saw 2 in the S W made the *Glasgow's* Sigl to Chace as did the *Fortune* Tender at 6 Join'd the *Glasgow*, *Hawke* T[ende]r and the Sloop *Sally* David Hawley Master ² from Newhaven with Flax Rye Indian Corn, Flour, Beef and Pork which the *Hawke* had Seiz'd, at 8 lost Sight of the Chace, In 2d Reef T Sails
- Friday 22 A M at 5 All the Squadrn in Sight but the *Fortune* Tr, saw 2 Sail in N W out Reefs &c and gave Chace, at 8 the Et End of Block Island NBW 4 Leagues Bro't too Join'd *Fortune* Tr with the Sloop *Daulphin* Ernt Sheerman Master from Newhaven bound to the Wt Indies with Flour, Pork, Beef, Tallow & Bread ³ at 10 made Sail Steering for Rhode Island Harbour Fresh Breezes and hazy, at 1 P M Steering in for Rhode Island Harbour, came to in 8 fm soft Bottom,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

2. Hawley was held on board the *Glasgow* and was a prisoner in her when she engaged the Continental fleet on April 6, 1776. The sloop *Sally* does not appear on any British prize list.

3. The *Daulphin*, or *Dauphin*, or *Dolphin*, does not appear on any British prize list.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] Friday, 22 March, 1776

Voted, That Eliphalet Dyer and Wm. Williams, Esqrs, be directed to purchase at New York or Philadelphia sufficient quantity of rigging for the Colony ship now building, or procure hemp sufficient to make the same, as shall appear most advantageous for this Colony, and forward the same, if in hemp to Mr. James Tilley at New London, if in rigging to Capt. Uriah Hayden at Saybrook, and give as early advice as possible of their proceedings thereon.

Voted, That Eliphalet Dyer and Wm. Williams, Esqrs, make use of so much of the Colony money that they shall receive at Philadelphia as to pay for the rigging or hemp which they are ordered to purchase for the Colony ship, and also pay what is due to Col. Isaac Sears for sundries he purchased for this Colony, take receipts for what they pay and lodge the same with the Pay-Table and take their order on the Treasurer, to answer so far as they pay in lieu of lodging the money.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 254.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

East Greenwich March 22d 1776

At the Request of the General Assembly now sitting here I make Application to your Excellency for Six seamen taken from the Enemy and now your Prisoners to be exchanged for six Inhabitants of this Colony who were taken and are detained by Capt. Wallace. Four of These Men have Families who are greatly distressed. I send this by Express by Reason of the Danger of Capt. Wallace's being removed from this station and carrying these unfortunate People with him, or if that should not be the Case of his sending them to Britain to the utter Ruin of them and their Families. We have but Two Prisoners in this Colony both Officers and active enterprizing Men whom we should be extremely unwilling to give up.

I beg the Favour of your Excellency to give his Matter the quickest Dispatch and to deliver the seamen to Mr Burr the Bearer to be immediately brought into the Colony.

I am with great Truth and Respect [&c.]

Nich^s Cooke

1. Letters from the Governor, 1768-1777, vol. 2, R. I. Arch.

JOHN CHATFIELD TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Easthampton, March 22d, 1776.

Gent. — This day, about 10 o'clock in the forenoon, our guard stationed at Montauk saw twenty sail of square rigged vessels, (five of them appeared to be large) and two sloops, bearing about SSE from the point of Montauk, about nine or ten miles to sea; the wind SSE; the weather something thick and hazy; steering about NE by N and sailed to the eastward of Block Island, and I suppose, by the course they steered, that they were going into Rhode Island. This, gentlemen, is all the information we can give you concerning them, as at about 1 o'clock they disappeared behind Block Island, and they saw them no more.

As we are a frontier at the east end of Long island, and are destitute of men to defend us, and have but little ammunition, should be very glad if the Hon. House would use their endeavours that we may have some assistance. We are, gent. [&c.]

Signed by order of com. of Easthampton.

John Chatfield, Chairman.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 149.

2. The lookouts saw the British fleet, under Captain James Wallace, returning to Rhode Island; see journal of the *Rose*, this date.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, A.M. March 22d, 1776.

Ordered, That the general committee of the city and county of New-York, or their sub-committee of inspection, be at liberty to permit Mr. Jacobus Van Zandt and Mr. Isaac Sears to export produce of any kind, (horned

cattle, sheep, hogs poultry excepted,) to the amount of value of three hundred and sixty pounds, in part of the value of military stores imported from Amsterdam in the sloop *Sally*, Brown master.

Capt. [Anthony] Rutgers dissents.

Ordered, That Philip Livingston, by his agent, Mr. Abraham Livingston, be permitted to export wheat, flour and other produce of the United Colonies, (horned cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry excepted,) to the amount of twenty thousand dollars, for the service of the United Colonies, pursuant to a permission of the committee of secrecy of the Continental Congress, of the 8th of Jany. last.

Ordered, That Mr. [Barnabas] Dean[e] of the Colony of Connecticut, be permitted to load the brig. *Elizabeth* with wheat and flour, on Continental account, pursuant to an order of the Continental Congress.

Captain Rutgers dissents.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 380.

————— TO RICHARD VASSAL ¹

[Extract]

[New York] March 22d 1776.

It is a certain truth that two french Noblesse were in cog last summer with the Congress. I am afraid something is brewing, that will be like an Explosion. Clem saw in town a few Weeks ago a french Officer, stiff in lace, a white Cockade in his hat, that could not speak a word of English. He had a Negro behind him, bearing his sword, that spoke for him; they came from N.England & were bound to Philadelphia. A few weeks after, he saw another of the same sort moving the same way. We get what Arms & Ammunition we want from france, holland & spain, notwithstanding all the precaution of your Court; We have also a prussian Officer here. A Baron came to offer his service to the Congress, its said from the King of prussia . . . Every Avenue leading from the River into the City of New-York is fortified; in consequence of expected Troops. Genl [Charles] Lee is gone to the southward to meet Genl Clinton (it is remarkable that both these Generals arrived here on one day, &, though it was sabbath, it threw the whole City in such a convulsion as it never knew before, moving away their effects; all that day & all night were the Carts going & Boats loading, & Women & Children crying, & distressed voices heard in the roads in the dead of the night). Clinton came here to pay a short visit to Govr Tryon, & to see how matters stood here; but, to his great surprize, found he could not put his foot on shore, expressed much concern at seeing so much distress on his acct declared his juvenal love for this place brought him here, & was pleased to send for the Mayor, to desire he would acquaint the people, he only came on a Visit, & would go away as soon as he could.

[Copy]

Not signed.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40. An intercepted letter.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, March 22, 1776

A petition from Thorowgood Smith, and others, was presented to Congress, and read, setting forth, that they have procured a vessel, and raised money to fit her out as a privateer, in order to guard and cruize on the coast of Virginia, and praying that a commission be granted to William Shippen, to whom they propose to give the command of said vessel; and that the Congress will grant them a small quantity of powder, upon their making satisfaction for the same:

Resolved, That a commission be granted to William Shippen, as captain of the above mentioned vessel, for the purposes aforesaid.

Resolved, That Captain William Shippen be supplied with three hundred weight of powder by the Secret Committee, he paying for the same.

The committee appointed to prepare a declaration pursuant to certain resolutions,² brought in a draught, which was read³

The Congress took into consideration the declaration brought in by the Committee, and after debate, the further consideration thereof, was at the request of a colony, postponed till to morrow.

Resolved, That the marine committee be empowered to dispose of the coal on board the *Blue Mountain Valley*, in such manner as they shall judge most for the benefit of the United Colonies.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 225, 227.

2. Resolutions of March 19, 1776.

3. The original draft of the declaration on privateering, which differs materially from that finally adopted, reads as follows:

Whereas the british Nation, through great Corruption of Manners, and extream Dissipation and Profusion both private and publick, have found all honest Resources insufficient to supply their excessive Luxury and Prodigality, and thereby have been driven to the practise of every Injustice which Avarice could dictate or rapacity execute, and, whereas, not satisfied with the immense plunder of the East, obtained by sacrificing Millions of the human Species, they have lately turned their Eyes to the West, and gruding us the peaceable enoyment of the Fruits of our hard Labour and virtuous Industry, have for Years past been endeavouring to extort the same from us under Colour of Laws regulating trade; and have thereby actually succeeded in draining us of large sums to our great Loss and detriment, and whereas impatient to seize the whole they have at length proceeded to open Robbery, declaring by a solemn Act of Parliament that all our Estates are theirs and all our Property found upon the Sea divisible among such of their armed plunderers as shall take the same; and have even dared in the same Act to declare that all the Spoilings, Thefts, burnings of Houses and Towns, and murders of innocent People perpetrated by their wicked and inhuman Corsairs on our Coasts, previous to any war declared against us were just Actions, and shall be so deemed, contrary to several of the Commandments of God, which by this Act they presume to repeal, and to all the Principles of Right and all the Ideas of Justice entertained heretofore by every other Nation Savage as well as Civilized thereby manifesting themselves to be *hostes humani generis*: And whereas it is not possible for the People of America to subsist under such continual Ravages without making some Reprisals, therefore –

Franklin Papers, 291, LC.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday 22 March – Wyth reported the Preamble about Privateering, he and [Richard Henry] Lee moved an Amendt wherein the King was made the Author of our Miseries instead of the Ministry, it was opposed on Supposition that this was effectually severing the King from Us forever and ably debated for 4 Hours when Maryland interposed its Veto and put it off till Tomorrow, Chief Speakers for the Amendt Lee, [Samuel] Chase, Serjeant [Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant], [Benjamin] Harrison, against it [John] Jay, [James] Wilson, [Thomas] Johnson . . . Agreed to grant Commissions to Capt Wm Shippen & his Officers who are about to cruize in a Privateer on or out of Chesapeak Bay, agreed also to sell Him £b. 300 of Powder –

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO CHARLES WILLIAM FREDERIC DUMAS ¹

Dear Sir:

Philadelphia, March 22d, 1776.

I wrote to you lately by Mr. [Thomas] Story, and since by another conveyance. This line will be delivered to you by Mr. Deane, who goes over on business of the [Continental] Congress, and with whom you may freely converse on the affairs committed to you in behalf of that body. I recommend him warmly to your civilities. Messrs Vaillant and Pochard ² continue close at their new business, and are already able to subsist by it; as they grow more expert, they will be able to make more money.

Mr. Deane will inform you of every thing here, and I need not add more than that I am [&c.]

B. Franklin

1. Wharton, ed., *Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence*, II, 82.

2. *Ibid.*, 64, French gentlemen "of mere science in *les belles-lettres*," who had arrived in Philadelphia in August or September, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee on Friday 22 March 1776 –

Mr Hugh Young applied to the Committee for the Schooner *Ninety Two*, which he had engaged to load on Accot of the Province, but as they are of Opinion, that it is necessary to keep her to have her sunk in case of Need, they think it inexpedient to deliver her up –

The Council of Safety having directed this Committee to prove the Cannon belonging to Capt William Stone, they appoint Capt Nathaniel Smith, Capt John Fulford, & Lieutenant Bouchier [John Thomas Boucher] to perform that Service, and return an Account of their Number & Sizes to this Committee

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO JOHN PRINGLE, PHILADELPHIA ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore March] 22d

. . . we are geting more prepared for our Enemies (if the[y] Come) every day and we doubt not if they give us a Little time that we shall give them a warm Reseption – this day we Got permission to bring up Your brig to prepare her for her Cargo, on our Promis to send her down when Ordered she & two others are not to be sunk till there is Real Danger and we hope by the time she is Ready to take in, that our boom will be Redy, & prevent the Sinking any more than what is allready done and we hope Ere long we shall begin to Load her . . .

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Friday 22d March 1776.

Ordered That the Treasurer of the Western Shore pay to Silas Howell, Wm Sellars and John Wilson (whose Vessel was taken from them in Chesapeake Bay by the *Otter* Sloop of War) thirty Shillings each to defray their Expences to Philadelphia.

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE CALVERT COUNTY COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION ¹

[Extract] No 75

Gentn

As it was thought by the last Convention that 50 Regular Troops would be sufficient to watch the Movements of the Ships of War and their Tenders on your Coast, and to repel any sudden Attack or Invasion which might be attempted by small Parties, and as we do not conceive your Situation more dangerous now, than it was then, so we cannot think ourselves at Liberty to station an additional Number of Men in your County –² We wish to prevent the Militia's being harassed, and apprehend when Captn [Reason] Beall arrives at his Station, which we imagine will be by the last of next Week, there will not be any Occasion for them to move, unless a more formidable Force should come up the Bay, than has yet appeared, which we have no Reason to expect for some Time, under which Circumstance the Number you speak of would not avail, and the Militia would be under a Necessity of taking the Field.

[Annapolis] 22 March 1776

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

2. On March 18 the Calvert County Committee had requested an additional 30 men. Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 261.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Friday, 22nd March, 1776.

Ordered that the Comm'ee of Prince Wm. be wrote to, that the Comm'ee will take their powder and lead, and direct that they will deliver so much thereof to the order of Colo. George Mason and Mr. John Dalton, as they shall judge necessary for the naval department in Potomack, and the residue to Colo. [Hugh] Mercer for the use of the 3rd Regiment.

John Allison is appointed Captain, William Payne, jun'r, First Lieutenant, and James Moody, Second Lieutenant of Marines for the cruiser employed in Potomack River called the *American Congress*.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 133.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1776

Williamsburg, March 22.

It is an undoubted fact, that between 8 and 9000wt. of gunpowder is just brought into this colony, from one of the French islands, with a number of fieldpieces, four and six-pounders, some muskets, &c. Several French gentlemen likewise came in the vessel, one of whom, shortly after their arrival set out for Philadelphia.

While a couple of tenders were on their way up James river, last Thursday night [March 14] which was very dark and stormy, one of them got fast aground below Jamestown, within a small distance of the shore, and the crew, finding it impracticable to get her off, stayed on board till next morning, when all hands left her, and rowed to the other tender, leaving behind a number of cannon balls, a quantity of salt, some sailors clothes, &c. They then proceeded up to a plantation of mr. Harrison's of Brandon, from whence they stole eight steers out of a cart, and twelve lean cows, which they slaughtered and took with them, for the use of lord Dunmore's hungry fleet and army, robbing the overseer likewise of all his household goods, stripping the negro cabins, and carried with them, by force, two valuable negro men, as recruits, we suppose, for the *Royal Regiment of Black Fusileers*.

About ten days ago, a sloop bound from Hispaniola to Philadelphia, the property of mr. Beveridge, merchant in that city, and commanded by capt. Forrester, was taken in the bay by a tender belonging to the *Roebuck* man of war, and one Rogers, a midshipman, with five seamen, were put on board to conduct her to Norfolk; at the same time taking out all the hands, except the mate and a boy. In her voyage thither, one of the casks of wine in the hold becoming leaky by some accident, the midshipman and his party went down to stop the leak, when the mate and boy, with great address, shut down the hatches and secured the prisoners, and then pushed to the Eastern Shore with the vessel and cargo, the latter worth at least 4000£ sterling. Captain Hammond, on hearing of this affair, ordered capt. Forrester, who was on board the *Roebuck*, up to the prison ship at Norfolk, in a pilot boat, under the escort of a midshipman and six hands; but the vessel running aground on an oyster bank, two miles below lord Dunmore's ship,

the midshipman ordered one of the seamen into a canoe to do something for the relief of the vessel, when capt. Forrester seized the opportunity, and, leaped into the canoe, cut the painter with a jack-leg knife, on which she swung off with the tide; then turning to the seaman, swore he would cut his throat if he offered to obstruct him in his escape. This menace quieted the fellow till capt. Forrester had paddled about 100 yards, when, finding his escape practicable, he pulled with all his might, and both got safely ashore, amidst a cloud of curses and imprecations from the midshipman and sailors. The captain, and his comrade whom he had taken, have gone to Accomack, to look after the vessel, and to dispose of the cargo to the best advantage.

Capt. Forrester informs, that the *Kingfisher* is gone round to Boston, to bring a number of ships of war up Delaware river, to prevent the Philadelphians from making any farther preparations for the defence of their city; it being determined upon, it seems, that the grand attack shall be made upon Philadelphia, as soon as the fleet and troops arrive from England, but we hope will prove equally abortive with the rest of the cursed ministerial schemes to enslave America.

The *Otter* sloop of war, and two tenders, which have been lying at the mouth of Patuxent, and cruising in the bay, for some time past, took several prizes, and burnt a shallop loaded with oats; and, their audacity increasing with their successful piracy, capt. Squire took it into his head to go up to Baltimore, with the tenders and prizes, with the view, it was supposed, to take or destroy the *Defence* privateer which had been fitting out at that place. Capt Nicholson, however, the commander, having got intelligence of his design, immediately got his *Defence* ready, manned with a number of brave Hearts of Oak, and towed down the river, to give battle to the *Otter*, several small vessels attending, crowded with men, to lend their assistance, if it should be wanted. Upon being discovered bearing down by the tenders, they pushed off with precipitation, abandoning three or four small prize vessels, with a large ship they had taken loaded with wheat and flour, commanded by one [Jonathan] Hudson. The *Defence* having manned the prize, and seeing the *Otter* get under way, clued up her courses and prepared for battle, expecting her to come up; but the *Otter* having lain about two hours, as if wanting capt. Nicholson to come down, at length bore away, and in the afternoon came to anchor off Annapolis. Capt. Nicholson continued his station some time; and, having performed this gallant action, returned with the prizes to Baltimore.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Hinchinbrook*, LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER ELLIS ¹

March

At an Anchor in Hampton Road Virginia

Friday 22 At 11 A M saw a Sloop towing towards Hampton Harbour; fired a Shot & sent the *Edward* Tender after her. At noon the *Edward* set her on fire.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[Charleston] Friday, March 22, 1776.

Resolved, That Col. [George Gabriel] Powell, Col. [Thomas] Fuller, Mr. [Aaron] Loocock, Capt. [Thomas] Shubrick, Dr. [David] Oliphant, Mr. [Daniel] Cannon, and Mr. [James] Brown, be, and they are hereby appointed Commissioners, for laying forthwith such obstructions to the navigation of the channels over Charles-Town bar and in the harbour, as they shall judge necessary to prevent the passage of ships of war. And that the Council of Safety do give every assistance to the said Commissioners, and cause the necessary sums of money to be advanced, for the carrying on this service.

Read a letter, received last night from the Council of Safety of Georgia, dated 16th instant, with the sundry papers therein referred to, viz.

No. 1. Two letters from Messrs. Demeré and Roberts to Col. M'Intosh, dated on board the *Charming Nancy*, 3d and 4th March – Col. McIntosh's answer – Letter from Messrs. Demeré and Roberts, 4th March.

No. 2. Letter from Col. McIntosh to Messrs. Demeré and Roberts – Letter from Capt. Barclay and Major Grant, dated on board the *Hinchinbrook*, 6th March – Col. McIntosh's letter to them, 5th March – Letter from Mr. Demeré to Col. McIntosh, dated *Hinchinbrook*, 6th March.

No. 3. Letter from the Council of Safety in Georgia, to Capt. Barclay and Major Grant, dated Savannah, 7th March – Letter from Capt. Barclay and Major Grant to Anthony Stokes, Esq.; dated on board the *Scarborough*, 14th March.

No. 4. Letter from the Council of Safety for Georgia, to Capt. Barclay and Major Grant, dated Savannah, 16th March –

Copy of an intercepted letter from James Taylor, dated on board the *Christie*, at Cockspur, 14th March, to Mr. George Houstoun – Copies of other intercepted letters, viz. from John Simpson in London, dated 23d December, 1775, to Mr. George Houstoun; from Robert Grant and Comp. in London, to the same, of same date; with an extract of a contract with the Commissioners of the Victualling-Office; from Roger Kelsall in London, dated 5th December, 1773; and from the same, dated 22d December, to Kelsall and Spalding at Sunbury.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 92, 93.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Hinchinbrook*, LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER ELLIS¹

March 76

Tebea [Tybee] So 57 Wt Distance 29 Leagues

Thursday 21

at 2 AM handed the Topsail Reefed the Main sail at 9 saw
4 Sail to the West and hauld up to Speak them they prov'd
to be 4 Rebel Privateers,² bore away and made sail the Privateers
in Chase of us at 12 the Privateers Still in Chase
Light Airs with a heavy swell the Privateers in Chase of us
at 5 P M lost a logg & three lines at 6 a Privateer Brig fired

Several Shot at us at 11 P M the Privateer Brig hail'd us
 bore away
 Fridy 22 At 1 A M Lost sight of the privatr hove too with the Main
 Topsail to the mast at 6 A M Saw the land from NoW to
 SW off shore 7 miles hauld to the Wind at 8 Do Port Royal
 WbN 8 mile Tkd

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4219.
2. This encounter was probably with the South Carolina armed brig *Comet*, Captain Turpin. That there were four privateers in company is doubtful, the other vessels probably were merchantmen under convoy.

A DECLARATION OF THE MASTERS OF THE MERCHANT SHIPS LIBERATED
 AT SAVANNAH ¹

(Copy)

Province of Georgia North America

We the Masters of the Undermentioned Ships and Vessels do declare and attest that about November last We had permission to load our ships and Vessels with Rice and other Commodities for Great Britain, at the Port of Savannah in Georgia, and having taken our Cargoes on board accordingly, we were stoped on the fifteenth day of December following by orders of the Council of Safety and detained by them at Savannah, and that We were at great loss and a heavy Expence of Seamens Wages and Victuals, in keeping them On board, which if we had not done they would have gone and Joined the Rebels, who offered them three pounds a Month. That upon the Arrival of the King's Ships in Savannah River, several of us applyed to Captain [Andrew] Barkley Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Scarborough*, and to Major [James] Grant Commanding officer of the Kings Troops, for protection, who assured us, We shoud have every protection in their power and further say that Captain Barkley and Major Grant having got up to the Town of Savannah with several Armed Vessels and a Body of Troops – We were desired by the above Gentlemen to get our Vessels ready to sail up the Back River under Cover of His Majesty's Armed Vessels, as the Rebels had shut up the other Ship Channel both by Sinking a Hulk in it and erecting a Battery upon the Bluff – and that we were obliged in order to proceed under Cover of the said Armed Vessels to bring our Ships and Vessels to the draught of between Nine and Ten feet which obliged many of us to throw over board a Quantity of Rice, and we are of opinion and firmly believe that our ships and Vessels have been saved by the interposition of His Majesty's Ships and Troops under the Command of Captain Barkley and Major Grant as they must otherwise have been detained or destroyed by the Rebels then assembled in Arms in Savannah, as they repeatedly ordered us to unreeve our rigging unbend our sails, and unhang our Rothers[rudders].

And when the Kings Troops had got on board our Ships an Officer came from the Shore and declared if we did not immediately begin and Unbend our sails we should be destroyed, which Officer was taken Prisoner.

To the truth of the Above We have hereunto Set our hands on board His Majesty's Ship *Scarboroughh* in Savanah River this 22d March 1776.

Tho ^s Glenders	And ^w Lee
Tho ^s Walker	Geo. Craik
R ^t King	W ^m Pinkerton
Jn ^o Alexander	Rich ^d Chapman
Jn ^o Wallace	

(Signed) And^w Barkley

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

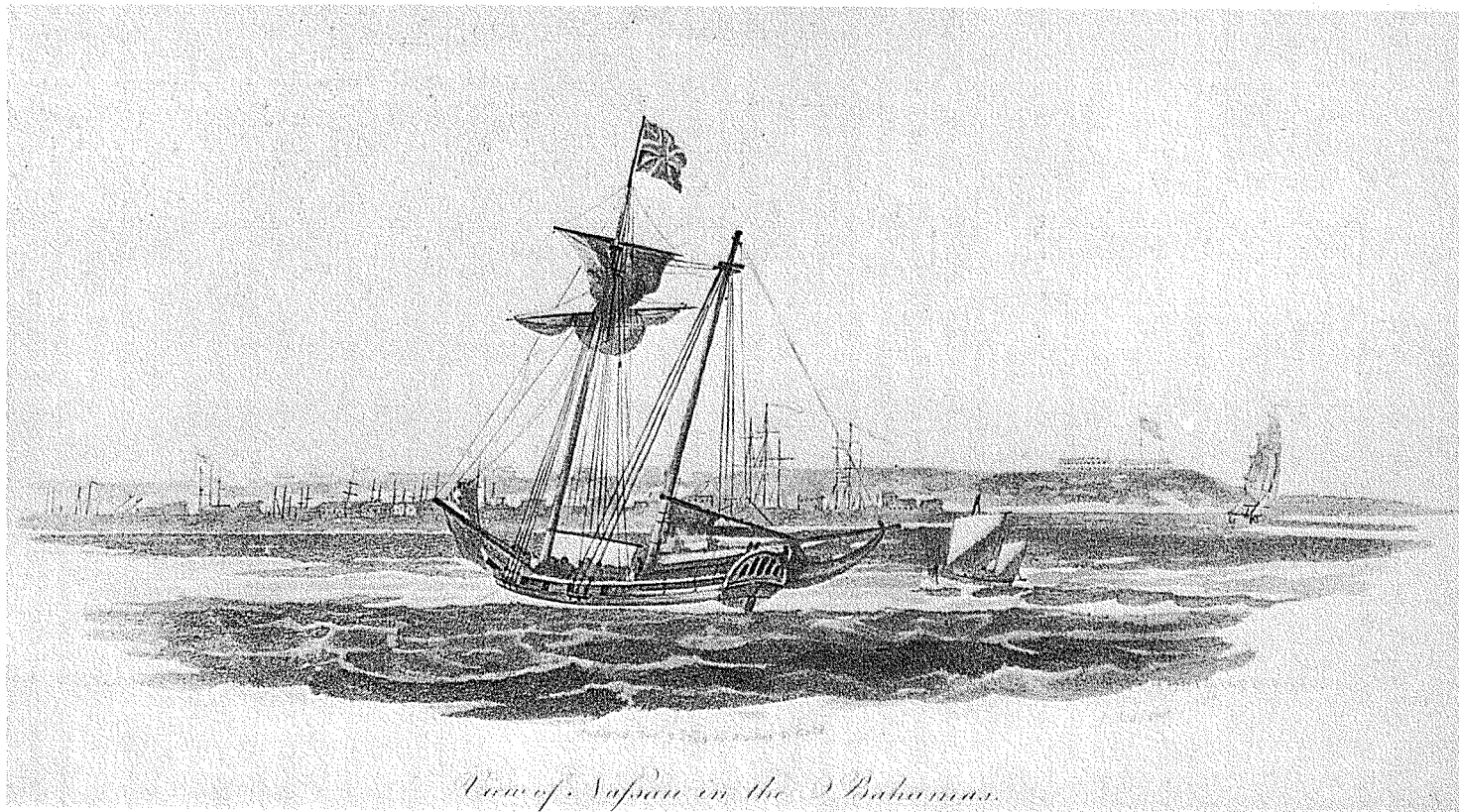
JOHN BROWN TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

Bahama Island, New Providence
22nd March 1776

Sir

The present distressed and defenceless State of His Majesty's Bahama Islands occasioned by the arrival of an Armament fitted out by the American Colonies now in open and declared Rebellion, makes me take this earliest opportunity by Express to acquaint you of what has lately happened here, and to request your Assistance.

You must know then, Sir, that early on Sunday Morning of the third Instant a Ship, afterwards found to be mounted with thirty two Guns, One of thirty Guns, two Brigantines mounted with sixteen Guns each; a Sloop of fourteen Guns, a Schooner of Six, and two other Sloops appeared a little to windward of the Bar of the Harbour of New Providence; and as it was doubtful what their designs were His Excellency Governor Browne, expecting they wou'd come into the Harbour, order'd the Country to be alarmed & assembled the greatest part of the Militia, the only Force here (the Company of His Majesty's 14th Regiment which had done duty here having been some time ago withdrawn to the Continent) into Fort Nassau, at the West Entrance of the Port, in order to defend the Passage over the Bar, and a Sloop was immediately sent out to discover, if possible, who they were but to no purpose; and when it was thought they wou'd come into the Harbour they suddenly tacked and stood towards the East, and the Ships and Brigantines being anchored at a place called Hanover Sound, about three Leagues from hence, the Sloops and Schooner proceeded to the east end of this Island, where, before the Militia of Fort Nassau, who were dispatched to the Eastward to reinforce a small party posted in Fort Montagu at the other entrance of the Harbour, with design to oppose the landing of any Troops, cou'd reach the place where they were anchored, they debarqued to the number of about three hundred Men, and the Militia finding themselves too weak to make any opposition were forced to return to Fort Montagu, where the Governor then was, and as it was thought most adviseable to retreat to Fort Nassau, which was the most defensible and where the Powder (except a few Barrels) was lodged, the Governor & Militia return'd then accordingly (after having spiked the Cannon & removed the Powder of Fort Montagu) with design to defend the same. soon after the Governor sent an Officer of



View of Sloop in the Bahamas.

the Militia to demand of the commanding Officer of those Troops which were landed who they were and what their intentions were in coming hither, who received for Answer they were sent by the Congress of the United Colonies, in order to possess themselves of the Powder and Stores belonging to His Majesty. Sometime after this a paper was handed about amongst the People to the Eastward of the Town, signed by one Esek Hopkins, the Commander in Chief of the Fleet & Forces, in which he promised security of Persons & Property to such as wou'd not oppose his designs ² which induced several of the Inhabitants to refuse coming to defend the Fort & others to Join the Rebels. Early in the Afternoon the Enemy to[ok] possession of Fort Montagu where they remained until the next Morning; in the mean time a Spirit of Disaffection shewed itself amongst the Inhabitants many of them declaring that they wou'd not fight against the Americans in consequence of which they deserted the Fort in great numbers, so that by ten oClock in the Evening there were not in the fort more than one hundred Men, the Governor Council Militia Officers & even Slaves included; the Governor then called a Council of War consisting of the Council Militia Officers & some of the principal Inhabitants the Majority of whom were of Opinion that the Fort in its then State was not defensible by the few that then remain'd in it; soon after this he advised with his Majesty's Council respecting the sending off the Powder in order to prevent its falling into the hands of the Rebels, which was resolved on & accordingly Shipped for St Augustine to His Excellency Governor Tonym & at day break the Governor, Council & Officers finding themselves almost entirely deserted, were at last obliged to leave the Fort; soon after which the Rebels entered the same & sent a party to the Government House, which took the Governor as their Prisoner. The next day the large Vessels came into the Harbour and took all the Cannon Morters & Stores &ca belonging to His Majesty in the Forts, on board, and sailed from hence on Saturday last [March 16] carrying with them as Prisoners His Excellency Governor Browne Lieut [James] Babbidge on half Pay & one Mr [Thomas] Irving late belonging to the American Board of Customs, leaving us Altogether defenceless. It is not known where this Force is gone, it is probable that after being joined by a Ship, Brigantine and Sloop, the Maryland part of their Fleet, which was seperated from them, as they say in a Gale off Abacoa, in their way thither they may attempt St Augustine.

After this detail I must now, Sir, beg leave to observe to you, that altho this armament left the place without doing any Injury to private Property, it was much, as I am told, against the inclinations of some of the leading Officers amongst them, who were of such a Stamp as to be capable of comitting any kind of Mischief, and wou'd probably have done much had they not been prevented, more by their Commanders perswasions than Authority over them: by this you will be able to see the precarious and defenceless situation His Majesty's Servants and the well affected part of the Inhabitants will be in shou'd they be hereafter revisited by the Rebels, under a Commander of less humanity & influence, which may be expected, as at the departure of this Fleet it was declared some part shou'd return soon.

This being our Case, I have, with the advice of His Majesty's Council, dispatch'd the Schooner *Polly* of this place, whereof William Newton is Master, to request that you wou'd afford what assistance you can to prevent His Majesty's Bahama Islands from again falling into the hands of the Rebels who probably may endeavour to make them a place of Rendezvous for their Ships, which will entirely ruin the people and Trade of this Government.

You'l give me leave to request that if you shou'd have an opportunity soon of informing His Majestys Ministers of what has happened here, and the present condition of this place you will, as I shall not be able, for some time to come. I am &c

John Brown –

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 71c. A copy is in PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. See Hopkins' Manifesto, March 3, 1776.

THOMAS ATWOOD TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

Atwood [New Providence] March 22 1776

My Lord In obedience to, and at the request of, His Excellency Governor Browne, I with all due Deference presume to transmit to your Lordship a brief Account of the late unfortunate Event that has happen'd here: But previous thereto, I conceive it necessary to acquaint your Lordship, That in the Month of [July] last His Majesty's Ship *Falcon* and two Transports were sent here by Order of General Gage to take from Us the Cannon, Powder, Shot, and other Stores out of our Forts Nassau and Montague, Which the President, in the Absence of his Excellency, with the Advice of Council and at the Intercession of the Inhabitants of this Island, thought fit to decline sending them away at that Juncture for the Reasons assigned in their Memorial for that purpose Notwithstanding We had then no Regulars to defend Us and since when the Militia has constantly mounted Guard at each Fort for the Protection thereof, and whereby We thought Ourselves secure with our own internal Strength and Defence, But Fate has proved the contrary – For on Sunday the 3d instant there appeared off this Island early in the Morning Two Ships, Two Briggs a Sloop and a Schooner – His Excellency in Consequence ordered three Guns to be fired at Fort Nassau as an Alarm for the Militia to turn out, and then summoned his Council to attend him at the Fort, That before the Council met, The Major of the Militia had dispatched a Detachment of Thirty Men up to Fort Montague, (two Miles distance from Fort Nassau) which was soon afterwards followed by a like Detachment, But few of either Party were furnished with more than common Fowling Pieces; That at this time His Excellency gave the necessary Directions in Fort Nassau for the proper Defence of the same And having received Intelligence that the Rebels had landed part of their Troops at a Place called the Creek to the Eastward of Fort Montague, He then marched himself with a third Detachment consisting of about Eighty Men in order further to succour the other Fort That before His Excellency had reached the same Lieutenants Burke and Judkin had been dispatched from Fort Montague with a Party of thirty Men to reconnoitre and if possible to prevent

their Landing but which they had effected to the Number of about 250 Men and several Boats being clearly seen near the Store His Excellency thought fit to order another Detachment of 40 Men commanded by a Captain Lieutenant and Ensign to support the former Detachment who soon returned without accomplishing the purpose intended As the other Party was then upon the Retreat, Upon which His Excellency ordered three Guns to be fired on the Enemy which did no Execution, And therefore it was thot adviseable to march back what Force he then had to Fort Nassau His Excellency first ordering the Guns to be spiked up, and Lieutenant Burke to wait on the Commanding Officer of the Enemy to know his Errand and on what Account he had landed his Troops, Who returned for Answer, He was come for the King's Stores and Gunpowder in our Forts and wod have them. Now my Lord from this sudden and unexpected Attack it was almost impossible to collect together a Force equal to the Report made of the Numbers of the Rebels, But in order to obtain every Assistance His Excellency issued his Proclamation by beat of Drum offering a Reward of a Pistole to every free Negroe and others that wod immediately enter the Fort properly armed, and further to prevent the Enemy from gaining the Advantageous Post at the Government [House] He sent a Detachment of 40 Men under the Command of Captain Thomas Hodgson (altho' not then an Officer in the Service) and Ensign Barrett to protect the same, (As that Eminence shod the Enemy have got any Cannon mounted thereon wod greatly have annoy'd Fort Nassau)], Which being done, and the Rebels having got Possession of Fort Montague, and their Comander having by Lieutenant Burke sent Word He shod see the Governor in the Morning His Excellency about 8 oclock in the evening called a Council of War at Which assisted the Council, Militia Officers, and several of the Principal Inhabitants, to know whether from the Force the Rebels were supposed to be, and the Condition Fort Nassau was then found to be in, with what Strength was then in the Fort It was defensible or not? To which Question only Ten were of Opinion it was defensible, and Fourteen that it was not; And therefore in Consequence His Excellency with the Advice of his Council got about 160 Barrels of the Gun Powder removed out of the Fort (the whole not exceeding 182 Barrels some time before) and imediately sent off to [St.] Augustine in a Sloop belonging to one Captain Willm Chambers, A Man truely attach'd to Government and Active upon this Occasion; His Majesty's arm'd Sloop the *St. John* not being in any Condition fit for Service altho' commanded by Lieutenant [William] Grant whom His Excellency directed to putt to Sea to prevent his Vessell falling into the Hands of the Enemy, and whereby he might be enabled to give Intelligence of their Proceedings In Case he met with any of his Majestys' Ships of War – The next Matter that ensued and in which His Excellency took the Opinion of his Council was; Whether, from the Determination of the Council of War it was not advisable in our defenceless Condition and the Powder being ship'd, off. Which Circumstance alone almost instantaneously produced a Desertion of three fourths of the Men and Negroes, It wod not be proper to have the Assistance of the Detachment

then doing Duty at the Government House for the ultimate Protection of the Fort, which being approv'd of, His Excellency himself went from thence and soon returned with that Succour, But they not conceiving themselves a suffict Force for that purpose, sollicitated that they might not remain, the rest having left the Fort; Whereupon it was then thought most advisable to evacuate the Fort instead of being made Prisoners to the Enemy, But His Excellency dissented therefrom and said He was not willing to leave the Fort while any One wou'd stand by him And certain I am My Lord That this whole Affair has been brought upon Us by the Treachery of some few Individuals, and that the Americans wou'd never have thought this Enterprize worthy of their Notice, Had they not been apprized of our unguarded Situation, and invited here for this purpose by the Enemy's of Government – But the Result has proved too successfull to the Rebels – For they have not only dismantled our Forts and possessed themselves of every serviceable Part of the Cannon, Shot, and Stores, but have also forcibly taken from Us His Excellency the Governor after confining him to his House some few Days under a Guard of an Officer and 40 of the Rebel Army, and then Dragging him by Violence on Board one of their Ships mounting 32 Guns called the *Alfred* In which Ezek Hopkins is stiled the Comodore and Commander in Chief, where He remained four Days previous to their sailing from hence, Which was on Saturday the 16th instant in Company with Lieutenant [James] Babbidge and Mr.[Thomas] Irving whom they made Prisoners imediately upon their Arrival here from Pensacola One by being an Officer (tho' upon half Pay only) and the other as Receiver General of South Caroline – There are several other Matters His Excellency directed Me previous to his Departure to acquaint your Lordship, respecting singular Proceedings here, But the short Notice I received even to communicate to your Lordship the foregoing I hope will in part apologize for any incorrectness therein and be excused by My Lord Your Lordship's [&c.]

Tho. Atwood

New Providence
22d March 1776

[Enclosure]

A List of the Armament, Etc.

	Capn. names	Guns	Men & Marines	
Frigate <i>Alfred</i>	Saltinsel	32	300	
Do <i>Columbus</i>	Wipple	32	250	swivels
Brig <i>Cabott</i>	Hopkins	16	200	16
Do <i>Andrew Doria</i>	Biddle	16	180	16
Schooner <i>Wasp</i>	Hallock	8	60	10
Sloop <i>Fly</i>	Hacker	14 ²	100	14
Do <i>Providence</i>	Hazard ³	12	80	14
		<hr/> 130	<hr/> 1170	<hr/> 70

N. B. The two Frigates were two Deckers mounted 9s on her lower Deck and double fortified 4rs on her upper.

1. *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, XLIX, 361-66.
2. The *Fly* mounted four guns and had twenty-nine men when she sailed with the fleet from the Delaware, not 14 guns and 100 men. The total of 1170 men in the fleet is also incorrect.
3. The seven captains listed were Dudley Saltonstall, Abraham Whipple, John Burroughs Hopkins, Nicholas Biddle, William Hallock, Hoysteed Hacker and John Hazard.

INVOICE OF GOODS FOR VIRGINIA ON BOARD THE SLOOP *Dolphin*¹

Invoice of Sundry Goods Ship't by Abraham Vanbibber on board the Sloop *Dolphin* [blank] Smith Master bound for Virginia on the proper Account & risque of said Colony and Consign'd to the Care of Mr. John Dixon Merchant on board:-

Bought of Hendrick Pondt			
NBN 1 is a Chest Contg 100 ps Common Stripes @ 4 pr		£400	
2,3,& 4 is Bales Contg 20 ps French Ruans @ 27½ pr		550	
5 & 6 is do Contg 25 ps Oznabrigs 1804 Greek or 3157 dutch Ells @ 7 ste		460.3.1	
7 is a Chest Contg 100 ps Red & Yellow Stripe @ 4¼ pr		425	
N8 a Box	}	Contains 126 Small Blankets @ 12 Reals	
9 a Package			
10 a Do			
11 & 12 is 2 Bales Contg 20 ps Russa Duck @ 12½ pr		125	
13 is a Bale Contg 4 ps Flemish Linnen	}	250	
N. 464, 104 Ells N. 460. 150 do N. 461.		115.3.1	
82 do N. 459. 96 do is 382 Ells @ 14½ & N. 2 Chests for Goods		2.6	
	Rs 2517.4.2	755.5.3	
Bought of Gebroedes Mendis Vizt			
14,15 & 16 are 3 Bales Contg 20 bundles each is 60 bundles twin @ 3 pr		180.--	
12 Ells of crudes to pack it in		1.4	
Negro hire		2	
	181.6	54.10.6	
Bought of Demoulin & Co			
17 a Chest Contg 90 Cutlasses @ 1 pr		90	27
Carried Over			£ 836.15.9

Brought forward & Invoice Continued		£ 836.15.9
Bought of J & M Dykers Vizt.—		
37 ps Ozabrigs Contg 52723 Ells	@ 65 Ste P658.—.5	
75 ps Hollands Duck	@ 16½ ps 1237.4.—	
61 do Ravens Do	@ 13 do 793	
	2689.4.5	806.17.7½
20 ps Russia Drab	@ 9½ 190	57.
paid Portorage & Common hire		1.13.—
		£ 1702..6.4½
Commission on Amt of Invoice a 5 PC		85..2.3¾
		1787..8.8¼
Add advance 10 PC		178.14.10¼
		£ 1966..3..6½

St. Eustatius March 22d 1776

Errors Excepted

Abm. Van Bibber

Recd March 23d 1776 the above Contents, on Acct & risque of the Colony of Virginia on board the sloop *Dolphin* & to be delivered, if not lost by Capture, seizure or any other unforeseen accident, to the said Colony, they paying freight for the same One Hundred & Sixty Dollars

John Dixon, jr.

1. Sloop *Dolphin* Papers, VSL.

23 Mar.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Senegal*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON ¹

March 1776 Moored as before [Herring Cove, Nova Scotia]
 Saturday 23 A M anchored here a Schooner from yarmouth P M found the
 Schooner to be Rebel Property, took out their men & put some
 of ours on board.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

2. *Ibid.*, the prize was sent to Halifax on March 30. She was the *Ebenezer*, John Clemons, master, and John Pedrick, owner, bound from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, for Liverpool, Nova Scotia, with wood, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO Admiralty 1/484.

JOHN LANGDON TO WAGONMASTER LIBBEY ¹

Mr. Libbey—

Portsmouth Marcch 23rd 1776

You having the Command and Charge of the Waggons with the Continental Powder; are to proceed to Head Quarters at Cambridge, or Boston, and there deliver your Powder, to the quarter Master General, or any other Officer who shall be Appointed by General Washington to receive it, takeing Receipt thereof— You'll use your utmost Care in Guarding of the same, by

Night as well as day, being provided therefor, take great Care that its not wet, when you've dlv'd your Powder, you must apply to Mr [Thomas] Cushing at Watertown, or Dedham for a Sum of Money which is Lodged in his Hands, for me for the use of the Continent after getting the same give a Receipt therefor, to be dlv'd me for said use – If Mr.Cushing will spare some Hemp you may load back the teams, with Hemp for this Place for the use of the Continent, with as much as they can bring, for which Mr.Cushing may take his Pay out of the Money, if not I will pay him P Post. –Enquire of Capt [John] Bradford, if at Newbury, where the Hemp, of Mr.Cushing's is, and what P Ton. – Endeavour to find out if any large Anchors, to be had abt 30 Ct. Weight –

In behalf of the
Continent –

Your [&c.]
John Langdon

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

COLONEL THOMAS MIFFLIN TO JOSHUA HUNTINGTON, NORWICH MERCHANT ¹

Dr Sir

Cambridge 23d March 1776

All the Vessels must have two weeks wood & water on board. Those which are in Connecticut River are to fall down to Seabrook and remain there until the Troops arrive. The Vessels which carry the first Detachment must be ordered back to New London as soon as possible & to be got ready for the second Embarkation. Cap Francis has Money to defray the Expençe of Embarkation. If any thing material occurs pray send me an Account of it by express. I am Sir [&c.]

Tho Miffin Q M G

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, XX, 276.

COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir

Cambridge 23d March 1776

Your request for Six Seamen taken from the enemy, to be exchanged for Six inhabitants taken & detained by Captain Wallace, is now complied with, tho realy Contrary to a Resolve of Congress past the 30th Novemr which mentions that Citizen should be exchanged for Citizen Officer for Officer, of equal rank, & Soldier for Soldier, the Seamen go under the Care of Mr Burr, I have the honor to be Sir Your Most H. Sert
By His Excellency's Command

Stephen Moylan Ade

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 310.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES ¹

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives.

The Secretary will, herewith, lay before you, two letters from the Committee of Newbury port, one dated 24th Feby last, & the other the 18th Instant,

wherein you will observe, that the Order of Court of the 8th of February last, relative to the fixing for the Sea, and maning with fifty men each, the Sloop *Machias Liberty*, & the Schooner *Diligent*, hath not been fully executed; that it is not in the power of said Committee to do it, and that if said Vessels are maned it must be from the Eastern part of this Colony – Considering the danger that would attend the Suffering Sd Vessels to leave the harbour, in which they now are, with so few men, as are inlisted to serve on board, which are a Number little more than sufficient to sail them – The great delay it would cause to attempt recruiting, and marching men the distance of two hundred Miles at this Season of the Year –

That the present appearance of our Affairs are materially different from what they were, when said Order of Court was made – And that there is good reason to believe, that one, if not both, said Vessels are unfit in their Construction for the Service, for which they are designed – The Council thought it their duty, to lay this matter before you, & recommend it to your Immediate Consideration.

Council Chamber
March 23d, 1776.

G Palmer	W Severs
Michael Farley	W Spooner
Moses Gill	J Cushing
John Taylor	Jedh Foster
B White	Eldad Taylor
Jabez Fisher	James Prescott
B Lincoln	Chas Chauncy S Holten

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 298.

MAJOR JOSEPH WARD TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Boston 23 March 1776

Sir The 17th Inst the Pirates all abandoned their Works in Boston & Charlestown & went on board their Ships, & on the 20th they burnt & destroyed the Works on Castle Island. They now lye in Nantasket Road waiting for a fair wind; we keep a vigilant eye over them lest they should make an attack on some unexpected quarter. The particulars with regard to the Seige, the Stores taken, &c. you will receive from better authority, therefore it is unnecessary for me to mention them. Our Troops behaved well, and I think the flight of the British Fleet & Army before the American Arms, must have a happy & very important effect upon the great Cause we engaged in, and greatly facilitate our future operations. I wish it may stimulate the Congress to form an American Government immediately. If, after all our exertions & successes, while Providence offers us Freedom & Independence, we should receive the glo[illegible] foot of George to rule here again – what will posterity, what will the wise & Virtuous through [illegible] World say of us? – Will they not say, (and justly[]) that we were fools who had an inestimable pr[ize] put into our hands but had no heart to improve it! – Heaven seems now to offer us the glorious privilege, the bright preeminence ab[ove]

all other people, of being the Guardians of the Rights of Mankind & the Patrons of the World . . .

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

GEORGE GILLESPIE TO DR. GILLESPIE, AYR, SCOTLAND ¹

Copy./

Nantasket Road March 23. 1776.

The whole Army which lately occupied Boston is now embarked, & lying at the Mouth of the Harbour, it is said we go to Halifax to wait for the Reinforcement from Home, what then will be done, God knows.

On the 2d of this Month the Rebels began to bombard & cannonade us in the Town of Boston, they threw Shells & Shot for three succeeding Nights into the Town, without doing much Execution, only wounded four Soldiers & a Baker's Boy, two of the former are since dead, this they did to amuse us while they took Possession of & strongly fortified the Heights of Dorchester, in one Night they raised two very strong Works, which if finished totally commanded the Town. Genl How embarked part of the Troops & made them fall down the Harbour to attack them opposite Castle William, while another Party in flat bottomed Boats were to have attacked on the other Flank commanded by the Gneral in Person, this was to have been on the 5th, but a violent Gale of Wind prevented the Troops landing, it continued about 24 Hours, when it ceased, their Works were so far advanced that the Attack was given up, They had at least 10000 Men on these Hills, which 3000. were to have attacked, it must have been a very bloody Affair, and if successful would probably have dispersed their Army, I have no doubt it would, as there was not a Shot to have been fired but from the Artillery till you got into their Works, the Men were not allowed to load, but depend entirely on their Bayonets. The Onset was to have been in the Night, our not being loaded would have prevented any Confusion among our own Men from irregular Firing, & if they got in with their Bayonets the Carnage must have been very great.

The Elements having frustrated this Attempt it was not possible to stay in Boston without having our Men destroyed Piecemeal, while they could very little annoy the Enemy. We embarked the 17th without the Loss of a Man, the Rebels not daring to stir out of their Works, nor attempt coming into Town for sometime after we left it. It was a beautiful Sight to see an Army of about 7000. Men embark in the face of one of 60000. without being molested, if they had fired a Shot the Town would have been burnt.

By a Cruiser come in Yesterday from the Southward it is said the Rebels have destroyed their Towns on the Coast & drove their Cattle up the Country (this is hearsay).

George Gillespie.

P.S. March 25. The Gale which has blown for some Days is now much abated, & part of the Fleet getting under Sail, viz. the Light Horse & the Emigrants from Boston, hope we shall soon follow.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40. An intercepted letter.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Nantasket Road Boston 23d March 1776.

I acquainted you in my last of the 17th instant of His Majesty's Troops being safely Embarked, and the Transports Anchored in King Road, from whence, as fast as they were Watered and ready for Sea they proceeded to this place; where they are all collected and will proceed by the first opportunity of Wind and Weather under Convoy of the Ships in the Margin,² to Halifax; I have Ordered Captain [Francis] Banks of the *Renown* to take under his Command such other of the small Cruizers as I can spare from this Service, and employ them Cruizing before this Port and in the track of such Vessels, as may be bound here with Supplies, and to see them in safety to Halifax, where I shall hope to receive their Lordships further directions; except the Operations of the Army make it necessary for me to move from that place, of which you shall have the earliest information.

The *Princess Augusta* Victualling Sloop Arriving yesterday, brought me your three Letters to Vice Admiral Graves of the 21st November, One Signifying His Majestys Bounty in the Disposal of that Vessel's Cargo of Sour Krout for the use of the Fleet, and the other Two Containing Intelligence of the Destination of Vessels from Philadelphia, which I shall pay proper regard to.

His Majesty's Sloop *Kingsfisher* having Arrived yesterday from Virginia, I send you Extract of Captain [Andrew Snape] Hamond's Letter and some Intelligence accompanying it, together with Copies of Letters lately received from Mr Arbuthnot and Governor Legge, and an Account of a Vessel taken by Captain [Alexander] Graeme of the *Kingsfisher* laden with Gunpowder, Salt Petre, and Sulphur from Port L'Orient, the Master and Mate of which, both Irish, I shall send to England as Prisoners, by the first safe Conveyance.³

Captain Hamond having Acquainted me that the *Liverpool* had Arrived at Virginia without a Second Lieutenant, I have Appointed Mr Richard Boger to fill up that Vacancy, and sent his Commission to Captain Hamond.

I likewise transmit to you the State and Condition of such part of the Squadron as has yet come to hand since the Command devolved on me, With the Disposition of it, and a List of the Appointment of Officers. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

P.S. By the next Conveyance I hope to be able to transmit to you, a List of such Seizures of the Rebel Vessels as have been made by the Cruizers, since the Command of His Majesty's Ships devolving upon me, Amounting to about Nine Sail at this port.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. H.M.S. *Chatham*, *Centurion* and *Lively*, H.M. Sloop *Kingsfisher*, and H.M. Schooners *Tryal* and *Dispatch*.

3. The brig *Juno*, William Keith, master, and Robert Cunningham, mate, owned by Keith and John Pringle, a Philadelphia merchant, taken February 28, 1776, off the Delaware Capes,

bound from Lorient for Philadelphia, with gunpowder, saltpetre and sulphur, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A MIDSHIPMAN ON BOARD THE *Chatham*, DATED NANTASKET-ROAD, MARCH 23, 1776." ¹

We passed the winter very quietly since our arrival at Boston till the beginning of this month, when the rebels made some movements. They ordered into their camp before the town about 20 000 of the militia from the internal parts of the country, and took the advantage of a few days of hazy weather to erect one strong battery on Dorchester-point, and another at Phipp's-farm, so near the town, that the shot and shells from either went into it and over it. They cannonaded and bombarded us for about a fortnight, without doing much hurt, farther than frightening the town's-people by driving a few shot through their houses. We had not a dozen men killed or wounded. It was, however, resolved upon to abandon the town, and to carry the army in transports to Halifax, together with such of the American refugees as chose to go thither. In a few days all the artillery, military stores, provisions, baggage, &c. were embarked, and the troops followed without the loss of a single man in the embarkation, though there were above 20,000 armed rebels within cannon shot of them. The reasons given for leaving Boston are, that General Howe intends to send a large detachment to Canada immediately by the River St. Lawrence; that he had certain information the rebels were meditating an expedition against Nova Scotia; that it was absolutely necessary to provide for the defence of that province; and he could not relieve Quebec, and strengthen Nova Scotia effectually, without leaving himself too weak to maintain his ground at Boston. It was, therefore, determined to withdraw the troops from thence, and to leave the sea ports blocked up by the men of war and armed ships. We are thus far on our way to Halifax. Earl [Hugh] Percy and General Howe are on board of this ship. General [James] Grant and General [James] Robinson are already sailed for Halifax in the *Fo[we]y*. The transports with the light dragoons sailed at the same time for the same place. The army has been scarce of provisions by reason of many of their victualling ships being blown to the West Indies; however, that is not the case with the navy. I can assure you from good authority, that they have sufficient to serve them till October next, after having spared a good deal to the army. We have had a great deal of fresh provisions of all sorts from Halifax and the Bay of Fundy during the winter, though rather dear. Five or six vessels of one kind and another have arrived from the West Indies within this month, chiefly laden with rum, molasses and limes, and within these few days several victuallers for the use of the army, and other ships, have arrived, after very long passages, from England and Ireland. I have been at Halifax before, and if we were to get no other refreshments there than the plenty and variety of fish that the sea affords to add to the ship's allowance, we should have no reason to complain; for when I was there last, we caught cod, haddock, mackrel, hollibut, skait, smelts, trout, salmon, and a variety of other fish, by throwing

our lines over the ship's side without going further for them, and in such plenty, that two men in an hour's time would furnish more than 100 men could eat.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 4 to May 7, 1776.

SARAH SEVER TO _____¹

[Extract]

[Kingston,] Saturday March 23.

. . . We were greatly surprised Wednesday evening [March 20] by the appearance of a great light in the north, which many people thought could be occasioned by nothing less than the burning of the town of Boston . . . Could not think it possible it could be the Castle, but we since hear it is.

Thursday evening we had a new alarm, that the lighthouse and dwellings upon the Gurnet were in flames, upon which I looked out and discovered two large fires, which appeared exactly in the range of those buildings; supposed the enemy had landed and fired them, but comforted myself that if they had designed any further mischief they would not have begun by burning those buildings, as they must have been sensible it would give a universal alarm. Went to bed at my usual time tolerably well composed, but it was not so with our friends in Plymouth. Mrs. Otis drank coffee with me yesterday. She tells me they were in the utmost confusion there. It seems there were a number of guns fired about the same time the fires were kindled (the guns we did not hear), which were both designed to give an alarm, but they supposed, as we did, that the buildings were on fire. They also supposed that the enemy fired the cannon, upon which they sent down a boat to see if they could discover the enemy. They soon returned with terrible accounts, that there were three or four large ships within the Gurnet, and that they were landing their men very fast, which threw the town into the utmost consternation. They kindled a fire on the burying hill, and despatched messengers to all the towns around, even as far as Warehem and Middleborough, to call in the militia; sent off many of their women and children, and as much furniture as they could get away. Mrs. Otis tells me they had their chairs at the door and cloaks on from half past ten till half after four, ready to fly in a moment . . . In the morning to their great joy [they] found that the fleet which had thrown them in such a panic was Captain Manly with four other privateers, who were driven into the harbor by a large man-of-war, — and so ended this mighty affair.

1. *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 2nd series, II, 158-59.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1776

Providence, March 23.

Thursday Afternoon the ministerial Fleet put to Sea from Newport, and steered South-Eastward.

A large Ship from Jamaica, bound to London, with a valuable Cargo of Sugar, had put into South-Carolina to refit, but was stopped by Order of the Provincial Congress, and it was thought would be condemned.¹— Several

Vessels laden with Rice, bound for England were likewise seized by the Inhabitants of Georgia.

1. Probably refers to the brigantine *William*, Captain Mercier, detained February 11, 1776, at Beaufort, South Carolina.

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Hond Sir

Norwich March 23d 1776

As soon as I arrived Home from Lebanon this Day I Recd a Letter from Mr James Tilly in which he Informes that we have Waited so long that all the Hemp in the Jerseys is now bought up neither is there any Hemp Yarns, nor Cordage to be had in N York and that there is no other way left now to Procure it but to Buy Mr Melbone's Yarns and that what they and Mr Tilly's fall short might be made up in Flax – am sorry we had not Known this before the Committee left Lebanon. If your Honor should think best to Employ Mr Tilly to Do his best Endeavours as soon as Possible to furnish us with Cordage it will in my Opinion be the best step that Can be taken for a few Days more may Carry us beyond any Market for Flax – whe have no Reason to think Cols Dyer & Williams will Obtain any on their Journey.²

Mr Moses Cleaveland is with me for a Recommendation to your Honor for a Lieuts Place in the Galley which I think he may Do well in as he is a Good Soldier and a Lieutenant on Bord a Vessell is Principally Concerned with the Marines I am sir with Esteem & Duty [&c.]

Benj Huntington ³

1. Gunther Collection, ChHS.

2. Dyer and Williams were on their way to the Continental Congress to request an advance of fifty thousand pounds to Connecticut, Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 272.

3. Secretary of the Connecticut Council of Safety.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] Saturday, 23 March,

Voted, That Capt. Theophilus Stanton of Stonington be and he is appointed Captain of the row-galley building at Norwich.

Voted, That Elij. Backus, Esqr, be employed and desired as soon as may [be] to work and manufacture two ship anchors of twelve hundred weight each, for the use of the Colony.

Voted, That the row-galley building at N. Haven be called the *Whiting*.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 255.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Sabatti, A.M.

March 23d, 1776.

A letter from Major [William] Douglas, as to service at the lakes, and which was received yesterday, was read and filed.

He says he will proceed to the lakes when [he] receives the command of

Continental Congress, or the General, if his health will permit, and in the mean [time] will serve his country, and desires the Committee would assist and forward Mr. [Jacobus] Wynkoop.

A draft of a letter to the Delegates of this Colony, relative to the command on the lakes, and recommending Captain Wynkoop, was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety,
New-York, March 23d, 1776.

Gentlemen – On the 16th instant, the Provincial Congress, then about to adjourn, received a letter from Major-General Schuyler respecting Major Douglass and Captain Wynkoop, of which we enclose a copy, No. 1.

The Provincial Congress immediately send for Capt. Wynkoop, read the General's letter to him, delivered him a copy; desired him to call on Major Douglass with it, and return an answer the speediest possible.

On the 18th Capt. Wynkoop informed the Committee of Safety that he had called on Major Douglass, (who is in Colo. Ward's regiment in Kings county,) and delivered him a copy of the General's letter. That Mr. Douglass had intimated that he was now in service, that it would be at least two months before he could attend at the lakes if his health would then permit. The Committee therefore wrote to Major Douglass, and on the 21st received his answer, of which we enclose you copies No. 2 and 3.

The season is so far advanced that the service must suffer if the vessels on the lakes are not immediately employed. We have prevailed on Capt. Wynkoop by this reason only, to engage seamen and proceed to the General with all possible despatch. We beg leave through you, to inform [the Continental] Congress that Capt. Wynkoop was bred a mariner, has frequently been master of mercantile vessels; served with reputation last war, both in the land and marine departments; we think him an officer of merit, and we have heard his conduct in the last campaign highly applauded. We have promised to recommend Mr. Wynkoop to Congress for the command of the vessels on the lake. This we do with the greatest cheerfulness, as we think him equal to the command and worthy of the trust; and from General Schuyler's letter, we are induced to believe it would not be disagreeable to him. We do not wish to impose Capt. Wynkoop's services on Congress in this command if it is not perfectly agreeable to them; and should the Congress think proper to order Major Douglass or any other gentleman to go up to take the command, we pray their determination may be speedy, that the service may not suffer, as Capt. Wynkoop

will not continue in that service under Major Douglass. We are,
gent. &c.

To the New-York Delegates
in Continental Congress.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 381; 382.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH ¹

[New York] Saturday 23 March 1776

A new Alarm upon which the Inhabitants flew out of Town with the utmost Precipitation – General Washington by a Letter of the 19th advises General Lee of Mr. Howe's abandoning Boston on Sunday 17th Inst. & then laying in King Road & Nantusket – The conjecture that they were destined to N Y was countenanced by Intelligence the next Day from the East End of Long Island & Montauk Point the Eastern Extremity of Long Island. –

I imagined that the British Army was sailed for Hallifax but to give Ease to my Family & because the Provincials were moving to this Place from Boston & other Places I resolved to move the greater Part of my Moveables to Haverstraw where I had last Fall lodged my Library & some Household Goods.

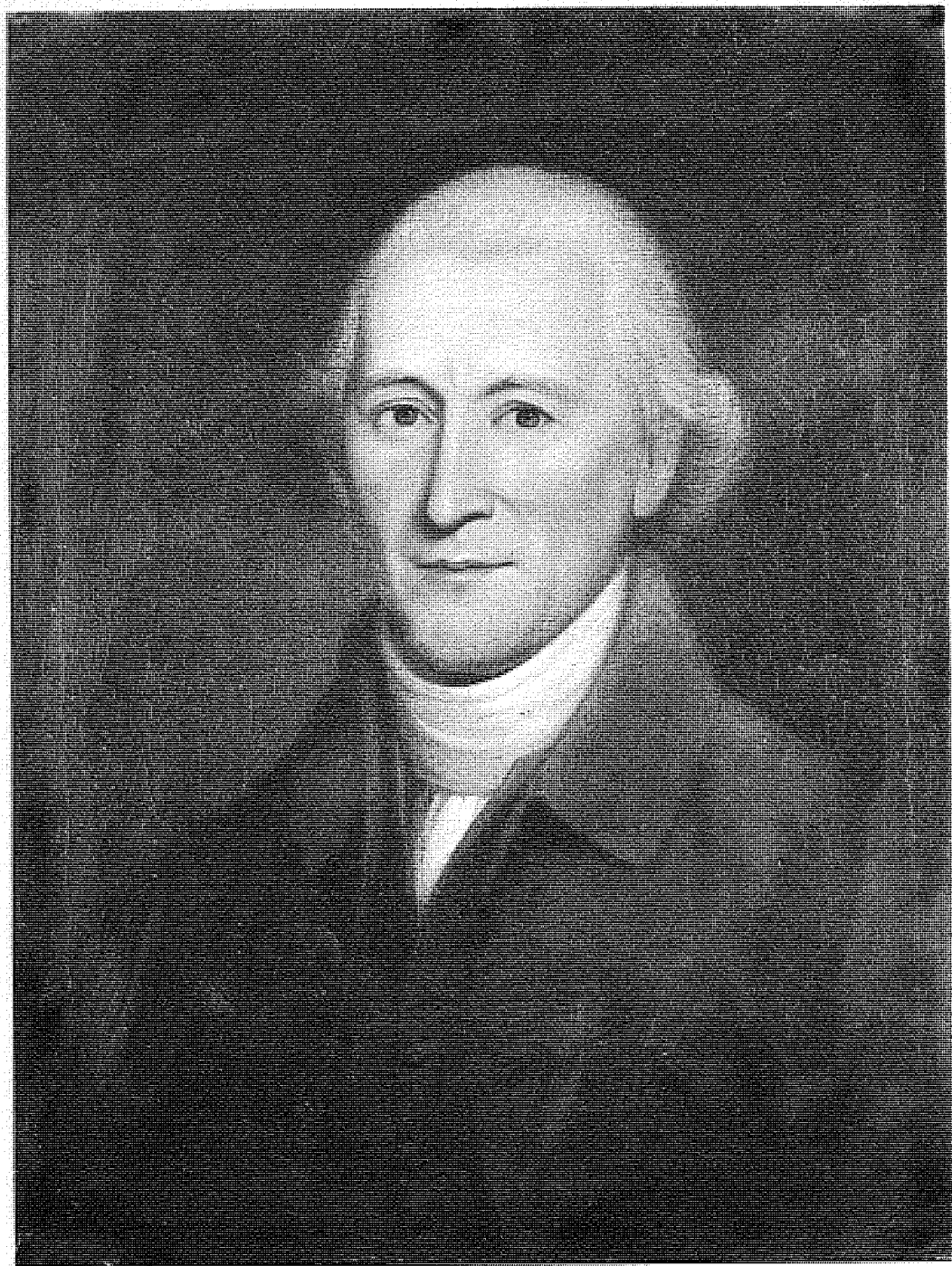
1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, 270.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturdy, March 23, 1776

The Congress resumed the consideration of the declaration, which was agreed to as follows:

Whereas the petitions of the United Colonies to the King, for the redress of great and manifest grievances, have not only been rejected, but treated with scorn and contempt, and the opposition to designs evidently formed to reduce them to state of servile subjection, and their necessary defence against hostile forces actually employed to subdue them, declared rebellion; And whereas an unjust war hath been commenced against them, which the commanders of the British fleets and armies have prosecuted, and still continue to prosecute, with their utmost vigour, and in a cruel manner; wasting, spoiling, and destroying the country, burning houses and defenceless towns, and exposing the helpless inhabitants to every misery, from the inclemency of the winter; and not only urging savages to invade the country, but instigating negroes to murder their masters; And whereas the parliament of Great Britain hath lately passed an Act, affirming these colonies to be in open rebellion, forbidding all trade and commerce with the inhabitants thereof, until they shall accept pardons, and submit to despotic rule, declaring their property, wherever found upon the water, liable to seizure and confiscation; and enacting, that what had been done there by virtue of the royal authority, were just and lawful acts, and shall be so deemed; from all which it is manifest, that the iniquitous scheme, concerted to deprive them of the liberty they have a right to by the laws of nature and the English consti-



Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress.

tution, will be pertinaciously pursued. It being therefore necessary to provide for their defence and security, and justifiable to make reprisals upon their enemies, and otherwise to annoy them, according to the laws and usages of Nations, the Congress, trusting that such of their friends in Great Britain (of whom it is confessed there are many entitled to applause and gratitude for their patriotism and benevolence, and in whose favour a discrimination of property cannot be made) as shall suffer by captures, will impute it to the authors of our common calamities, Do Declare and Resolve, as followeth, to wit:

Resolved, That the inhabitants of these colonies be permitted to fit out armed vessels to cruize on the enemies of these United Colonies.

Resolved, That all ships and other vessels, their tackle, apparel, and furniture, and all goods, wares, and merchandizes, belonging to any inhabitant or inhabitants of Great Britain, taken on the high seas, or between high and low water mark, by any armed vessel, fitted out by any private person or persons, and to whom commissions shall be granted, and being libelled and prosecuted in any court erected for the trial of maritime affairs, in any of these colonies, shall be deemed and adjudged to be lawful prize; and after deducting and paying the wages of the seamen and mariners on board of such captures, as are merchant ships and vessels, shall be entitled to, according to the terms of their contracts, until the time of the adjudication, shall be condemned to and for the use of the owner or owners, and the officers, marines, and mariners of such armed vessel, according to such rules and proportions as they shall agree on: Provided always, that this resolution shall not extend to any vessel bringing settlers arms, ammunition or warlike stores to and for the use of these colonies, or any of the inhabitants thereof, who are friends to the American cause, or to such warlike stores, or to the effects of such settlers.

Resolved, That all ships or vessels, with their tackle, apparel, and furniture, goods, wares, and merchandizes, belonging to any inhabitant of Great Britain, as aforesaid, which shall be taken by any of the vessels of war of these United Colonies, shall be deemed forfeited; one third, after deducting and paying the wages of seamen and mariners as aforesaid, to the officers and men on board, and two thirds to the use of the United Colonies.

Resolved, That all ships or vessels, with their tackle, apparel, and furniture, goods, wares, and merchandises, belonging to any inhabitants of Great Britain as aforesaid, which shall be taken by any vessel of war fitted out by and at the expence of any of the United Colonies, shall be deemed forfeited, and divided, after deducting and paying the wages of seamen and mariners, as aforesaid, in such manner and proportions as the assembly or convention of such colony shall direct.

Resolved, That all vessels, with their tackle, apparel, and furniture, and cargoes, belonging to the inhabitants of Great Britain, as aforesaid, and all vessels which may be employed in carrying supplies to the ministerial armies, which shall happen to be taken near the shores of any of these colonies, by the people of the country, or detachments from the army, shall be

deemed lawful prize; and the court of admiralty within the said colony is required, on condemnation thereof, to adjudge that all charges and expences which may attend the capture and trial, be first paid out of the monies arising from the sales of the prize, and the remainder equally divided among all those, who shall have been actually engaged and employed in taking the said prize. Provided, that where any detachments of the army shall have been employed as aforesaid, their part of the prize money shall be distributed among them in proportion to the pay of the officers and soldiers so employed.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolution be published. ²

Resolved, That a committee of 5 be appointed to consider of the fortifying one or more ports on the American coast, in the strongest manner, for the protection of our cruizers, and the reception of their prizes; that they take the opinion of the best engineers on the manner and expence, and report thereon to the Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. R[obert] Morris, and Mr. [William] Whipple.

Resolved, That this Congress will, on Monday next, resolve itself in a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the trade of the United Colonies; and that sundries motions offered by the members from Massachusetts bay, Maryland, and Virginia, be referred to said committees.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 229-33.

2. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, March 27, 1776.

JOHN ADAMS TO BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES ¹

Sir:

Philadelphia, March 23, 1776

I had the pleasure, a few days ago, of your favour of the 8th instant, for which I esteem myself under great obligations to you. We rejoice here at the prospect there is of your driving the enemy from Boston. If you should succeed in this, I hope effectual measures will be taken to fortify the harbour, that the Navy may never enter it again. I think the Narrows may be so obstructed that large ships may not be able to pass; and the channel between Long-Island and the Main may be commanded, by batteries on each of those Islands, in such a manner that Boston may be safe from men-of-war. I hope my countrymen will hesitate at no expence to attain this end, if, in order to accomplish it, they should be obliged to remove the rocky mountains of my town of Braintree into the harbour.

But I cannot yet clearly satisfy myself that they will leave Boston. It will be a greater disgrace to the British arms than to be taken prisoners in the town in a body. If they should abandon the persons and property of their dear friends, the Tories, in Boston, will any other Tories, in any other part of the Continent, ever trust to their protection? It will be considered as such impotence or such infidelity, that I am inclined to think few professors of Toryism will ever afterwards be found anywhere.

I agree with you that in politicks the middle way is none at all. If we finally fail in this great and glorious contest, it will be by bewildering

ourselves by groping after this middle way. We have hitherto conducted half a war; acted upon the line of defence, &c.,&c. But you will see by tomorrow's paper that, for the future, we are likely to wage three-quarters of a war. The Continental ships-of-war, and the Provincial ships-of-war, and letters of marque and privateers, are permitted to cruise on British property, wherever found on the ocean. This is not Independency, you know nothing like it.

If a post or two more should bring you unlimited latitude of trade to all nations, and a polite invitation to all nations to trade with you, take care that you do not call it or think it Independency. No such matter. Independency is a hobgoblin of such frightful mien that it would throw a delicate person into fits to look it in the face.

I know not whether you have seen the act of Parliament called the Restraining Act, or Prohibitory Act, or Piratical Act, or Act of Independency – for by all these titles is it called. I think the most apposite is the Act of Independency; for King, Lords, and Commons, have united in sundering this country from that, I think, forever. It is a complete dismemberment of the British Empire. It throws thirteen Colonies out of the Royal protection, levels all distinctions, and makes us independent in spite of our supplications and entreaties.

It may be fortunate that the Act of Independency should come from the British Parliament rather than the American Congress; but it is very odd that Americans should hesitate at accepting such a gift from them. However, my dear friend Gates, all our misfortunes arise from a single source – the reluctance of the Southern Colonies to Republican Government. The success of this war depends on a skilful steerage of the political vessel. The difficulty lies in forming particular Constitutions for particular Colonies, and a Continental Constitution for the whole. Each Colony should establish its own Government, and then a league should be formed between them all. This can be done only on popular principles and axioms, which are so abhorrent to the inclinations of the Barons of the South, and the Proprietary interests in the Middle States, as well as that avarice of land which has made upon this Continent so many votaries to mammon, that I sometimes dread the consequences. However, patience, fortitude, and perseverance, with the help of time, will get us over these obstructions.

Thirteen Colonies, under such a form of Government as Connecticut, or one not quite so popular, leagued together in a faithful confederacy, might bid defiance against all the Potentates of Europe, if united against them.

Pray continue to make me happy with your favours. Accept of my most cordial wishes for your safety, happiness and honour. Make my most respectful compliments to the General and the ladies, and the whole family; and believe me to be, with much respect, [&c.]

John Adams

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Philad: March 23d 1776

We have no News from Virginia since I wrote you last – No Account yet of our Fleet & as no Member of Congress expresses any Concern on the Subject, we begin to suspect they are gone upon some distant enterprize. Some conjecture to lay in the Way of the last India Ships a few of whom would soon reimburse us the Expence of the War – however it is all Supposition –

It has happened as I expected that many who were impatient to have How driven from Boston are now alarmed with the Apprehension of the Seat of War being removed to the Middle Colonies.

General Lee is gone off to Virginia, & we hope will be there in time to meet the Troops expected from England – The Congress have at length granted Letters of Marque but there is such a difficulty in procuring Ammunition that I imagine little Use will be made of them at least for some Time . . . By some late Accounts from England we are led to expect that the Scheme of sending Commissioners will be wholly laid aside – If it should I think we shall have no Reason to regret it, as it does not seem calculated to produce any real Benefit.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 23rd March, 1776.

Resolved, That James Maul leave his station at the mouth of the River, to attend this Board as speedily as possible, and that Captains [William] Richards, [Nathaniel] Falconer, and [Leesom] Simmons, be desired to have his place supplied immediately, by another pilot of sufficient ability and Industry.

Resolved, That James Morrison be appointed Lieutenant of Marines in the service of this Province.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 523.DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] March 23d

. . . down town to See the Province Ship Launched ²

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

2. Built by Simon Shurlock at his shipyard in Southwark, adjacent to Philadelphia on the south.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO COMMODORE ANDREW CALDWELL ¹

[Philadelphia] March 23, 1776.

Whereas complaint having been made to this board, that some of the Crews of our armed Boats have so far disregarded the 11th Article of our General instructions for the Commanders of the same, as to put the Masters

or Skippers of the Vessels on the River Trade to unnecessary delay & trouble, by demanding such compliments from them as the officers of the British fleet unwarrantably have compelled an obedience to, greatly to the interruption of commercial people and disquiet of the same, and have otherwise disturbed them by firing upon them to bring them to without proper cause. Wherefore you are hereby required to see that a proper obedience be paid to the sd General instructions by all the Officers & Crews in our Provincial Navy, and to direct that all Vessels be suffered to pass without any hinderance or molestation, or any demand of Compliments whatsoever; except what is absolutely necessary to satisfy the inquiries of the Officers of the Guard-boats whether their intentions be hostile or not, of which you are to give proper notice to the Officers of each Vessel, Boat, &c.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 724.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN JOHN ALLEN THOMAS ¹

No. 77

Sir We received a Letter of the 15th Inst from Mr. Mackall advising us that you thought a Virginia Pilot-Boat which the Calvert-County Cuards had stopped some Days past, would be very useful, as well for conveying the Troops from one County to the other, as for taking any small Tenders, which might come into your River, and that the Owner would sell her on reasonable Terms, and requesting our Opinion upon the Expediency of purchasing and arming her for the Use of the Province. We cannot conceive a Pilot-Boat properly calculated to transport Troops across a narrow River, in which upon an Alarm given, unless the Wind should suit, they cannot sail from one place to another with that Expedition the Service might require, and as to repelling any hostile Attacks, which may be made by Tenders; we do not think that Boat would be Sufficient for the Purpose, as Nothing less, than an eight or ten Gun Vessel would offer to run up our Rivers to commit Depredations – these and other Reasons will not justify our purchasing her for the services suggested.

[Annapolis] 23 March 1776.

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

No 78

Gentn Two Ton of Powder, or near that Quantity, we beleive, have been lately received at Baltimore Town from Philadelphia, one Ton of which Mr [Robert] Alexander wrote us, was intended for Virginia, but given up by their Deputies on Occasion of the late Alarm – we wish to be informed whether we are indebted to Virginia or to Congress for that last Ton, if to Virginia, we can easily settle the Account, because we have already lent them 12 Barrels – 2 for the lower Counties – 10 for their Sloop of War at Alexandria – Musketts by Captain Tibbitt not yet come to Hand,

they are much wanted, our Independent Companies are very importunate for Arms, which we have not as yet been able to supply them with – our Gunsmiths go on very slowly and we want small Arms very much, permit us to request you would remind the Congress of those lent for fitting out the *Hornet* and *Wasp* – we are anxious to have all the Powder secured we can, and should be glad to know what Quantity Messrs Willing and Morris sent, and whether any more is to be expected from that Quarter soon – We are satisfied so far as relates to the Province with the sale of the Vessel called the *Wild-Dick*, W. Lux seems not altogether pleased and talks that he has some Claim, but we think he ought to be contented all Things considered . . . We have heretofore requested you would let us know the Pay of Officers and Seamen, in the Continental Navy, and must again remind you of sending it to us, that we may settle the Pay in our Province – We can spare fifty Pieces of the heaviest Duck, and most unfit for Tents, the rest you will be pleased to forward to us by the Stages – All is quiet here at present, Nothing new only that the Man of War in her passage down plundered Sharp's Island and carried off some Stock and had taken a small Vessel belonging to Colo Tayloe; a flying Report by Charles Lansdale this Day, that they were lately seen at the mouth of Potowmack –
[Annapolis] 23rd March 1776.

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

CAPTAINS JAMES KENT AND WILLIAM HENRY TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Head Quarters Northampton. Virginia 23th March 1776.

Honble Gentn We Imbrace this opportunity by Captn [Thomas] Kell, who has been some weeks blocked up in this harbour by Tenders, on monday evening last a Tender came into Cherriton Creek and carried out a sloop belonging to Isaac Vaughn and got Captn Kells schooner under way but luckily run aground. our Companies who are stationed at the Court-house got down a little after dark; and as there was a ship and 5 small craft in the offing that we supposed to be the man of war and Tenders that were up the Bay with you, we planted centinals along the bay shore, and went to heaving up an Intrenchment opposite to Capt Kells schooner, we discovered nothing of the Tender till the morning when she weighed anchor & came too opposite to our little breast work & an engagement ensued which lasted about an hour, when we obliged the Tender to retreat without carrying out the schooner.

P.S. As Captn Kell will return here again has promised to wait on you for any Commands you may have to us.

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

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Saturday, March 23, 1776.

Resolved, That the Commissioners appointed yesterday for laying such obstructions to the navigation of the channels over Charles-Town bar and in

the harbour, as they shall judge necessary, be, and they are hereby, authorized and required, to prepare proper fire-vessels, for the most effectual annoyance of any enemy that shall attempt to enter the said harbour.

Ordered, That Capt. [Clement] Lempriere be added to the said Commissioners.

Resolved, That all the letters which have been put on board the ship *Port-Henderson*, be forthwith brought from thence, and lodged in the Constitutional Post-Office, and there delivered to the several persons claiming; the claimants opening the same in the office, to prevent mis-delivery.

Resolved, That Mr. [John] Edwards, Captain Roger Smith, Mr. [George-Abbott] Hall, Mr. [Aaron] Loocock, Mr [Thomas] Corbett, and Mr. [Cornelius] Dupont, be, and they are hereby, appointed Commissioners, for unlading and valuing the cargo of the ship *Port-Henderson*, and for fixing a reasonable rate at which the said Cargo shall be sold, for consumption, or for sale, at a price not exceeding the purchase and carriage, in small quantities by retail; and for employing proper persons to excute this service, allowing such proper persons a reasonable compensation for their trouble.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 96, 97.

24 Mar. (Sunday)

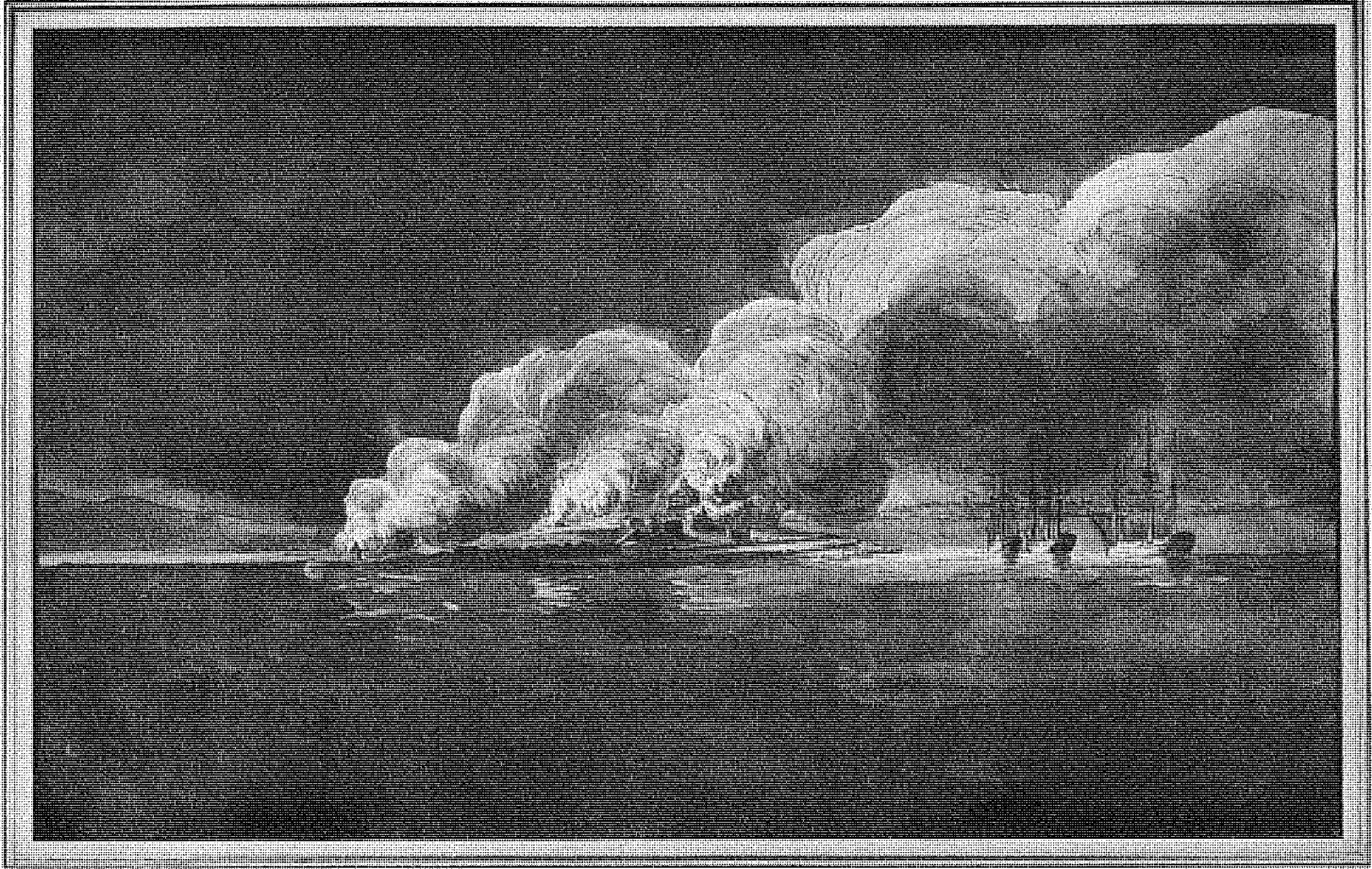
GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge March 24. 1776

Sir When I had the honor to address you the 19th Instt upon the evacuation of the Town of Boston by the Ministerial army, I fully expected as their retreat and embarkation were hurried and precipitate that before now they wou'd have departed the harbour and been far in their passage to the place of destination: But to my surprize and disappointment the Fleet is still in Nantasket road. – The purpose inducing their stay, is altogether unknown, nor can I suggest any satisfactory reason for It; – On Wednesday night last [March 20] before the whole of the Fleet fell down to Nantasket, they demolished the Castle & Houses belonging to It by burning them down, and the several Fortifications – they left a great number of the Cannon, but have rendered all of them, except a very few, entirely useless by breaking off the Trunnions, and those they spiked up but may be made serviceable again; some are allready done.

There are several Vessels in the Docks which were taken by the Enemy, some with and others without Cargoes, which different persons claim as their property and right – are they to be restored to the former owners on making proof of their title, or to belong to the Continent as Captures made from the Enemy? – I wish Congress wou'd direct a mode of proceeding against them and establish a Rule for decision, they appear to me to be highly necessary. In like manner some of the Cannon which are in Boston, are said to have come from the Castle – Supposing them with those remaining at the Castle to have ben purchased by & provided originally at the



Burning of Castle William in Boston Harbor.

expençe of this Province, are they now to be considered as belonging to It, or to the Publick? I beg leave to refer the matter to the opinion of Congress and pray their direction how I am to conduct respecting 'em.

As soon as the Town was abandon'd by the Enemy, I judg'd It advisable to secure the several heights lest they shou'd attempt to return, and for this purpose have caused a large & strong work to be thrown up on Fort Hill, a Post of great importance as It commands the whole Harbour, and when fortified, If properly supported, will greatly annoy any Fleet the Enemy may send against the Town, & render the landing of their Troops exceedingly difficult, If not Impracticable— This work is almost done & in a little time will be compleat— And that the communication between the Town & Country may be free & open, I have ordered all the Lines upon the Neck to be immediately destroyed, and the other works on the side of the Town facing the Country, that the Inhabitants from the latter may not be Impeded, and afforded an easy entrance, in case the Enemy shou'd gain possession at any future time— These matters I conceived to be within the Line of my duty, of which I advised the Genl Court, and recommended to their attention such other measures as they might think necessary for securing the Town against the Hostile designs of the Enemy.

I have just got an Inventory of Stores and property belonging to the Crown, which the Enemy left in Boston at the Castle & Bunker Hill, which I have the honor to transmit you, ² and shall give strict orders that a carefull attention be had to any more that may be found. — I shall take such precautions respecting 'em, that they may be secure, and turn to the public advantage as much as possible or circumstances will admit of —

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), I, 541-44, NA.

2. See reports of John Frazer, March 20, 1776, and Ezekiel Cheever, March 22, 1776.

CAPTAIN FRANCIS HUTCHESON TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK
HALDIMAND ¹

Adventure Transport in Nantasket
Road Boston Harbour March 24th. 1776

Dear Sir On the determination to quit Boston, We Were employed from the Eighth Instant to the 17th in Embarking the provisions and Stores, which we with great trouble and labour Effectuated, Except leaving the four Sea Morters and about twenty ps of Iron Cannon which were Spiked, We Embarked on the 17 Instt at the Long Wharf, Handcocks Wharf, and Hatches Wharf in good order, and without any appearance of an Attack from the Rebels; there were traverses thrown up near liberty tree, & on the Wharfs; and the retreat was covered By the Granedrs & light Infantry; the detachments on Charlestown hights, came off at the same time. Several familys have embarked with us, among whome are the Commissioners, Mr Letchmore, Mr Fitcher, Mr Logdes, and several others with whome you were not so well acquainted, those peoples Situation is realy deplorable —

On the Night of the 16 Instt the Rebels threw up a Work on Forsters hill, from whence we Expected they wou'd Cannonade the Ships going

down; but they did not fire a Shot, And from all appearance they seemed well pleased with our Departure, and that their town is not destroyed, which they were given to understand woud be the case, if they gave us the least interruption in our Embarkation; I am sorry to say our Soldiers & Sailors committed many irregularities for a day or two before we Embarked, by breaking into houses & destroying a great deal of Valuable furniture – particularly that Value furniture of Mr Smiths, the house in which you took leave of Genl Howe. I had the pleasure to deliver Your house with every thing in it in good order to Mr Bulfinch, about an hour before we Embarked, and have no doubt but Mrs Apthorp is now in it, I gave her Son Thomas Apthorp a bill on you for the Years Rent you agreed to pay her amounting to Sixty pounds Sterling. It was lucky for her I remained in it, by that means her furniture was preserved.

The Works at Castle William was blown up the twentieth at Night and the Block-houses and Barracks burnt, and that Island rendered intirely useless to the Rebels –

The whole fleet are now in Nantasket Road fitting for Sea and its said we will proceed to Halifax in a day or two, We are greatly Crouded in the transports and very short of some Species of Provisions, and if some Victualers do not very soon Join us, we shall be in a bad way. I believe there never was Twenty three British Regiments in such a Situation as we are at present.

I am Embarked in a small Store Ship with Captn Handfeild & family Captn M[a]jrr (both brothers Assistants) & two More Officers; We are kept busy from Morning to Night, and I cant help saying my Situation is very different from what your good intentions ment or I Expected, could I have forseen what I have met with since your departure, I woud never have been in this department; but its too late now to look back. –

Mr Haldimand is very well & embarked with his Regiment, on board a fine large India Man. this bustle seems to please him, and he makes his way very well –

The Rebell privateers continue to insult us, five of them appeared off the light house Yesterday in sight of our fleet, and they have taken Several Ships within this last Month, in short I do not see any great alteration for the better since the departure of Admiral G[rave]s who was so obnoxious.

This Letter goes by the *Lord Hyde* Packet, which is said will Sail tomorrow. I give it in Charge to Mr Thompson² a Gentleman of New England, who came in to us last Winter and is a very Genteel Young Man, he is well informed of every thing passing here, and can give you much Satisfaction in those Matters. I have therefore taken the liberty of Introducing him to you– We have not had any late Arivals from England, a Sloop came in Yesterday which had 19 Weeks passage from the Downs. I have had but One Letter from you (dated the 2d Septr) since your Departure, which makes me very anxious. I hope you have got all mine. I never miss an oppertunity.

How Glad I am you wrote for Mrs Fairchild She is lucky to be out of

this Scream I hope I shall soon hear of her & Watsons safe arrival; Old Juba is still alive and Embarked with me, between my Man John & I, he does not fare badly – I have not heard from New York these five Weeks, nor do I know any thing of your Affairs there or in Mereland. we have no Communication with the Southern Provinces; Chamier tells me will send you bills for £200 by this Packet, and Mr Nicol paid me the other day Sixty three dollars on Accot of his note to you which Money I gave to Mr Haldimand as he was in want of so much. –

A Man of War is Just now come in from Virginia, 12 days passage,³ they say they are all in Arms in that Country, and Confirms the Accot we had of Lord Dunmores having burnt Norfolck – Genll Clinton has left that for North Carolina –

About 3 Weeks ago I sent my Phaeton, Horses, Chair, & yr Sulky by a friend to Jamaica to be sold for produce, which I desired he wou'd take with him to London, and deliver it to your Nephew, Mr Haldimand for my Accot I hope he will Excuse my taking this freedom with him as I did not know any Merchant in London to whom I could have Consigned it. It was lucky I sent them off, I shoud otherwise have lost them, Capt Reid who came here with Porter & Coal for the troops and was a Pensacola acquaintance is the person by whom I sent them, I have given him a direction to Mr. Haldimand.

Genll [James] Robertson is very well and desires his Compliments, he & [Sir James] Grant go off tomorrow to Halifax with the first Division of the fleet. What wou'd I give for one hour or two Conversation with you, I could tell you many things I cannot write. God grant I may some day have the happiness to see you –

I must beg you will remember me to [Dietrich] Brehm, I long to hear from him, I know nothing of our Regt but that [Stephen] Kemble has got a Majority, I hope he has got a Company. I am not uneasy for my self I know you will take care of me when promotion comes to my turn. Its Mortifying to see a number of boys getting Majoritys in this Army, and I can have no Chance, I may well say I serve here for five Shillings a day only.

I was so lucky to get Brehm twenty Guineas for his horse about a Month ago. Its so much out of the fire I will send him a bill on Mr Ross for it –

I do not know if you'll be able to read this Letter I write so inconveniently in a crouded & lumbered Cabin, be my situation as it may, I will not let slip any oppertunity of writing to you, being with the greatest Respect & Esteem Dr Sir [&c.]

Fran^s Hutcheson

I rejoice every day you are releived from so disagreeable a Service as you wou'd have had here

1. Haldimand Papers, BM.

2. This was the famous Benjamin Thompson, later Count Rumford, (1753–1814), scientist, philanthropist and administrator.

3. H.M.S. *Kingsfisher*, Captain Alexander Graeme, which arrived in Nantasket road on March 22, 1776.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER TO A GENTLEMAN IN LONDON, DATED ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY’S SHIP *Chatham*, MARCH 24, 1776.”¹

The retreat of the Troops from this garrison (Boston) cannot fail to be differently represented in England; for which reason I have found time from our great hurry to give you some account of it. In the first place, the General’s not receiving any letters or despatches from Government since the middle of October, could not fail of making everybody uneasy; it looked as if we were left destitute to get out of a bad scrape as we liked best. Our provisions falling short, added to our discontent. The fleet afforded us no relief; little indeed was in their power – their own ill equipment was enough to make them as dissatisfied as ourselves. The Provincials, who knew exactly the state of our garrison, harassed us from their batteries, with an intention of making our people more dissatisfied, in hopes of desertions. Finding no probability of supply, and dreading the consequence of further delay, it was thought prudent to retire to the ships, and to save what we could. Our not being burdened with provisions, permitted us to save some stores and ammunition, the light field-pieces, and such things as are most convenient of carriage. The rest, I am sorry to say, we were obliged to leave behind; such of the guns as, by dismounting, we could throw into the sea, were done so; the carriages were disabled, and every precaution taken that our circumstances would permit, for our retreat was by agreement. The people of the town who were friends to Government, took care of nothing but their merchandise, and found means to employ the men belonging to the transports in embarking their goods; by which means several of the vessels were entirely filled with private property instead of the King’s stores. By some unavoidable accident, the medicines, surgeons’ chests, instruments, and necessaries, were left in the Hospital. The confusion unavoidable on such a disaster, will make you conceive how much must be forgot where every man had a private concern. The necessary care and distress of the women, children, sick, and wounded, required every assistance that could be given. It was not like breaking up a camp, where every man knows his duty; it was like departing your country, with your wives, your servants, your household furniture, and all your encumbrances. The officers, who felt the disgrace of their retreat, did their utmost to keep up appearances. The men, who thought they were changing for the better, strove to take the advantage of the present times, and were kept from plunder and drink with difficulty. In bad plight we go to Halifax. What supply we are to expect there I do not know; our expectations are not very sanguine. The neglect shown us bears hard on us all; the soldiers thing themselves betrayed, the officers all blame the Admiralty, and your friend, Lord S[andwich], is universally execrated. The sea officers complained they were hurried out of England in a most shameful condition, not half manned, and ill provided. Fleet and Army complain of each other, and both of the people at home. If we fare as ill at Halifax as we have done here lately, I fear we shall have great desertion, as the opportunity will be more convenient.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 484, 485; printed from an unidentified British newspaper.



Two favorite SONGS,
made on the Evacuation of the Town of BOSTON,
by the British Troops, on the 17th of March, 1776.

IN seventeen hundred and seventy six,
On March the eleventh, the time was prefix'd,
Our forces march'd on upon Dorchester-neck,
Made fortifications against an attack.

The morning next following, as Howe did see
The banks we call'd up, were so capacious and high,
Said he in three months, all my men with their might,
Could not make two such Forts as they've made in a night.

Now we hear that their Admiral was very wroth,
And drawing his sword, he bids Howe to go forth,
And drive off the YANKEES from Dorchester hill:
Or he'll leave the harbour and him to their will.

Howe rallies his forces upon the next day,
One party embark'd for the Cattle they say,
But the wind and the weather against them did fight,
On Governor's Island it drove 'em that night.

Then being discourag'd they soon did agree,
From Bunker and Boston, on board ship to flee:
For fear our next fort should be mis'd in King-street,
But yet notwithstanding the finger of God.

In the wind and the weather which often occur'd;
Still Howe, Pharaoh 'e, did harden his heart,
Being thirsty for victory to maintain his part.

He gives out fresh orders on Thursday it's said,
Forming his men in three branches upon the parade,
Acknowledging it was a desperate case,
In their situation the YANKEES to face;

Yet nevertheless being haughty of heart,
On Friday one branch of his men did embark
A second flood ready down by the sea side:
His Dragons were mounted all ready to ride.

Great Howe he now utters a desperate oration,
Saying fight my brave boys for the crown of our nation:
Take me for your pattern, and fight ye as I
Let it be 'till we conquer, or else 'till we die.

But all of a sudden, with an Eagle eye'd glance,
They espied a fire being kindled by chance,
In a barrack at Cambridge, as many do know,
And then in confusion they ran to and fro.

Moreover as Providence order'd the thing,
Our drums beat alarm, our bell it did ring,
Which made them cry out, O the YANKEES will come:
O horror! they'll have us, come let us begone.

Then hilt'er skilt'er they ran in the street,
Sometimes on their heads and sometimes on their feet,
Leaving cannon and mortars, pack saddles and wheat,
Being glad to escape with the skin of their teeth.

Now off goes Plyatlick with his men in flight,
And altho' they show courages, yet still they show spite,
In burning the Cattle, as they pass along,
And now by Nantasket they lie in a throng.

Let 'em go, let 'em go, for what they will fetch,
I think their great Howe is a miserable wretch,
And as for his men, they are fools for their pains,
So let them return to Old-England again.

IT was 'nt our will that Bunker Hill
From us should ever be taken;
We thought 'twould never be retook,
But we find we are Mistaken.

The soldiers bid the hill farewell,
Two images left sentries,
This they had done all out of fun
To the American Yankees.

A flag of truce was sent thence,
To see if the hill was clear,
No living soul was found thereon,
But these images stood there.

Their hats they wave, come if you please,
There's none here to molest us,
These wooden men that here do stand,
Are only to defy us.

These images they soon threw down,
Not one man's life was lost then,
No sooner they were on the hill
But they landed into Boston.

The men come, and children run,
I save PUTNAM rejoicing,
Saying now is your time to man your pieces
For the soldiers have left Boston.

The troops you fairly fear'd away,
On board the ships they're quarter'd,
The children laugh'd, saying over the wharf
They threw their best-bomb mortar.

With the blazing of your guns that night,
And roaring of your mortars,
The soldiers cry'd the Yankees come
To tear us all in quarters.

The barracks being set on fire,
Which made the soldiers quiver,
They soon embark on board their ships,
May they stay there forever.

Soon after this the fleet fell down,
It's what we long desir'd,
I think the Generals were afraid
That they'd be set on fire.

The shipping now have all set sail,
No cause have we to mourn,
But seem afraid because 'tis said
That they will soon return.

Some say they're sail'd for Halifax,
And others for New York;
Howe let none know where he was bound,
When the soldiers did embark.

Where they are bound there's none can tell,
But the great God on high,
May all our heads be cover'd well,
When cannon balls do fly.

The property of Abraham H. Paul.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Nautilus*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS ¹

March 1776 At Single Anchor [in Nantasket Road]
 Sunday 24th A M Saild hence H M Ship *Fowey & Diligence* Brig wt 40 Sail
 of Vessels under their Convoy

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.

BRIGADE ORDERS OF BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH ¹

Norwich – March 24th 1776 –

The Brigadier General Thanks the Officers and Soldiers of the Brigade for their great Assiduity on the March from the Camp to Norwich,² and for the Good order which has been observed – The Strictest Order and Discipline will still be kept up, Such Conduct will not fail to ensure Honour to the Troops wherever they march, – The Tarry of the Troops in Norwich will be very Short, as the water carriage will ease the Troops, and as the Service calls for the Greatest Dispatch, they must not Expect to lay by untill they Reach New York, – as there will not be accommodations on Board the Transports for Cooking a Sufficiency of Provisions, the Commanding Officer of Each Regiment will Direct that Six Days Provision be Cooked, This Day if the Fresh Provisions be ready, – An Exact Return of each Regt and the Company of Artillery must be given in Immediately, – All the Troops (Except Colo [Charles] Webb's) will be under arms at half past four this Afternoon on the Common – a Pocket Book with a Small Sum of money has been found on the Road – the owner by applying to Capt [Charles] Cushing at Colo [John] Greaton's Regt and describing the Book &c. may have it.

1. Heath Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

2. "22d [March] – Our General reached Norwich in Connecticut. The troops marched with great expedition; but by the badness of the roads, the frost then coming out of the ground, the baggage-wagons moved heavily. The transports, destined for the troops, were fitting for sea." Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 36.

"A RETURN OF TRANSPORTS NOW LYING ATT NORWICH LANDING, TAKEN UP
 ON THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED COLONIES –" ¹

March 24th 1775–[sic 1776]

Vessels Names.	No. Tons.	By whom Commanded.
Brig <i>Pitt</i>	138	Squire Geor
Schooner <i>Neptune</i>	115	Thomas Fling
Brig <i>Pitt</i>	110	Hezekiah Perkins
Schooner <i>Chelsey</i>	40	— — —
Sloop <i>Polly</i>	80	Jabez Lord
Schooner <i>Bedford</i>	64	— Roggers
Sloop	70	Cowdree
Sloop	110	— — —
Schooner	20	Saml Adderton
Sloop <i>Dove</i>	94	Alpheus Davison
	941 Tons	

1. Gates Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER, DATED ON BOARD THE BRIG *Allerton*, COCKSPUR, IN GEORGIA, MARCH 24.”¹

In my last, I promised to give you as full an account as I could of our present disturbances here. You will observe by my different letters, of the Resolves, that hath from time to time been entered into here, by the Congress, Councils and Committees, all of which seem in one part or other to distress trade and ruin thousands. Your schooner *Maria*, would have sailed by the time appointed, had not the Delegates for this Province arrived before that time, and brought positive orders from the Continental Congress, to admit no vessel whatever to depart the Province before the first of March, which the Congress here agreed to. Some of the masters of vessels applied for liberty to go away in ballast, but were refused. There was at that time about twenty vessels in port, which were obliged tamely to put up with these orders, they having no redress, and being in hopes that they would be permitted to sail on the first of March. About the 15th of January arrived at Cockspur, three of his Majesty's ships, viz. the *Tamer*, of 16 guns; *Seron* [*Syren*], of 28 guns; and *Cherokee*, of 10 guns: This alarmed the people on shore, being apprehensive they came to destroy the town, although it was declared they only came for provisions, and not in a hostile manner, provisions were refused them, so now began the worst of our troubles. The country was immediately alarmed, and as many people as could be got were brought to town: those who were disaffected to their cause, were either disarmed or bound up by a parole, and not to aid or assist any of his Majesty's ships or troops with any thing whatever, or go on board. This parole was only granted to persons of character. The Council of Safety, Resolved, to put the town into a state of defence in the best manner they could, and accordingly erected a two gun battery on one of the Wharfs, and another above it on a hill of eight or 10 guns; at the same time sinking a vessel about two miles below the town, in the narrowest part of the channel, to prevent the vessels coming up. — This alarm caused a general move of the property of the inhabitants out of town; I moved as much of the store goods as I possibly could, on board the *Maria*, and ordered her a few miles up the river, at that time thinking it the safest place; some time after this the *Seren* of 28 guns sailed, which eased the minds of the people a little: but greater was the alarm, when the *Scarborough*, of 20 guns, and two transports with Marines, arrived. The inhabitants then could not be convinced that they came in a hostile manner, though assured to the contrary. This arrival caused the Council of Safety to pass a resolve, to confine the Governor, and his Majesty's Council, to the Province, and oblige them to give their parole that they would not quit the same: some time after this, they demanded a second parole, which they refused; as that was the case they thought themselves cleared from the first. The Governor with his family made their escape, and got on board the *Scarborough*, and have remained there ever since. This gave a great alarm, which still increased, when one of his Majesty's ships, with some armed vessels and the two transports, made their appearance

about four miles below the town. Upon expectation that all the vessels would be permitted to sail the first of March, I removed the schooner down the river again about the 25th, in order to be in readiness; and on the last of February three vessels got permission to depart the Province with their cargoes, but the Council of Safety reconsidered that resolve, and made a second one, that no vessel should depart before the first of May, for fear the rice on board should fall into the hands of the King's troops. On the second the vessels below the town weighed anchor (except one to command there) and proceeded up the back river, a river not at all suspected by the inhabitants. They fired several shot from their battery, but to no effect. The *Hinchinbrook*, of ten guns, was to go up this back river and come down a breast of the town; at the same time the marines from on board the transports landed on an island a breast of the town, marched over the same and got on board the shipping about three o'clock in the morning undiscovered. The *Hinchinbroke* unluckily got a-ground, so was of no service. The marines being on board, orders were given to remove the shipping as high up the river as possible, intending to carry them down the back river, at this time mentioning, they only came to carry off the shipping in order to get the rice, and not against the province. The people on shore knew nothing of the troops being on board, until they sent off some of their people to order the vessels to be unrigged, and the rigging sent on shore, agreeable to a Resolve of the Council of Safety, the day before: this messenger was detained, which gave them some suspicion. They then sent two other messengers, who were likewise detained; at this they hailed several times, but to no effect, they then began to fire with their musquetry to no purpose, they then dragged some cannon to a convenient place, and began to fire, which was returned by one of the merchantmen with four guns, and continued for some time. About four o'clock, the tide answering, orders were given to get under way, and proceed up the river as fast as possible: the people on shore finding this, and their cannon not suiting the intended purpose, they resolved to do all in their power to burn the shipping; they accordingly went on board one of the ships lying much lower than the rest, and set her on fire; she belonged to London, was fully loaded, and worth about 13,000 l. sterling: this ship drawing too great a draught of water to drift up the river. They then got a schooner, hoisted her sails, set her on fire, and turned her adrift. This vessel unluckily caught the *Nelly*, Captain Fletcher (of Liverpool) which was likewise consumed, and had it not been for the activity of the seamen in towing these fire-ships on shore, many more must have shared their fate. On the 4th, the ships of a large draught of water were obliged to lighten by throwing some of the cargo overboard. After many difficulties we got down here with the schooner and about ten other vessels, it not being possible to get the remainder away at that time.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GEORGIA, DATED MARCH 24.”¹

This letter, after reciting all the particulars relating to the depredations of the Provincials, upon the stores, ships, and other private property, and molesting the King's people belonging to the ships of war, says,²

Several of the Marines were sent on shore by the Commanders of his Majesty's ships of war now lying here to procure necessaries, when they were attacked by a party of Rebels, who fired at them, and being considerably superior in number, and seeing others flocking to join them, the Marines thought it prudent to retreat to the ships, which they all effected, except one man, who having received a wound, was left behind, and seized by the Provincials, who immediately tied him to a tree, afterwards cut his legs, thighs, and arms, into several pieces, and then left him in this tortured condition. A few days ago another piece of barbarity was also done by this lawless rabble; the Marines were sent to a small Island near this place to cut wood, assisted by some of the Natives (King's friends) but so soon as the Rebels knew what was going forwards, they collected a large body, and proceeded to said Island, which occasioned the Marines to take to their boats, but some of the inhabitants fell a sacrifice to their merciless fury. One man in particular who was pursued, and had no other chance to save himself but to take to the water and swim to the other side, he had no sooner got a small distance from shore, than a party of the Rebels was upon the beach, when one of them fired at the poor creature with a rifle gun, and shot him through the head. Such barbarities as these you will hardly credit, but I can assure you they are undoubted facts.

1. *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, May 20 to May 22, 1776.

2. The summary is by the editor of the newspaper.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK¹

Remarks on Sunday the 24 M[arch 1776]

4 [A.M.] Light airs a Large sea from the W S W
 8 Sat the gibb & Fore sail
 Lattd Obs 32 . 06 No
 2 [P.M.] Clear Weather hard gails took one R:F:S
 at 6 P M hove too under F:S the Schooner Sprang a Leke made 20 Inches water a hour Cut away the Seling in order to Stop it But found it to Bee in the Scarff of the Stern We could not Stop it No otherways than Stop in a pees of Beef -

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Antelope*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM JUDD¹

March 1776 Moored in Port Royal Harbour Jamaica
 Sunday 24 at 2 P M took poss[ess]ion of a Sloop bound to Georgia²

at 5 came in here a Brig from Philadelphia sent two petty Officers on board and took possession of her³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/39.
2. Sloop *Betsy*, — Gray, master, in ballast, Gayton's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.
3. *Ibid.*, brig *King George*, — Pennock, master, with a cargo of bread and flour.

25 Mar.

ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO JOSHUA WENTWORTH, PORTSMOUTH¹

Cambridge 25th March 1776

Captain [John] Frazier deliverd me your favor of the 21st instant — I have Laid it & the Captains petition before his Excellency, who has no objection to the gentlemen belonging to the *Susanna*² Seeking an oppertunity to return home which he will give them Liberty to do, upon their giving their parole not to act inimical to America during the present Contest —

The Captain Sets forth, that he has been plunderd of his private property to the amount of £63.19.9 Stg — this is a Circumstance, which gives great dissatisfaction to the General, it has been his positive orders to the Commanders of those armed vessels, to guard against this So ignominious behaviour of the people on board their vessels, the only remedy at present that I can think of is, to get the Sufferers attestation of their Loss, Let them be paid, the Captains must find out who the plundered were, & beside Such punishment as is due for their Crimes, the Sum paid Must be deducted from their Share of the prize — if they Cannot fix upon the defaulters, it must become a Charge against the one third given to the Captors by the Continent.

1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. The *Susannah* was taken March 6, 1776 by four of Washington's armed schooners cruising as a squadron.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL¹

The Committee of both Houses, Appointed to take into consideration a letter from his Excellency General Washington, dated the 21st of March instant — as also the report of a Committee, who, by Order of Court, had waited on his Excellency to confer on the subject matter of the removal of the Continental Troops now in this Colony, having attended the business assigned them Report as followeth. —

As our Enemies are now withdrawn from the Town of Boston, and it appearing to your Committee that it is a metter of the utmost importance, to secure said Town Against the approaches of large Ships of war in future, That a Committee of both Houses be appointed as soon as possible to lay before this Court, a Sketch of the Harbour of Boston, and examine & Report, particularly The Number of passages there are for Ships into the same & what distance they are from the Capital — what is the depth of water in, & the width of the Channel at eash passage — what the height of the Land adjoining, and the distance therefrom to the Oposite Side of the channel — whether it is necessary to the best good of this Colony, and its

Capital, that all the passages to the Town of Boston should be continued open – What are the advantages, & what the disadvantages, that will result from stoping either of the passages thereto – Which passage, if any, ought to be stoped – Where can fortifications be erected, most easly to resist the enemy in their attempt to enter the harbour Aforesaid – Whether such posts are on the main or on an Island or Islands, – If on an Island whether a communication can be kept up between it and the main in case of a siege – whether those posts are commanded by any Neighbouring Hills If by any, by what Hill – and whether, at All times, a Garrison at such posts can be supplied with Water. –

And whereas this Colony is greatly weakned, by the distruction of our Fortifications & War like stores by our Enemies, and will be more so on the removal of the continental Army, as a large proportion of the Men & Arms therein, are from this Government – Your Committee are therefore of Opinion, that an application be immediately made to his Excellency General Washington, and request that he would further consider the exposed, and at present, the defenc[e]less state of this Colony, and if consistent with the general interest, he would continue here Six Regiments of the Continental Troops, for the defence of this Government, instead of the Three or four Regiments, his Excellency hath informed this Court he intended to leave. –

W Sever p ordr

In Council March 25th 1776

Read & accepted & ordered that B Lincoln & Joseph Palmer Esqrs with such as the Honl House shall join, be a Committee for the purposes mentioned in the foregoing Report – sent down for Concurrence Perez Morton D Secry

In House of Representatives March 25th 1776

Read & concurred & Mr ~~Speaker~~ Cooper Mr Brown of Boston & Deacon Nicholls are Join'd Sent up William Cooper Spkr Pro Tem

I. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 301-03, NA Photocopy.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1776

Watertown, March 25.

On Sabbath of the 17th instant, the British army in Boston, under General Howe, consisting of upwards of 7000 men, after suffering an ignominious blockade for near eleven months past, disgracefully quitted all their strong holds in Boston and Charlestown, fled from before the army of the United Colonies and took refuge on board their ships. The most material particulars of this signal event are as follows: – About 9 o'clock a body of the enemy were seen to march from Bunker's Hill, and at the same time a very great number of boats, filled with troops, put off from Boston, and made for the shipping which mostly lay below the Castle. On the first discovery of these movements, the Continental army immediately paraded several regiments embarked in boats and proceeded down the river from Cambridge. About the same time two men were sent to Bunker's Hill, in order to make discoveries. They proceeded accordingly, and when arrived, making a sig-

nal that the fort was evacuated, a detachment was immediately sent down from the army to take possession of it. The troops in the river, which were commanded by General [Israel] Putnam, landed at Sewell's Point; where they received intelligence that all the British troops had left Boston, on which a detachment was sent to take possession of the town, while the main body returned up the river. About the same time General [Artemas] Ward, attended by about 500 troops from Roxbury, under the command of Colonel Ebenezer Learned, (who unbarr'd and opened the gates) enter'd the town on that quarter, Ensign [Samuel] Richards carrying the Standard. The command of the whole being then given to General Putnam, he proceeded to take possession of all the important posts, and thereby became possessed in the name of the Thirteen United Colonies of North America, of all the fortresses in that large and once populous and flourishing metropolis, which the flower of the British army, headed by an experienced General, and supported by a formidable fleet of men of war, had, but an hour before, evacuated in the most precipitate and cowardly manner. . . .

The enemy, previous to their going off, scattered great numbers of crow's feet on Boston Neck and in the streets, in order to retard our troops in case of a pursuit; and with such silence and precaution did they embark, that a great part of the inhabitants did not know it 'till after they were gone. — Mr. James Lovell, who was long confined in goal, was cruelly carried off in irons, together with the prisoners that were taken at Bunker's Hill &c.

Tuesday evening [March 19] the enemy set fire to the block house and barracks at the Castle, and Wednesday they were employed at the same place in blowing up and demolishing the fortifications.

Two vessel arrived at Portsmouth the beginning of last week, and brought in six tons of gunpowder.

ADVERTISEMENT OF LIBELS IN THE COURT OF ADMIRALTY ¹

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, Plimouth, ss.

At a Court erected to try and condemn all vessels that shall be found infesting the sea coast of America, and brought into the counties of Plimouth, Barnstable, Bristol, Nantucket or Dukes County, to be held at Plimouth in the said county of Plimouth, on Monday the 15th day of April, 1776, at the hour of ten in the forenoon, will be tried the justice of the capture of the following vessels, viz. of a sloop called the *Polly*, burthen about seventy five tons, commanded by Sibeline White; of a Schooner called the *Industry*, burthen about eighty five tons, commanded by Charles Coffin; of a small fishing schooner, burthen about fifteen tons, commanded by one Dawsey; ² of a ship called the *Happy Return*, burthen about one hundred and thirty tons, commanded by James Hall; of a ship called the *Norfolk*, burthen about one hundred and twenty tons, commanded by Jonathan Grendal; ³ of a sloop called the *Dolphin*, burthen about eighty tons, commanded by Lot Norton; of a brigantine called the *St. Lawrence*, burthen about one hundred and sixty five tons, commanded by James Coffin; of a sloop called the *Sally*, burthen

about seventy tons, commanded by George Middleton; ⁴ of a sloop called the *Lively Locus*, burthen about thirty tons, commanded by one [Moses] Weyman; ⁵ of a sloop called the *Britannia*, burthen about eighty tons, commanded by Joseph Hall; ⁶ of a sloop called the *Betsey*, burthen about one hundred and fifteen tons, commanded by William Heath; ⁷ and of a ship called the *Harriot*, burthen about two hundred and forty tons, commanded by Wemyss Orrock ⁸. – All which vessels, said to be improved in supplying the fleet and army, employed against the United Colonies, and taken and brought into the counties of Plimouth, Barnstable, Bristol aforesaid, Nantucket, or Dukes County, together with their cargoes and appurtenances, are libelled in the Court aforesaid, and trials will be had thereon, from day to day, until the whole are tried. And notice is hereby given, pursuant to the laws of the colony aforesaid, to all persons claiming property in any of the aforesaid vessels or cargoes, or any ways concerned therein, that they may appear and shew cause (if any they have) why the vessels, or any of them, with their cargoes and appurtenances, should not be condemned.

Nathan Cushing, Judge of said Court.

1. *Boston Gazette*, March 25, 1776.
2. These three vessels were captured in November, 1776 by Captain William Coit in the schooner *Harrison*.
3. The two ships taken by John Manley in the schooner *Hancock* off Boston harbor, January 25, 1776.
4. The *Dolphin* and the *Sally* were probably the vessels. *Boston Gazette*, December 11, 1775: "Last week a privateer from Plymouth, took several small craft bound to Boston, with provision and fuel." The *St. Laurence* is noted in the *Boston Gazette* of January 1, 1776.
5. The *Lively Locus* is identified as the sloop carried into Plymouth on December 25, 1775. See *Boston Gazette*, February 5, 1776.
6. The *Britannia* was driven into Plymouth in a storm on November 25, 1775 and was seized by Captain Sion Martindale in Washington's brig *Washington*.
7. The sloop *Betsey* was the vessel captured by Captain House with four whale boats on January 30, 1776. See *Boston Gazette*, February 5, 1776.
8. Capture of the *Harriot*, Weymes Orrock, master, is noted in the *Boston Gazette*, March 18, 1776.

JOSIAH QUINCY TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Braintree, March 25th 1776.

May it please your Excellency,

Your obliging Letter of Yesterday was handed to Me this Morning by General Wards Son. The Fleet still continues in Nantasket Road; and I can't discern any Diminution of their Numbers: five or six Transports, and a Man of War arrived last Fryday afternoon; as the Man of War saluted the Admiral I suppose they came from England.

The Signal at the Light House was thrown out again on Saturday; but, the Wind has hitherto prevented the Arrival of any more Vessels. The Admiral has a Signal now flying at his main top mast Head: I wish it was in my Power to construe it.

Agreable to your Excellency's Desire, as fast as I can find trust Worthy Persons, I shall give them Directions to make dilligent Search, after such Characters as you have discribed, and upon good Ground of Suspicion to ap-

prehend and carry them to Head Quarters, or bring them to me for further Examination, as may be most convenient.

[11] oClock This Moment an Explanation of the above Signal occurs: – Part of this Fleet are come to Sail. I shall proceed journalwise, to inform your Excellency of their Movements, 'till the Bearer, who is gone to see Colo [Benjamin] Tupper, returns.

[1] oClock They are still coming to sail: near or quite fifty Sail are got out to Sea; about half of them Brigs, Schooners, and Sloops; one or two Frigates, and the remainder Transport Ships; their Course shaped for Cape Cod: May not this Division be bound for Martha's Vineyard, and the Islands in that Sound to procure fresh Provision for the Fleet, which is to rendezvous at Hallifax, and from thence to proceed to Quebec?

3 oClock My Servant, who was directed to take an Account of the Number that have sailed, informs me, there are in all fifty two: One transport Brig is just arrived: I expected Mr. [Joseph] Ward would return with Colo Tupper, and have dined with me; from them I hoped to have gained further Intelligence, but am disappointed: I hear the Colo is preparing [a] formidable fire Raft, which I wish may effectually operate, but, fear a single one will avail little

Your Excellency's Tender Concern for the Restoration of my Health (which, Thanks to the Father of Mercies! is much mended) lays me under a fresh obligation to subscribe my Self, with Cordial Gratitude and Esteem, Your Excellency's [&c.]

Josiah Quincy

P:S: 5 OClock The Adml has just now hoisted another Signal, a Pendant under his Flagg two more Ships are under Sail going out of the Harbor: 7 O'Clock Mr Ward & Colo Tupper are just arrived. They are of Opinion, that the Ships which sailed to Day, have carried off the Tories, and are bound with them to Lewisburgh.

1. *Washington Papers, LC. Letter was continued on March 26.*

EVAN NEPEAN TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

(Copy)

Chatham, Nantasket Road

25h March 1776.

I hope you are before this time safe arrived in England, undisturbed by the cares of this troublesome Command, which has been attended with many disagreeable circumstances since your Departure.

The 4th Instant the Rebels were seen on Dorchester heights, having the preceding Night thrown up such an extensive Breast Work, that it was supposed not less than 10. or 12,000. Men could have been employed in completing it; this was so alarming a circumstance, having the command of the southern part of the Town, that 2000. were to have attacked it that night, to land below the Castle, but the weather fortunately proving very bad, the Expedition was set aside, the Rebels having that night 7000. Men in the Intrenchments, and as many more ready to fall in from Roxbury, Phips's

Farm has a very strong Redoubt, with the Mortar taken in the *Nancy*, and several long pieces of Canon, with which they have frequently thrown into the Town, and disturbed the Inhabitants exceedingly, tho' very little damage has been done. General Howe upon this, together with the great want of Provisions, thought it necessary to evacuate the Town, with the Troops under his Command, they embarked the 17h without the loss of a man, intending to proceed to Halifax, the Fleet and Transports are all now at Nantasket waiting for a Wind. Commodore [Francis] Banks is to be left with the *Fowey*, *Niger*, *Hope* and *Tryal* to guard Boston Bay. Captn Graemes is come here in the *King's Fisher*. Captn [Samuel] Graves, I hear by a Vessel from Antigua sailed from that Place 4. days before him with a Convoy, who were blown off the Coast, the *Experiment* is likewise coming from thence.

A Report from the Southward says 4000. highlanders settled in Carolina, headed by a Colo MacDonald gave the Rebels a total overthrow. This account from a naval Officer, but not authenticated. Captn Graeme has taken the Ship from Port l'Orient, laden with Arms, Ammunitions & a²

Evan Nepean

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40.

2. The ship *Juno*, William Keith, master, taken February 28, 1776.

CREAN BRUSH TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES ROBERTSON¹

[On board the brig *Elizabeth*, March 25, 1776]²

To James Robertson Esquire Brigadier of his Majesty's Forces in North America &c &c &c

The Memorial of Crean Brush Esqr humbly sheweth

That your Memorialist on the fifth day of February last had received into his custody sundry Goods Wares & Merchandize to a considerable Amount by virtue of his Commission of which on notification being received of the evacuation of the Town of Boston your Memorialist anxious to be directed in their disposition did make application to the Commander in cheif to your Honor to the Quarter-Master General and Adjutant General for aid and assistance using his utmost Endeavor but without effect Thus circumstanced your Memorialist at your Honor's request did under high Wages engage four Persons to abandon their own private Concerns and devote their whole time & attention in the making up packing and casing the Goods on hand and assist in conveying them on board in the best manner the peculiar exigence hurry & confusion of the times would permit no Cart or Boat to be procured altho a most exorbitant Price was offered and Capt Buckmaster absolutely refusing to spare one altho your Memorialist applied to him by your Honors & Major Hutchinson's direction The Brig *Elizabeth* had but two Boys and a Man on board none of them Mariners & ignorant of stowing Goods which were however put away in the best manner they could and the freest from damage. On the 10th of March your Memorialist received the Order of his Excellency the Commander in cheif to take into his custody all Linen & woolen Goods. In virtue of this Order your

Memorialist accompanied by the Assistants he has named did visit the Stores of Samuel Austin John Scolly John Rowe Cyrus Baldwin John Barret & Sons one [Samuel] Dash[er]wood & one [Samuel] Patridge from whence were removed the Goods answering the description of his Orders which were ready packed in Trunks & Cases and if any Articles were removed which did not answer the description the Parties are only to blame they being repeatedly called on to declare the Contents of each which they obstinately refused – These People your Memorialist are irritated against him but your Memorialist begs leave to assure your Honor he is fully able to prove that his Conduct toward them was governed with politeness coolness & moderation true it is that when attempts were made to engage his attention in tedious dissertations on Magna Charta & the rights of British Subjects with intent to retard him in the execution of his Office he did interrupt such Harrangues & with an Irony which inflamed their resentments complimented them on their Eloquence which had in Town Meetings been so successful as to throw all America into confusion but that I was upon Business which I was determined to execute without interruption – The Goods I received from the Stores were taken on board & stowed away with all the care & attention my peculiar Situation would possibly admit and I solemnly aver that from the 5th to the 13th March my own Assiduity was so great that I did not in any one Night allow Myself more than two Hours Sleep and the Weather was so very wet that nothing could be done as to any Labor on board – That soon after the arrival of the Fleet in Nantasket Road your Memorialist in the execution of his duty was instrumental in securing the valuable Goods on board the Ship *Peggy* on board the Sloop *Polly*, and in discovering two Trunks on board a Vessel where Mr George Leonard & his Family are Passengers and while your Memorialist was impatiently waiting for the interposition of Government in sending proper Assistance to pack up & properly stow away the Goods the sole think [*sic* thing] undone & the Work only of a day this being the case your Honor may judge my surprize to find the first exertion of Government to be to render your Memorialist the Servant of Governmt meerly nominal and vesting his Authority in others for so small a Purpose as putting up some Goods of Mr. Rowe's (which were unpacked when received) into Bags & stowing others away in bulk most of them without Inventory or Account & the whole with tedious ceremony & parade finished in two days – Your Memorialist's attention was (as he justly informed your Honor Capt Balfour Mr [William] Davis & Lieut Campbell)*so much engaged as not to pay the least regard to the Articles of Stores & provisions as he justly &c * 3 to whom he applied for relief but so far from his receiving any he was really greived to find all Parties declare that not a single Article would be supplied moreover the Persons who assisted me whom I assured a Passage and who were furnished with Stores out of which I had engaged a Supply were singled and set apart from the whole of the Passengers & Negroes aboard & possitive Orders produced for the immediate removal of them & Families on board the Ship *Peggy* altho in their present Circumstances such removal must have been highly dangerous

to some of them even so as to risque their Lives and yet this would have been executed had not the Weather rendered it impossible by which means the innocent People would in the public eye be involved in the guilt of the Plunders on board & render my own Character suspicious. Nineteen Barrells of Flour I had Major Hutchinsons orders to take on board and as much more as could be sent for which I gave my Receipts the second Barrell which was opened I sent for some which when discovered by Mr [Caleb] Wheaten he imperiously flourished over me while in Bed & told me he was surprized at the assurance I dared to shew in giving directions to have any, Upon which I told him he was an insignificant impertinent Puppy. Captain [Peter] Ramsey at that instant came in declared he would not hear one word of the occasion which provoked me to use the words I have mentioned but that if I uttered three words more he would send me Prisoner on board the Commodore – The Circumstances I have latterly mentioned must arise from the express orders of Government and are sufficient to shew that your Memorialist has been unfortunate enough to incur its displeasure – Your Memorialist very uneasy under any imputation which he really thinks malicious, frivolous & groundless prays proper Persons may be appointed by his Excellency the Commander in cheif to examine into his conduct and the conduct of those he employed so far as relates to him that your Memorialist may have an opportunity of shewing that he executed the trust reposed in him with ability probity and integrity to the Honor of the Character of Government and his own – Your Memorialist therefore most humbly prays his request may be laid before his Excellency the Commander in cheif & that he may be releaved in the Premises and receive suitable Satisfaction for the injuries & damages reced

[Endorsed] A true Copy attest Seth Loring Clerk in Secys Office No 52
Brush's memorial

1. The Revolutionary War Prize Cases, Records of the Court of Appeals in Cases of Capture, 1776-1787, No. 2, "The *Elizabeth* and Cargo, Wentworth, Appellant," NA.
2. The date is approximated. Boston was evacuated March 18, 1776, and Howe sailed for Halifax on March 27.
3. The asterisk seems to indicate that Brush had applied for relief to Lieutenant Campbell. However, it may be that Brush was not clear in his memorial, or that there was omission in copying it during the appeal.

OWNERS' BOND FOR THE SLOOP *Polly* ON A VOYAGE TO SURINAM ¹

Know all Men by these Presents That we John Brown of Providence in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchant as Principal and Simon Smith of Providence aforesaid Mariner as Surety are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr. General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Twelve Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony To which Payment well and truly to be made we bind Ourselves Our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with Our Seals. Dated the Twenty Fifth

Day of March in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas the said John Brown hath equipped the Sloop *Polly* burthened about Thirty Five Tons whereof the said Simon Smith is Master, and have obtained Permission of the Honourable Nicholas Cooke Esquire Governor of the said Colony for him the said Simon Smith to proceed with the said Schooner and her Cargo to Surinam or to any of the Foreign Islands in the West Indies to purchase Powder and other Military and Naval Stores &c. Now therefore the Condition of the above Obligation is such That if the said Simon Smith shall well and truly lay out the whole Proceeds of the Cargo on board the said Sloop in Gun Powder Salt Petre, Sulphur Duck or Arms and shall import the same into this or any other of the United Colonies in America the Danger of the Sea and of the Enemy only excepted; and also further excepting that in Case the said Simon Smith shall not be able to invest the whole Proceeds of the Sperma Coeti Candles in the Articles above-mentioned that then he shall be permitted to lay out and bring back the remainder in Paper Ozenbriggs Ticklenburgh Lead, Flints, Twine German Steele, Cotten Linnen or Woolen Cloths Jesuits Bark or Rhubarb and shall also lodge a true account or Manifest of his Cargo in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of said Sloop: and further shall not during said Voyage proceed or go to any of the English Islands in the West Indies or to any Port or Place contrary to the Continental Association (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

Sealed and delivered
in the Presence of
[No witnesses]

} John Brown
Simon Smith

I. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R. I. Arch.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1776

Newport, March 25.

The ministerial fleet on this station, about a fortnight past, took a double decked brig in Narraganset-Bay, belonging to this place; they took off her upper deck, and fitted her with 8 or 10 guns, and last Wednesday and Thursday the whole f[le]et, consisting of the ships *Rose*, *Glasgow* and *Swan*, two brigs of 8 or 10 guns each, 3 armed tenders and a la[r]ge transport snow, sailed on a cruise, and next day in the afternoon returned again, with two prize sloops, both from Connecticut, one bound to the West Indies, and the other to the Eastward, loaded with provisions.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO COLONEL JABEZ HUNTINGTON ¹

Sir

Lebanon 21st. April [*sic* March 25] 1776

On Observation of the foregoing Letter ² desired Colo [William] Williams that nothing be done by Colo [Eliphalet] Dyer and himself, as to purchasing Hemp or Rigging until they receive further Orders from

home – please to consult His Honor the Deputy Govr and the rest of the Council with you – and if you think it proper, direct Mr [James] Tilley to purchase the Yarns and pursue the Making Rigging as above is proposed –

I have no knowledge concerning Colo [Jedediah] Huntington's March – The General writes the 21st no more of the Army will be detached from thence,³ until the Enemy have taken their departure, and quitted the Coast –

Nothing Material from Canada – Doctr Lyman hath a Letter from his Son at Montreal, Says – Genl Wooster with a party of 1200 men were to March the 8th instant from thence to Quebec. All there remain as before I am – with Esteem & Respect [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull.

NB this Letter should be dated Mh 25 1776

1. Gunther Collection, ChHS.

2. Benjamin Huntington's letter of March 23, 1776.

3. Boston.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JOHN ADAMS AND GEORGE WYTHE¹

Gentlemen

Lebanon, March 25, 1776

Two Accounts of loss by hostilities committed by the Ministerial Navy, which came to hand since my last, are enclosed.

I do most sincerely congratulate you on General Washington's success, and on the shameful retreat of our Enemies from Boston, Which demanded our humble admiration and praise of the supream Director of all Events for His marvellous interposition for our help. – Tyranny and oppression have a natural tendency to move the Colonists to a separation from Great Britain – Nothing else could induce them to an Event so distant from their thoughts or designs. Burning and destroying our Towns, robbing our property, trampling on and profaning places dedicated to divine Worship and Service, and cruel treatment of the persons so unhappy as to fall into their hands, are injuries of the first Magnitude. – The prisoners in our custody meet generous entertainment. Is it not time the law of retaliation should take place? – Every subtle art, as well as arms are used against us – May God prevent their Operations, and turn their counsels to foolishness – preserve and on the shameful retreat of our Enemies from Boston, Which demand our guide their public Councils.

I am, with great Esteem and Regard, Gentlemen [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

1. Papers CC (Connecticut State Papers, 1775–89), 66, I, 91, NA.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH TO CHRISTOPHER LEFFINGWELL¹

Sir,

Norwich – March 25th 1776 –

You will please to put one bbl of New England Rum, on Board each of the Transports, which carry the troops to New York – you will furnish each Regt with Six days provisions except those of fresh Beef, which is supplied

by Capt Keye, for the Passage, which should be entire when they sail, so that should they be detained in port for any number of Days they must continue to Draw Dayly allowances, you will also furnish each Vessell with 12 Pounds of Candles, in Case the provisions should fall short on the Passage you will please to direct the Masters of the Transports to supply the Troops out of the Provisions belonging to the Commissary Genl which are on Board taking a Receipt from the Commanding officer of the Troops on board such Transport – I am Sr with respect [&c.]

W. Heath. B:G.

1. Heath Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

BRIGADE ORDERS OF BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH ¹

Norwich – March 25th 1776 –

The Troops are to be Dispos'd of on Board the Transports, in the following manner – Vizt

Colo [John] Starks Regt 431. on Board the Brigt *Brittania* Capt Edgerton 200, Schooner *Neptune*, Capt King 231 –

Colo Patterson's Regt 465, on Board the Brigt *Pitt* Capt Geer 276, Sloop *Dove*, Capt Davison, 189.

Colo [Charles] Webb's will Embark at New London, the disposition of that Regt which Consists of 542 men will be made at that place.

Colo [John] Greaton's Regt and Company of Artillery 483, on Board the Sloop *Polly*, 220. Capt Malbone, Schooner *Bedford*, Capt Rogers Artillery Company 52 & 76 Battalion men 128, Sloop *Hope* Capt Cowdrey 140 –

Colo [William] Bonds Regt 500, on Board the Brigt *Pitt* Capt Perkins 220, Schooner *Chelsea* Capt— 80, Sloop *Polly* Capt Lord 160, Schooner—Capt Adderton 40—

The Baggage of the Several Regts will be put on Board the Transports Immediately, Three Days fresh, and Three Days Salt Provisions must be Cooked for the Voyage; The Quarter Masters will draw it without Delay – it must be put on board a Small Vessell which is provided for that Purpose, and sent Down to New London this Day and Cooked there; The 5th 15th 24th & 25th Regiments will March To Morrow Morning at Seven O'Clock for New-London— Eight Seaman must be furnished by Each Regiment Immediately to assist in Navigating the Transports – They will be allow'd the Usual Pay of Artificers in Camp beside their wages. A List of their Names must be given in.

1. Heath Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Lunae, 10 HO. A.M.

March 25th, 1776.

The letter from John Chatfield, Esqr. Chairman of the committee of

East Hampton, received and read yesterday, was again read, and is in the words following, to wit:

[Here was inserted the letter of March 22, 1776]

The Committee, taking into consideration the defenceless state of Suffolk county,

Resolved, That 1,000 lb. of gunpowder and 4,000 lb. of lead be immediately despatched by a boat to Huntington, for the use of the inhabitants of Suffolk county, to be charged to the county, and the county to be accountable for the same; that a letter be wrote to Brigadier-Genl. [Nathaniel] Woodhull, informing him of the supply of ammunition sent to his county; and that Mr. [Thomas] Tredwell have the management of forwarding the said ammunition.

A letter from the Committee of Safety at Philadelphia, was read. They thereby inform us that they have sent Capt. Charles Alexander and Lieut. John Henessey, two officers of the armed boats in that Province, for the purpose of recruiting seamen for the naval service of that Province, and recommend them to this Committee for assistance.

Ordered, That the port master be and he is hereby permitted to put on board the packet one barrel of ale, and on board of the *Dutches of Gordon* five hundred weight of bread.

James Cooper, a boatman, and George Allisony, a sawyer, going on board of the packet with the port master with wood, were severally duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, not to give any intelligence to any person on board of the said packet, Governor Tryon's ship, or the ships of war in the harbour, relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of the city or Colony, and that they will not carry on board any letters or paper writings whatsoever.

Ordered, That they be admitted to go on board with the port master.

A permit from Nicholas Cooke, Esqr Governour of the Colony of Connecticut and Rhode-Island Plantations, under the seal of the said Colony, bearing date of the ninth day of March instant, was read. He thereby permits Upton Fraser, [*sic* Isaac Upton] master of the sloop *Greenwich*, to proceed to the Colony of New-York, in ballast only, and there take on board a lading of provisions and other articles, under the direction of the committee of inspection of the city, town or county where he shall lade, and to return to that Colony, sufficient bond having been given that he the said Isaac Upton shall in all things conform himself to the Continental association.

Ordered, That the general committee of the city of New-York, or their sub-committee of inspection, be permitted, and hereby [are] permitted to give permission to Isaac Upton, master of the sloop *Greenwich*, to take on board a lading of flour, bread or any other provisions whatsoever, (beef and pork excepted,) and any quantity of pig iron that they may think proper, and export the same to Rhode-Island, under such directions or restrictions and in such manner as they may think proper.

To the General Committee of the city of New-York, and to Mr. Ray and Colo. Hyer, their sub-committee, and to Capt. Wm. Mercier.

Die Lunae, 4 ho. P.M. March 25th, 1776.

Resolved, That the captains and inferior officers and the mariners of the armed vessels now fitted out or to be fitted out by this Colony for the protection of its trade against the depredations of the enemy be subject to and governed by the articles of war made by the Continental Congress for the government of the navy of the United Colonies, and that Captain [James] Smith of the sloop *Schuylcr*, and Captain [William] Rogers, be each of them served with a copy of this resolution.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 382, 383, 384.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, March 25, 1776

A letter from General Washington of the 19, was presented to Congress, and read, informing that on the 17, the enemy had evacuated Boston, and our troops took possession of it:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Congress, in their own name, and in the name of the thirteen United Colonies, whom they represent, be presented to his excellency General Washington, and the officers and soldiers under his command, for their wise and spirited conduct in the siege and acquisition of Boston; and that a medal of gold be struck in commemoration of this great event, and presented to his Excellency; and that a committee of three be appointed to prepare a letter of thanks, and a proper device for the medal.

The members chosen, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [John] Jay, and Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 234, 236.

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON TO CHARLES CARROLL, SR.¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] 25th March 1776 Monday PM 5 o'clock

Dear Papa Tomorrow we certainly leave this place at 9 o'Clock. I congratulate you on the success of our arms before Boston: the *Pena packet* contains Gen Washington's letter to Congress giving an acct that the enemy evacuated that city the 17th The Congress has resolved to thank the General & army for their conduct in driving the enemy out of their stronghold: a medal is to be struck upon the occasion & 4 battalions more are ordered to Canada on a supposition that Howe will send a part of his forces from Hallifax to Quebec when the navigation of the St Laurence will permit - The castle was not abandoned by the enemy when the General wrote his letter it is conjectured they will blow up the fortifications when they sail from the harbour or Boston road.

Providence smiles on our endeavours to preserve our liberties: the ardor of the people is So great that I believe Administration will be obliged to relinquish the mad project of reducing these colonies by force of arms. Since I wrote you last fresh powers have been given us, that of granting military commissions to such Canadians whom we shall think proper to grant them to – In short we have great powers, and I am determined not to abuse them; this is the disposition of my fellow Delegates.

God grant we may succeed in our undertaking & that our endeavours may be of service to our country & to the poor Canadians: to render the latter attached to us [we] should consider them as countrymen & friends. . . . I shall writè to you again from N York where we shall remain a day or two: you may expect another letter from Albany, and from Crown point another . . .

. . . I do not imagine the enemy will come up our bay again however It was prudent to remove the sheep on account even of their fleeces.

Ch. Carroll of Carrollt[o]n

1. Carroll Papers, MdHS.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 25th March, 1776.

Upon requisition of the Marine Committee of Congress for thirty stand of arms, or 2 wall pieces & 26 Muskets for the fitting out the Brig't. *Lexington*, for the protection of the Trade of this Coast, By order of the Board, Robert Towers, Commissary, was directed to deliver said number of arms to Capt. [John] Barry, or his order

Resolved, That Mr [David] Rittenhouse, Mr. [John] McNeal, Colo. [Samuel] Miles, Mr. O. [Owen] Biddle and Mr. [George] Clymer, [be] a Committee to fix upon proper places upon the River Delaware for erecting fortifications.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 524.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

A Journal of the Proceedings of the Squadron of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under my Command.

[March 20 to March 25] Having got back the Lieutenant and 40 Men, which I had been under the necessity of lending to the *Otter* to equip her for the expedition, I immediately prepared for sailing to the Delaware to meet the reinforcement I expected from Admiral Shuldham, and accordingly wrote to my Lord Dunmore to acquaint him of my intention. His Lordship most strongly protested against my leaving Virginia and set forth his reasons at large in a Letter which appeared to have so much weight, that I consented to leave the *Liverpool* and *Otter* for his defence, until the arrival of some other Ship. I sailed the next day with the *Roebuck*,

but meeting with a strong NW. Wind I did not arrive at Cape Henlopen until the 25th in the Night.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck* ¹

March 1776 Cape Henry ESE 3 Miles
 Friday 22d A M Exercis'd Great Guns & small Arms & Fired at a Mark Moderate & cloudy 2 [P.M.] the *Maria* Tender came from Norfolk & Anchord here sent an Officer & 4 Men on board her [at] 3 Weighed & made sail [at] 6 Anchord in 9 fa Cape Henry WNW 4 Miles [at] 10 Weighed & made sail
 Saturday 23d [at] 8 [A.M.] out 2d reefs TS & [at] 11 In 2d reef topsails Fresh gales & rain 1 [A.M.] brought too for the *Maria* & at 2 made Sail 9 Split the Foretopsail got it down & handd the Main & Miz & down top G. Yds
 Sunday 24th Strong Gales & fair [at] 4 [P.M.] Wore ship bent the Foretopsail
 Monday 25th 5 [A.M.] set close reefd TS 10 out reefs & up top G. Yd. [P.M.] took the *Maria* in Tow [at] 6 Cape Henlopen light House WNW 4 Miles [at] 8 run upon the beach at 1/2 past backd off again Anchord in Old Kiln Road in 5 [fathoms] the light House SE 1/2 S 1 Mile down top G. Yds.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Lewis, Monday Evening 7 o'clock,

March 25, 1776

Gentlemen, This serves to inform you that there is a Sloop of War now coming into our Road with a Small Tender, And as it is now night, I cannot inform you whether they are bound Up the Bay or not; the Wind is now at South, therefore have Reason to believe that they will proceed up the Bay. We are apprized of the Matter and shall do our utmost to prevent their getting any Pilot or Pilots from this place. Yours in haste,

Henry Fisher.

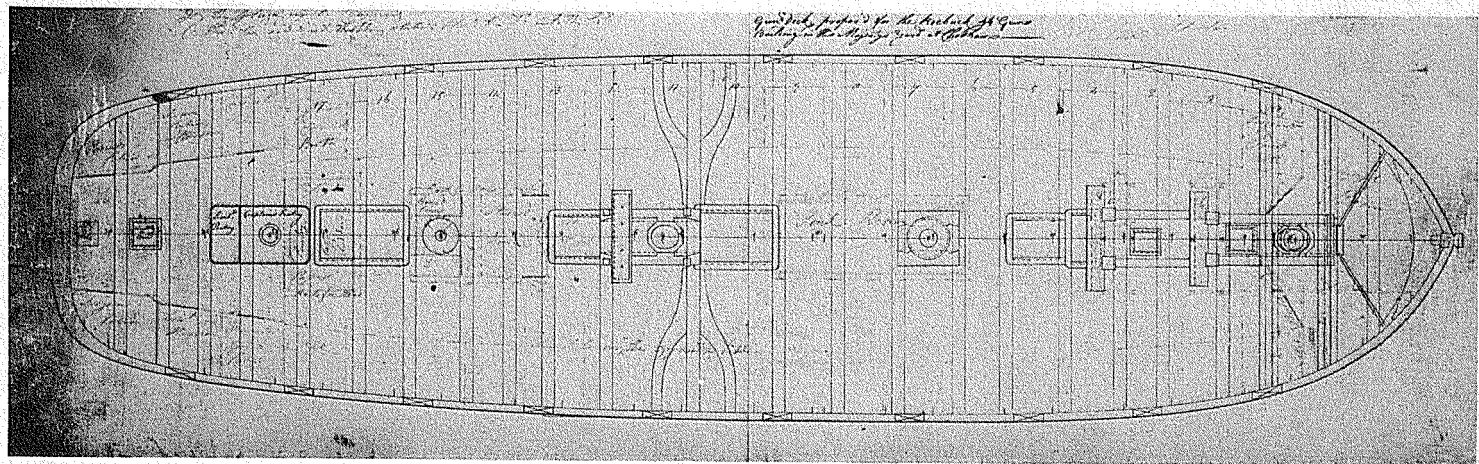
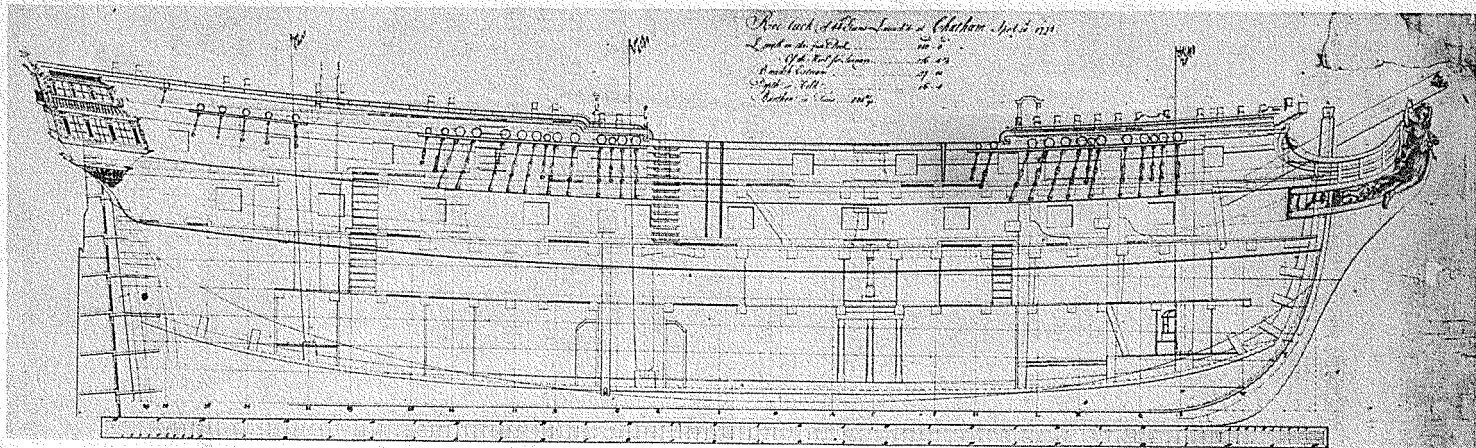
[Note to the stages] At every Different Stage the Express must Date the hour of Delivering this Letter to the other Express. H.F.

Directed, To the Committee of Safety of Philadelphia, p Express.
 Indorsed.

Recd this Express Monday Night 30 Minutes after Ten o'clock, at Cedar Creek. Thos. Evans.

Recd at Dover Tuesday morning, at fifteen Minutes after four Dispatched at thirty-five Minutes after four. F. Battell

Recd at Cantwell's Bridge at five Minutes after Nine, Dispatched three Minutes after Ten; Arrd at Wilmington fifty-five Minutes after Twelve; De-



Inboard profile and gun deck plan of HMS Roebuck, 44.

tained at the ferry 21 Minutes, boat's being on Wilmington side.

Matt. Delaney.

Dispatched [from Wilmington] four Minutes after one.

Thos. Kean.

37 Minutes after 2 o'clock, Richard Kane arrived at Chester, the[n] Left it at 3 & 17 Minutes.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 724-25.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee on Monday 25 March 1776 -

Silas Howell late Mate, & John Willson & Willm Sellers Mariners of the Sloop *John William Dean* Master from Cape Anne to Virginia taken off York River, as appeared by Protest, and Certificate of the Council of Safety, applied for Passes to the Massachusetts Government, which were granted -

1. *Baltimore Committee*, LC.

RECEIPT RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

[Baltimore]

March 25th 1776 Recd of Capt James Nicholson on *Accot Ship Defence* six pounds fifteen Shills for boarding Myself Nine Weeks at fifteen Shills pr Week

£6.15.0

John Burnell

1. *Account Book*, *Ship Defence Papers*, MdHS.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Monday 25th March 1776.

Ordered That the said Treasurer [of the Western Shore] pay to Mr Hugh Young Eighty five Pounds thirteen Shillings and seven Pence, being the Ballance of his Account in Conseq[ue]nce of the Ad]venture pr the Bri[g] *Nancy*.

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GEORGE PLATTER AND BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN DENT ¹

No 85

Gentn Colo [Hugh] Mercer has been with us this Day and is very desirous a Time and Place should be appointed for meeting to consult about setting up Beacons on the River Potowmack - we have agreed with him that Port Tobacco should be the Place and Tuesday the Second of April the Time - You will be pleased to attend accordingly, agreeable to your former Appointment. -

[Annapolis] 25th March 1776.

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

PROTEST OF WILLIAM RADDON, MASTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA SLOOP
*Joseph*¹

North-Carolina, Edenton, ss.

By this publick instrument of protest and writing, bearing date hereafter mentioned, be it known and manifest to all whom it may concern, that on the 25th day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, before me, Thomas Jones, notary and tabellion publick, residing at Edenton, in the Province aforesaid, by lawful authority, duly admitted and sworn according to law, personally appeared William Raddon, late master of the Sloop *Joseph*, and made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, before me, as notary aforesaid, that on the 9th day of January last past, he (this deponent) sailed with the said Sloop *Joseph* from the city of Philadelphia, bound to Savannah, in the Province of Georgia, and proceeded down to Reedy-Island, in the river of Delaware, when the navigation was obstructed by the ice, until the 11th day of February last past, when this deponent sailed with the said Sloop *Joseph* on his intended voyage; that early in the morning of the 13th day of the same month, the said Sloop *Joseph*, then being in the latitude of $35^{\circ}10'$, and about fifteen leagues from the land, this deponent discovered a vessel on the weather-quarter, steering down for her; that this deponent immediately made all the sail he could from the said vessel, and it being smooth water, ran very fast from her; that in the afternoon it fell calm, when this deponent discovered a boat rowing from the said vessel, (she then being about a league astern,) and about five o'clock in the evening the said boat came alongside the said Sloop *Joseph*; that this deponent hailed the people on board the said boat, and requested to know what was the vessel astern; they informed him she was the armed Sloop *General Gage*, commanded by George Sibles, bound from Boston to Cape-Fear, and then immediately boarded the said Sloop *Joseph*, being eight in number, completely armed with muskets and cutlasses; then as soon as they got on board, the officer who commanded them ordered this deponent to get into the boat and go on board the said Sloop *General Gage*, with his papers, which this deponent accordingly did; that when this deponent got on board the same, he delivered his papers to the commanding officer, who, after perusing them, told this deponent that the said Sloop *Joseph* was a good prize, "papers or no papers," as he had orders to seize every vessel he met with on his passage; and then directed this deponent to remain on board the said Sloop *General Gage*, where this deponent was put into the hold with the common seamen; that the same evening the mate and seaman belonging to the said Sloop *Joseph* were taken out of her and put on board the said Sloop *General Gage*, and a mate and six men were sent on board the said Sloop *Joseph* to navigate her into Cape-Fear; that on the 21st day of the same month, the said Sloop *General Gage* got into the Cape-Fear River, and on the 22d day of the same month, the said Sloop *Joseph* also arrived, and was moored under the guns of the *Falcon* sloop-of-war, commanded by John Lindsey, then Commodore of the fleet lying at Fort Johnston; that the next day after the arrival of the said Sloop *Joseph*, one John Collett, who

came passenger in the said Sloop *General Gage*, from Boston, and who, as this deponent was informed, had a commission as Captain of a company of "Loyal Fencible Americans," went on board the said Sloop *Joseph*, with the commander of the said Sloop *General Gage*, and broke open the hold of the said Sloop *Joseph*, and took out a butt of porter, a parcel of loaf-sugar, and cheese; that a few days after, the purser of the *Scorpion* sloop-of-war came down from Brunswick with an order from Josiah Martin, Esq., late Governour of Commander-in-Chief of the Province aforesaid, to take a large quantity of provisions out of the said Sloop *Joseph*, being part of the cargo of the same; that this deponent remained a prisoner on board the said Sloop *General Gage* until the 4th day of March instant, when he made his escape, with Joseph Wood, part owner of the said Sloop *Joseph*, and several other persons who had been detained prisoners with this deponent by special orders given by the aforesaid John Lindsey to the commander of the said Sloop *General Gage*.

Wherefore, the said William Raddon, late master as aforesaid, before me, did protest against the said George Sibles, commander of the said Sloop *General Gage*, the said John Collett, the said John Lindsey, commander of the *Falcon* sloop-of-war, and the said Josiah Martin, late Governour and Commander-in-Chief of the Province aforesaid, and all other persons with them concerned, for all losses, costs, and damages, whatsoever, that hath or may accrue to the owners, freighters, or insurers, or any person or persons whatsoever concerned in the said Sloop *Joseph*, and the cargo on board the same, for the reasons herein-beforementioned. Whereupon, I, the said Thomas Jones, notary as aforesaid, at the instance and request of the said William Raddon, did, and do hereby solemnly, and in due form, sign and attest this present protest of, for, concerning all and singular the premises aforesaid in the particular manner herein-beforementioned and expressed, as if the same were herein again particularly mentioned and repeated.

William Raddon.

Thomas Jones,

In testimonio ventatis,

Notary Publick, Edenton, North-Carolina.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 1495, 1496. See Journal of the North Carolina Provincial Congress, April 12, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Cruizer*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY ¹

March [1776] Moor'd off the Fort [Johnston, Cape Fear River]
 Monday 25th Fresh breezes and fair; went up the river the *Kitty* Transport
 and the *Pallaser* Transport with Genl [Henry] Clinton.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Monday, March 25, 1776.

The Report of the Committee to prepare proper rules and articles for the government of the navy of this colony, being taken into consideration;

The said rules were amended, and agreed to.

Ordered, That the Secretary do forthwith cause a proper number of copies of the said rules and articles to be printed, for the use of the navy of this colony.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 104.

HENRY LAURENS' ORDER TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA COLONY TREASURERS ¹

[Charleston] 25th March 1776 -

£5227.13.4 -

Pay to Messr P. Lepoole & John Burnley Five thousand two hundred & twenty seven pounds 13/4. for a Cargo of Rice Shiped by them on public Account on board the Brigantine *Liberty* Philip Conway Master for the West Indies -

By order of the Council of Safety

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 211.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH ¹

March 1776

River Savanah Georgia

[Monday] 25 at 1 PM a Number of Rebels appeared on the Island of Tybey. Burnt 3 Houses, Killd one Marine, wounded another, and one Nicholas a Carpenter. Sent Boats on Shore to take the People off.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH ¹

March 1776

Moord in Savannah river off the Island of Cockspur.

Monday 25

Anchored abreast of the Light House The *Cherokee* an Armed Ship at 2 (P M) The *Hinchinbrook* Schooner fired two Shot which alarmed the Ships found that the Rebels had sett the Houses on Tybee Island on Fire and taken the people prisoners man'd and Armed the boats with all the boats in the Squadron and a Company of Marines in the flats and went down to the Island to get the well affected People off their was a small party of Marines a wooding two of them they used in a very Inhuman manner and one they took prisoner who afterwards made his escape one Nichols a Shipwright they shot through the Head we took the wounded and what people there was left and came on board with the boats the Rebels got off without any Hurt their was about 50 with some Indians commanded by Mr [Archibald] Bullock who is their head at Savannah

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/771.

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

- March 1776 Tybee Light house E $\frac{1}{2}$ S 1 Mile & Graham's house $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile off Shore
- Monday 25 Fresh Gales and fair Wear at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 p m saw a brisk fire of Musquetry on Tybe Island between a party of Six Marines belonging to the *Symmetry* and a great number of the Rebels. Do we fired three Broad sides on the Rebels and dispersed them, the Lost on our side was 1 man killed, two Wounded and one taken prisoner, the Rebels Lost uncertain.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Hinchinbrook*, LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER ELLIS ¹

- March 76 Tibeia [Tybee] Lookout Et
- Mondy 25 at 2 AM Weigh'd & Run further up came too off Coxspur with the Best Bower in 3 fm Moor'd with Kedge Anchor & hauser. Tibeia Lookout East, Coxspur Isld WNW found Rid[in]g here his Majestys Ships *Scarborough*, *Tamer Raven* & *Cherokee* & *St Lawrence* armd Schooner Carpenter Varously Empd -
- Mode Breezes and Clear Wr at 2 P M a party of rebels Came and set a fire the two houses on Tebea Island fired several Guns at them

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4219.

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

Remarks On Monday March 25

- 2 [A.M.] Fresh Breezes & Cloudy with a heavy sea from the NWest
- 8 Saw a sail to Windward, a signal was made for us to Chase, Tack'd to the South & made sail
- 12 [M.] Tack'd to the North the Chase Bearing North
- Latt Observd 33..12
Longitude In 70..30
- 2 [P.M.] Moderate Breezes & Cloudy Weather
- At 2 PM. The Sloop *Providence* Brought the Chase too, A Schooner from Carilona, Bound to France, Handed the Topsails & Mainsail, Blowing Hard with a Cross sea.

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

"A LIST OF REBEL VESSELS, TAKEN BY THE SQUADRON, OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS & VESSELS, UNDER MY COMMAND [GAYTON] AT JAMAICA, BETWEEN THE 21ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1775, AND THE [25TH OF MARCH, 1776]"¹

[Extract]

No of Vessels Taken.	When Taken year	Vessels Names.	Mastr Names.	where Belonging.	Lading.	By which of His Majestys Vessels taken	Commanders Name.	Agents Names.
1	21 Decemr 1775	Sloop <i>Dove</i>	Natha: Bull	Rhode Island	Molasses & Sugar	<i>Maidston</i>	Alan Gardner	Malc[ol]m Laing
2.	27 " "	Schooner <i>Happy Return</i>	Eliph Smith	Salem	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
3	29 " "	Sloop <i>Susannah</i>	B. Appleton	N. Carolina	Molasses	ditto	ditto	ditto
4	" "	Sloop <i>Cornelia</i>	Rob. Sands	New York	ditto & Coffee	<i>Squirrel</i>	Stair Douglas	Campbell & Galbraith.
5	31 " "	Sloop <i>Penelope</i>	Jno Worden	N. Carolina	Molasses	<i>Maidston</i>	Alan Gardner	Malc: Laing
6	2 Januy [17]76	Sloop <i>Affie & Hannah</i>	Benj: Bell	New York	Salt	<i>Squirrel</i>	Stair Douglas	Campbell & Galbraith
7	30 " "	Sloop <i>Thames</i>	J. Fairibelt	Philadelphia	Rum & Molasses	ditto	ditto	Campbell & Galbraith
8	31 " "	Schooner <i>Dolphin</i>	Ed. Manning	N. Carolina	Molasses & Coffee	<i>Maidston</i>	Alan Gardner	Mal: Laing
9	6 Februy "	Schooner <i>Nancy</i>	Will Clark	Nantuckett	ditto & Rum	ditto	ditto	ditto.
10	12 March "	Brigg <i>Polly</i>	Paul Cruize	Delaware	Bread & Flour	<i>Antelope</i>	Will Judd	Peter & Charles Ramsey.
11	" "	Sloop <i>Betsey</i>	Gray	Georgia	Ballast	ditto	ditto	ditto.
12	25 " "	Brigg <i>King George</i>	Pennock	Delaware	Bread & Flour	ditto	ditto	ditto.
13	" "	Brigg <i>Industry</i>	Edwd Allen	S. Carolina	Ballast	<i>Squirrel</i>	Stair Douglas	Campbell & [G]albraith.

1. Gayton's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

26 Mar.

LIEUTENANT JOHN BROGDEN TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM GOFORTH ¹

Copy

Camp before Quebec 26 March 1776

I have just time to let you know that me and my Family are Arrived at Head Quarters on Saturday 23d Inst in good Health. I am Informed that 500 Canadians and a few Regulars from the Garrison have Assembled together 12 Leagues below Quebec with two 12 Pounders and are getting more formidable every Day have Intercepted some Provision of ours. We have sent a Party of Men after them to take their Standard (which they have erected) and bring it to Head Quarters for my part I dread the Consequence as our Party does not Amount to 100 Men God & he only can determine our Fate. I think we have sent one Gondola and some Armed Battoes in Order to Intercept an Armed schooner from Quebec and they are Cutting more out of the Ice I mean the Regulars excuse Haste I know your Prudence will know how to handle this dangerous News.
To Capt Goforth 3 Rivers

Jn^o Brogdon

P.S. Nothing shall escape my Notice to you of all that passes and if you think me worth your Notice let me have your Opinion.

Thanks be to God this Moment as I was Concluding this Letter News came in Major [Lewis] DuBois had sent a Letter to General Arnold that our Men met with the Advanced Party of the Enemy Killed Wounded a good many and took thirty Prisoners and Routed the Rest and is Advancing to the Main Body a party of 150 Men is gone to reinforce our Party we expect further News very soon if we carry our Point I think Quebec will soon be our own.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 113, 114, NA.

TRISTRAM DALTON TO MOSES GILL ¹

Sir

Newburyport March 26th, 1776

Under the 18 Inst I wrote you fully respecting the Brig *Unity*, [Michael] Corbit late Master – not knowing whom to address further on that Subject, I again take the Freedom to trouble you with the enclosure of a Copy of the Letter from Mr Schaltenbrand, already forwarded you – and a Letter from Mr [Andrew] Slyfield the Mate of the Brig – being the first I have received from him – Also a Letter signed by him and directed to Mess Bailey & Brown, dictated I presume by his Attorney – Wherein it is desired a Power of Attorney might be sent to enable Slyfield to recover the Money left in Shaltenbrand Care – These Papers with three others enclosed were brought me by Isaac Noyes, one of the Carpenters belonging to the Brig – & whom Slyfield dispatched home for that Purpose –

I have already mentioned that Bailey and Browns Names were used in a Set of sham Orders, Copy of which I now enclose, because the Register of the Vessel was taken out by them ² – The Real Orders signed by myself in

Behalf & by Order of the Colony, were so secreted by Corbit, that I don't think even Slyfield has them – Corbit was to have assigned the whole business over to some capable Person in Case of his being sick – I am apt to think He communicated his Plan to Mr Schaltenbrand with whom He left his Money – but being taken delirious on keeping his House, and dying suddenly, had not Time to direct in writing the future Disposal of the Interest – The Merchant appears to me to have acted an honest fair Part – and p[er] his Letter to understand Business – The Mate on his Part seems to act on good Principles – I send this packet by the said Carpenter, Mr Noyes, that you may interrogate him – He tells me the Brig would fetch from two thousand to 2500 Dollars – that by laying in St Thomas so long She must be much worm eaten – and unfit in some Degree to proceed the Voyage I took the Freedom to propose to you – I would beg Leave to offer my Opinion in the present Situation of her and the neat Proceeds of her Cargoe – That some discreet Person be sent immediately to St Thomas with full Powers from Bayley and Brown – that He gets the Money from Mr Achaltenbrand in the easiest Manner He can – that He then sells the Vessel, paying & dismissing all the People – and invest the whole Money left, in such Way and Manner as the Colony shall think proper – Or when He has got the Money from the Merchant that He proceed therewith in the Brig in any Voyage thought best – The Sloop bound to St Croix from this Place sails next Week – it will be a direct Opp[ortunit]y to send – A Determination soon will be most for the Interest of the Concerned – as perhaps no other Passage may present –

Mr Noyes has brought an Order on me for the Wages due him – I have no Money of the Colonies in my Hands, having settled and balanced the Accounts of the Brig with the late Committee of Supplies – There will be due him for Wages the 30th of this Month twenty-Eight pounds 2/8 – 28. . 2. . 8 for his Expences from York to Newb[ury]port – 12 for his Expences to Watertown with this Intelligence – & Horse Hire – Which Sum you'll oblige him & me by paying – his Family wants Supplies – I will be Sponsor that He shall make no further Demands on Acct of the Brig – as well as for any other Monies He may have taken up on her Account –

You'll please to communicate this, to those under whose immediate Department it falls – from whom I hope to hear further by return of Mr Noyes. – Being with Respect – Sir [&c.]

Tristram Dalton

[Endorsed] In the House of Represent[ative]s March 29 1776

Read and ordered that the same with the papers accompanying it be Committed to a Comtee of both houses and that Mr [Seth] Cushing and Majr [Stephen] Cross be of the Comtee on the part of the house.

Sent up for Concurrence

J Warren Spkr

In Council March 29th 1776

Read and concurred & Chas Chauncy Esqr is joined Perez Morton D Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 208, 284-87.

2. The sham orders were dated July 31, 1775. See Volume 1, 1014-15.

WINTHROP SARGENT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Sir

Glocester March 26 1776

Wen I rote you last I was in hops of Saving the biggest part of Capt [James] Watts Cargow ² but the storm Cumming on direclely after the Ship was on fier that the Cask Stove against the rocks as sune as thay struck the Shoar there was not one Cask Saved after I rote your Exellency, below You have An account of what is saved Sum of the Cask which I thought was Portor is Veneger & Grout Should be glad to Know weather I must libel what is saved -

Last night at Sundown the Fleat about Seventy sail past Our Cape Stearing about E B S Distant about six Leags I Remain Your Excy [&c.]

Winthrop Sargent Agent

19	bals of porter	2	Cabels
6	Hogsd of Do	3	Ackers
17	Quart Cask of Do	1	Horsor
<u>42</u>		2	Oyrn [iron] Haths
9	Hogsed Veneger	3	Coppers
2	bals of Grout		Sail & Running Rigen
		2	boats
			Sundry blocks
		3	Hogs

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The ship *Stakesby*, taken March 10, by four of Washington's armed schooners. She ran on the rocks that night, and was set on fire by H.M. Brig *Hope*.

PETITION OF NIELS CHRISTIAN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

To the Honble the Council and the Honble House of Representatives of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay.

Niels Christian.

Humbly shews -

That he was Mate of the Ship *Harriot* which was taken about ten days since, and carried into Dartmouth ²

That when said Ship lay at Long Island New York he took an opportunity to leave her on the 27th February last. -

That he ship'd himself on board the above said Vessel at London with a full purpose of quitting her and the Service she was employ'd in the first opportunity after her arrival in America & is now ready to engage in its cause if he can get a birth on board of any of the Arm'd Vessels fitted out by this Colony. That he inform'd the Provincial Congress of New York of the Signals that were to be given by said Ship &c - in consequence of which two

Armed Vessels were sent from thence in pursuit of her. – & said Congress granted him a pass which he now has by him. ³

That he left every thing belonging to him on board of said Ship (except the Cloaths he has on) & had 5 mo & 25 days Wages due to him when he left her, which with his Effects on board, amounts to £ 32. . 7 . . 0 Sterling.

He therefore humbly prays your Honors to take his Case under consideration – and give such directions as you in your Wisdom may think proper so that he may obtain his Wages & property on board of said Vessel – And your Petitioner as in duty bound will pray &c –

Niels Christian

Watertown March 26th 1776.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 366.
2. The *Harriot* was taken March 7, 1776.
3. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 366a:

In Provincial Congress; New York February Twenty Ninth 1776./.

The Bearer hereof Niles Christian late Mate of the Transport Ship *Harriot*, who has escaped from the said Ship, and whose former stated place of Residence was at Charles Town in Massachusetts Bay is hereby permitted to pass to Cambridge in Massachusetts Bay

Extract from the Minutes

John McKesson Secry

To the Several Committees where necessary to be Shewn & to all other Friends to American Liberty.

JOSIAH QUINCY TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Braintree] Tuesday Morng [March 26, 1776]

Mr [Joseph] Ward's tarrying in Town, gives me a further Opportunity to inform your Excellency that the Fleet, consisting of about 100 Sail, chiefly large Ships, remain as they were last Night.

10 O'Clock The same Signal is now flying at the Admiral's Main top mast Head as was hoisted yesterday morning: Scarce hoisted before it was lower'd again, & in abt ½ an hour a blew flag is flying at mizen Top mast Head and a Pendant at his mizen Peek.

11 O'clock The above Signals are changed, for a red Ensign hoisted just under his Mizen Yard: A signal is just now hoisted upon the Top of the Light House, for Vessels in the Offing; and immediately followed, by a blew broad Pendant from the middle of the Tower: In less than 10 Minutes the Signal first mentioned, vizt a Pendant is flying from his main top mast Head.

[12] O'clock A red Ensign is now flying at his mizen top mast Head, a blew Ensign at his starboard mizen Shrouds, and a pendant thrown out between, by hand, & immediately taken in again.

[2] O'clock The 60 gun Ship in King Road is come to Sail & going down to Nantasket: The Admiral's red Ensign is struck; the blew one remains: a large transport Ship and a Brig are just arrived within the Light.

If the foregoing Intelligence and the mode of it shou'd prove so agreable to your Excellency as to desire the Continuance of it whilst the Fleet remains, please to let me know your Pleasure any Time before tomorrow

Night, 'till which Time I shall continue to note down every remarkable Occurrence. *Ut supra*

J Q

1. Washington Papers, LC. Continuation of a letter begun March 25.

LETTER OF AGENCY OF CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP, R.N. ¹

No I Know all Men by these presents, That I Thomas Bishop Esquire, Commander of his Majestys ship *Lively* now on the American Station, do hereby Constitute and Appoint Robert Hallowell late of Boston in the County of Suffolk within his Majestys Province of Massachusetts Bay in New England Esquire to be my agent and Attorney in all causes that are or may be instituted respecting any siezures or captures made or to be made by me or wherein I am or may be interested; empowering him my said Attorney to Libel, Prosecute, stipulate Appeal, and do all Acts and things for me and in my name, that may be necessary in & about the Premisses as fully and Effectually, to all intents and purposes as I the said Constituent might or could do if personally present – and also in my name to Demand, receive and (if need be) sue for any Sum or Sums of money that are or may be due to me respecting the Premisses, and to execute good and sufficient discharges for the same, with Power of Substitution – Hereby holding valid what my said Attorney may legally do in the Premisses

Witness my hand and Seal on board his Majestys Ship *Lively* now lying in Nantasket Road this twenty sixth day of March in the Year of our Lord, Christ, one Thousand seven hundred, & seventy six –

Sign'd Seal'd & deliver'd

Th^o Bishop

in Presence of –

Benj. Hallowell Ed. Winslow

[First endorsement]

Sundry goods on Board the Schooner *Tartar* Condemn'd as lawfull Prize to the Captors 4th May 1776 – Seized by Thomas Bishop, Esqr Commander of his Majestys Ship the *Lively* –

[Second endorsement]

Received and Registered this 4th Day of May Anno Domini 1776

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

CREAN BRUSH TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE ¹

[On board the brig *Elizabeth*, March 26, 1776] ²

May it please your Excellency

In pursuance of the Orders I received from Brigadier General [James] Robertson I did take to my assistance the Persons whose Names I returned to him vizt Charles Blasquet Richard Hill John Hill and David Cunningham who with their Families have spared no fatigue or Labor in assisting me to execute the Orders your Excellency was pleased to give me these Persons are cheifly of my own Family have principally neglected their own Concerns to serve Government at my request and confiding in the assurance

I gave totally neglected providing a Passage in any Vessel which otherways they could easily have procured Myself and these People have inclosed a small space between Decks have our own Stores and Provisions and cannot be the least inconvenience to any Person on board notwithstanding this I am apprehensive of their being removed & Myself left without assistance for my persnal convenience & comfort, I would therefore ask it as a favor that they may not be removed

C. Brush

[Endorsed] A true Copy attest Seth Loring Clerk in the Secys Office
No 51-

1. Revolutionary War Prize Cases, Records of the Court of Appeals in Cases of Capture, 1775-1787. "The *Elizabeth* and Cargo, Wentworth Appellant," NA.
2. The date is approximated; see note under Brush's Memorial, March 25, 1776.

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

[Providence] Monday Evening 26 March 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment.

Whereas. There seems to be an Uneasiness among the Ships carpenters on Acct. of their wages, Tis Voted that Nicholas Cooke Esqr John Smith, William Russell & Jabez Bowen be a Committee to attend in the yard tomorrow morning to settle the matter with them they not allowing any one Carpenter more than 9d more than they were to have in the former agreement.

Reckoning [blank]

Meeting adjourn'd to morrow Evening

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

WILLIAM GREENE TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

[Extract]

Warwick 26 March 1776

I jst now received a letter from a Near Relation of mine Informing me that she had a Son whose name is Nathan Comstock junr who was Taken out of a boat at fishers Island in August last supposd by Capt How [Tyringham Howe], and as we are About to Exchange prisoners with Capt Wallace I am therefore Very Desierous that Your Honour as I suppose the Flag will go on board said ships under your Direction, will give perticular Orders to the barers of the Truce to make Deligent Inquiry whether he is on Board either of said Ships or not and if he is to bring him on shore with the rest we may receive in exchange for the prisoners we Deliver them . . .

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, News Series, XXXVI, 331.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

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

March 26th, 1776.

Ordered, that Capt. Charles Alexander and Lieut. John Hennessey be

at liberty to enlist the mariners lately brought from the east end of Nassau island, and now confined in the jail of this city, and take them to Philadelphia, and that the said mariners be discharged from confinement on the request of those gentlemen.

The Committee of Safety having called and examined the gentlemen enlisting mariners for the three vessels on the lake by order of Continental Congress, and the captains of the armed vessels fitting out by order of this Colony for the defence of trade between Sandy Hook and the Capes of Delaware, are informed that there are but few mariners in this city and no more, if so many, as will be sufficient for the necessary purposes above mentioned. The Committee are therefore of opinion that they can not, with justice to the Colony, or to the public service to the northward, consent that Captain Alexander and Lieutenant Hennessey enlist or take away any other mariners than those above mentioned.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 386.

HENRY LIVINGSTON TO ROBERT LIVINGSTON, JR. ¹

Hon'd Sir

New York March 26. 1776 –

We had a short tho' disagreeable passage – the Second day after our leaving you, We had, a Snow Storm which lasted us the Whole day – and on our arrival here we found this City in a most disagreeable State, in every street, there is a Barrier erected to prevent the landing of troops, people moving out of the town very fast, hourly is expected four Regiments from Pennsylvina – all the Militia from the Jerseys, and Westchester, in short all the men far, and near that can be procured – by the papers that I send you enclosed you will find that on the 17 Instant Mr Howe with the troops under his Command, embarked, on board their Ships, and fell down as far as Nantasket Road, their has been a vast number of surmises, relative, to the conduct of Gen. Howe in quitting so strong a hold, which the Provincials are now in Possession off – Yesterday, came to town an Express from the east end of long Island, given an account of a fleet of 25 sail of Ships being seen off Montock Point, steering: North east for Road Island – by accounts from the Southward their has been an Engagement, between Governer Martin and the Provincials in which the latter came off victorious —

I am very sorry to Inform you that flour is Extremely low, owing to the large Quantities that have arrived here for these some weeks past, I have sold your R flour for no more than 15/ – the Burr, I have put in Store in hopes of procuring in a short time Seventeen for, I cannot advise you to send, any more down, till a more favorable oppertunity offers I shall endeavour to Send the Sloop away on friday certain — as to the Articles Mentioned to me in your Order, altho [few] their not to be had, salt 5/ – I have made an agreement with a man for 2 Hhds of New York rum for 4/6 – Sell flour low and by high priced Articles wont do – I shall write you more fully by the Sloop – in the Interim Remain Your Most Dutifull Son

Henry Livingston

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, March 26, 1776

Resolved, That an order be sent to Commodore [William] Douglass, immediately to repair to the lakes, and take command of the vessels on that station.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 236, 237.

MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Phila 26 March 1776.

Gent: The inclosed contains a State of the powder and Arms we have sent from hence. Willing and Morris still assure us they daily expect an Arrival of powder to enable them to furnish us with the Quantity they contracted for they were but partly interested in the Salt petre which arrived & had not the Management of it nor was it in their power to procure any of it to be manufactured for us the Congress having immediately on the Arrival of the Salt petre taken up all the Powder Mills If you think it necessary we have no Doubt but that we can borrow a Ton of powder more as it begins now to come in from the Mills we should be inclined to borrow & forward it but that we think the additional Expense and Risk cannot be justified but by necessity. We should have got a return of the Musquets furnished the *Hornet* & *Wasp* with the powder but the Congress have it not in their power. . . . Inclosed you have the pay in the Marine Service. . . . The price of Duck & indeed every kind of Linen exceeds here what it does with you any Thing of the kind cannot be got at scarce any price nor could it when T. J. [Thomas Johnson] got to Phila wherefore no Attempt was made to get Knapsacks & Haversacks buying [*sic* believing] proper materials might arrive in port or from Vanbebber Time enough We hope what has been sent down of Vanbebber's Cargoe will answer for their purposes & for tents. The duck is too heavy for any use about our Troops we have sold the Holland Duck at 8.10 & the Russia at 7.0 a ps the sale was to the Congress for the use of the Frigates and to the Virginians for their armed vessels. Immediately on T J's coming to Phila he & R.A. [Robert Alexander] mentioned the *Defence* to the Marine Committee either to sell or have insured they seemed not very fond of taking her off our hands before the matter was totally given up Capt Squires Expedition was defeated T.J. confirms our Opinion that if any Depredations should take place after we had parted from the vessell it would be imputed to the sale of her and there's no Idea of the Congress taking her off our Hands but on subjecting her to the uncontrolled orders of the Congress we have therefore thought it best to let this Matter rest till the Convention. . . . We are [&c.]

R. Alexander Th Johnson

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety,

Philad'a, 26th March, 1776.

Resolved, That William Gamble be appointed Captain to the *Aetna* Fire Ship.

That William Greenway be appointed Captain to one of the tier of Fire Rafts.

Resolved, That the Provincial Ship of War be called the *Montgomery*. That the Floating Battery be called the *Arnold*.

Resolved, That Mr. O. Biddle & Mr. Clymer employ Arthur Donaldson to build two piers to sink, for fixing the Boom for obstructing the navigation of the passage at Fort Island.

At a Special Meeting of the Committee of Safety, at the Coffee House, Mr. [John] Nixon laid before the Board a Letter sent by express from Henry Fisher, dated Lewes Town, Monday evening, Seven O'Clock, acquainting this Committee that a Sloop-of-war was then coming into Lewes Road with a small Tender, and that there was reason to believe they would proceed up the Bay. The Committee sent for the Commodore and ordered him to send four of the armed Boats, well filled & manned, immediately down the River, as far, if necessary, as Reedy Island, and to direct the commanding Officer and other officers of the said Boats to Act in concert with, and by the advice of Cap't Barry, of the Brig't. *Lexington*, (in the Continental Service,) and exert their utmost endeavours to take or destroy all such Vessels of the Enemy as they shall find in the River Delaware.

The Committee also sent an Express to Cap't [Thomas] Proctor, or the Commanding Officer of the Artillery Company at Liberty Island, with the above intelligence, and order'd to keep a good Look out to prevent surprize, and be fully prepared to oppose the Enemy if they should attempt to come up the River.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 525, 526.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO COMMODORE ANDREW CALDWELL ¹

In Committee of Safety,

Philade, March 26, 1776.

Sir: The Committee have received certain Advice by Express from Lewes Town, that yesterday Evening a Sloop of War and Tender appeared off that place, and it was expected would proceed up the Bay; You are, therefore, directed to send four of the Armed Boats, well fitted and man'd, immediately down the River, as far, if necessary, as Reedy Island.

You are to direct the Commanding Officer, and other Officers of the said Boats, to act in Concert and by the advice of Capt'n Barry, of the Brig *Lexington*, and exert their utmost Endeavours to take or destroy all such Vessels of the Enemy as they shall find in the River Delaware.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 726.

RESOLVES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Philadelphia] March 26, 1776

The House again took up the Resolves of the Committee appointed to consider the Resolutions of [the Continenta] Congress, which having been read a second time, and separately agreed to on the Question, were transcribed, and follow in these Words, *viz.*

Resolved, 3. That there shall be erected and constantly held, in the city of Philadelphia, a Court of Justice, by such able and discreet Person as shall be appointed, from Time to Time, by the Assembly, and commissioned, under the Hand and Seal of their Speaker, for that Purpose, whose Business it shall be to take Cognizance of and try the Justice of any Capture, or Captures, of any Vessel, or Vessels, that shall be made by any Person or Persons in Pursuance of the Resolves of the Honorable Continental Congress, and brought into the Port of Philadelphia aforesaid; and the Judge, so commissioned to hold said Court as aforesaid, shall have Power, at all Times, to issue his Warrant, or Warrants, to the Marshal of the City and County of Philadelphia hereafter to be appointed by the Committee of Safety, which they are hereby impowered to do, commanding him to summon twelve honest and lawful Men of the County of Philadelphia aforesaid, to appear before the said Judge, at such Time and Place as he shall appoint; and the said Marshal is required to execute said Warrant and make Return thereof, as in and by the same he shall be authorized and directed.²

Resolved, 4. That when any Person, or Persons, shall take and bring into any Port, in this Colony, any Vessel or Vessels, that have been offending or employed by the enemy, contrary to the Resolves of the Honourable Continental Congress, such Person or Persons, so taking or bringing in such Vessel, shall immediately make out a Bill in Writing, therein giving a full and ample Account of the Time and Manner of the Caption of said Vessel, and the Employment she was in when so taken, and of the Persons who were aiding and assisting in taking her, to the best of his Knowledge, at the Time of her Caption, and shall deliver the same to the Judge, who shall have Jurisdiction of the Port aforesaid, with all the Papers that may be found on board such Vessel, to the Intent that the Jury may have the Benefit of Evidence therefrom arising; and the Judge, to whom said Bill shall be delivered, shall immediately issue his Warrant or Warrants, as aforesaid, to the said Marshal, commanding him, in Manner aforesaid, to return twelve good and lawful Men to try the truth of any facts alleged in such Bill; which Jury shall be sworn, or affirmed, to return and give a true Verdict upon the said Bill according to Evidence; and if it shall appear to said Judge, by said Verdict, that such Vessel has been employed or offending as aforesaid, he shall condemn said Vessel, Cargo and Appurtenances, and order them to be sold at public Vendue, and shall order the Charges of said Trial and Condemnation to be paid out of the Money such Vessel and Cargo shall sell for, into the Hands of Michael Hillegas, Esq; the Treasurer of this Colony, or such other Treasurer as the Assembly shall appoint, and shall order the Residue

thereof to be delivered to the Captors, their Agents or Attornies, for the Use and Benefit of such Captors and others concerned therein. And if two or more Vessels, the Commanders whereof shall be properly commissioned, shall jointly take such Vessel, the Money arising from the Sale thereof, her Cargo and Appurtenances, after payment of all Charges as aforesaid, shall be divided between the Captors, in proportion to their Men. And the said Judge, before whom any such Trial and Condemnation, as is afore-mentioned, shall be had, shall be and is hereby authorised to make out his Precept, under his Hand and Seal, directed to the said Marshal, requiring him to sell such Vessel, Cargo and Appurtenances, and to pay thereout the Charges of Trial, Condemnation and Sale, to the Treasurer aforesaid, and to deliver the Residue to the Captors and Persons concerned as aforesaid.

Resolved, 5. That there shall be paid to the Judge, Jurors, Marshal and Clerk, out of the public Treasury, such Fees as have been heretofore paid, in the Port of Philadelphia, in like Cases, or shall hereafter be established.

Resolved, 6. That when any such Bill shall be delivered to such Judge, he shall cause Notification thereof, and the Name (if known) and Description of the Vessel so brought in, with the Day set for the Trial thereon, in at least two of the public News-Papers printed at Philadelphia, fifteen Days before the Time set for the Trial, that the Owner of such Vessel, or any Person concerned, may appear and shew Cause, if any they have, why such Vessel, with her Cargo and Appurtenances, should not be condemned as aforesaid.

Resolved, 7. That the Process and Proceeding, upon any Vessel that shall be retaken from the Enemy by any Person or Persons, shall be in the same Manner as is herein provided for other vessels; and to be sold and disposed of, in Manner aforesaid, for the benefit and to the Uses directed by the Congress aforesaid, in Cases of Re-captures.

Resolved, 8. That in all Cases an Appeal shall be allowed to the Congress, or such Person as they shall appoint for the hearing and trying Appeals; provided the Appeal be demanded within five Days after definitive Sentence, and such Appeal be lodged, with the Secretary of Congress, within forty Days afterwards; and provided the Party appealing shall give Security to prosecute the said Appeal to effect. And in Case of the Death of the Secretary, during the Recess of Congress, then the said Appeal to be lodged in Congress within twenty Days after the Meeting thereof.

Resolved, 9. That the Judge of such Court shall appoint an able Clerk, who shall keep a true and fair Record of all the Proceedings of said Court, and shall be duly sworn or affirmed to act, in the said Office, with Truth and Fidelity, and his Attestations shall be received as Evidence.

Resolved, 10. That the Depositions of the Witnesses, in any of the Cases aforesaid, shall be taken before the Judge aforesaid and filed in the Clerk's Office, and that the same shall be, at all Times admitted in Evidence, in Case of the Death or Absence of the Witness; and that the same Depositions

shall and may be taken, *ex parte* on such Notice being given to the adverse Party as the said Judge shall direct and appoint.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 8th series, VIII, 7457-59.
2. *Ibid.*, 7504, on April 5 the Assembly appointed George Ross of Lancaster County judge of the Admiralty Court. The Committee of Safety named Matthew Clarkson marshal to the court on April 10. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 537, 538.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

This Comes Express to all whom it may Concern, giving Notice that last Evening Came into Whorekilm Road a Man of War, not less force than forty Guns; ² this morning they took a Sloop at the mouth of Lewes Creek and my Pilot Boat, which was going Express to the Committee of Safety of Philadelphia, therefore, all persons along the Bay are hereby Warn'd to be on their Guard, in Haste I am yours,

Henry Fisher.

Lewes, 26 of March, 1776.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 725.
2. H.M.S. *Roebuck*, 44 guns.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, Delaware Bay, Tuesday] 26 March

I did not arrive at Horekill road untill the 25th

Early the next morning a Pilot boat came out of Lewis Town in order to give intelligence at Philadelphia of our arrival. I imediately dispatched all the Boats arm'd after her in hopes of getting some Pilots for the River. Soon after it fell little wind & the boats had no difficulty in coming up with her, but unfortunately, a slight fogg came on at the same time, and the Men, who had deserted the Sloop and taken to their boat, could not be discovered. The same afternoon I put an officer & people on board the Pilot boat & sent her with the *Maria** in chase of two Vessels coming down the bay, which they took. one of them was of some consequence, as she was laden with Shot & Stores for a Battery Erecting in North Carolina; and had on board several articles of merchandize very useful to the Ships Compy. The other Sloop was empty.²

*a Prize Sloop I brot with me.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.
2. "By The *Roebuck*, and Ships under Captain Hammond's Orders . . . Polly, William Bowen, Master; William Bowen, Owner; from Philadelphia to North Carolina with Nine pound Shot, Iron and Groceries. A small Sloop, in Ballast," *London Gazette*, May 10 to May 13, 1777.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee Tuesday 26 March 76

Messrs Hercules Courtenay, Daniel Lawrence, Isaac Vanbibber, William Spear, & George Wells, or any three or more of them, are appointed by

this Committee to value upon Oath the Schooner *Resolution*, whereof William Waud is Master, and return the same to this Committee –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

No. 92

Gentl We are not as yet fully determined as to the Schooner of Mr [William] Lux's fitted out for a Tender, we would wish her to be in such a Situation, as to act in Case of Danger upon short Notice, but we would not have Men inlisted, or Provisions purchased for her 'till further Orders from this Board, or the Convention – we are informed from divers Persons of Credit and amongst others from Captn Nicholson himself, that she is a dull Sailer – if so, and we can get a better, we must remove the Guns &c on Board the Tender here after to be purchased, and make the best of the Schooner – We would not have her go any Distance, if she is likely to be instrumental in losing us a Number of brave Men and all her Stores – We have sent an Express with Order to Captn Burgess to try [Samuel] Hughs's 18 Pounds, and request you will order Bullets to be cast, as soon as you know the proper size.

[Annapolis] 26th March 1776.

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

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Tuesday, March 26th, 1776.

Ordered, that Captain [Thomas] Lilly proceed immediately to have the Brigg *Liberty* fitted in a proper manner to be employed as a cruiser in York River.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 137.

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

March
Tuesday 26 At an Anchor in Hampton Road Virginia
At 11 A M weigh'd & shifted our birth, and anchored with the small Bower in 6½ fam Sewells point E b S dist 1½ [miles].
The first & midl parts little wind & hazy, the latter fresh gales & squally with rain. At 3 P M a Rebel Pilot Boat came out of Hampton. At 4 she fired 3 Swivells & went in again.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Mercury*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU ¹

March 1776
Tuesday 26 Moored in Cape Fear Harbor
Fresh breezes and heavy, Came on board from the *Syren* a Rebel Captain & Private. . prisoners²

P M a Brig drove athawt Hause, and carried away the Jibboom.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

2. Captain Francis Proctor and his company of artillerymen from Philadelphia.

LORD WILLIAM CAMPBELL TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON¹

[Extract]

Cape Fear River 26th March 1776

Sir I received the honour of your letter, desiring to be informed "of the past, and present state of the Province under my Government, with an opinion what may be expected from the efforts of the well affected inhabitants, and what measures appear most advisable to be undertaken to co-operate with, and support those efforts in favor of Government."² . . . As to my opinion of the efforts that may be expected from the well affected inhabitants, I have the greatest reason to think that if the Troops succeed in getting possession of Charles Town, and the Country adjacent, the friends of Government would be encouraged to exert themselves, and attempt a junction with the Kings Troops, notwithstanding the checks they have received; and I also think the Rebels would be deserted by many of their deluded followers. You will observe Sir this is matter of opinion only, for after three months absence from the Province, it cannot be expected I should speak with that certainty as in other circumstances I might be able to do. As far as I can judge Charles Town may be attacked with Success, and the carrying that place would be attended with the best consequences to the King's Affairs in this part of the Continent, as I must consider it as the Capital of the three Southern Provinces. Two very fine navigable Rivers run a considerable way into the Country, and the Harbours, particularly to the Southward, are perfectly accessible to the Shipping; but I must observe Sir a Province in the situation South Carolina is at present, cannot be conquered in a day, and after such convulsions the re-establishment of legal Government and good Order must be a work of time, and the assistance both of Ships, and Troops, as well as the presence of an officer of your distinguish'd abilities, will be absolutely necessary to effect it.

I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

William Campbell

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, CL. Lord William Campbell was royal governor of South Carolina.

2. *Ibid.*, Clinton wrote requesting the information on March 24.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] 26th March 1776

My Dear Son Upon the table before me lye large packets of Letters which were returned to me a few days ago from on board the Ship *Port Henderson* Capt [Henry] Aitkin I had from day to day written by that Vessel to Mr. [William] Manning, Mr. [Ralph] Izard, your Uncle, Miss Patty, Mr. [John] Delagays & I believe not fewer than half a dozen Letters to your Self, this vessel had met frequent interruptions at length when She was on

the very point of Sailing all her intended passengers on board & Monsr. Rilliet among them, the Act of Parliament for prohibiting all Trade & Intercourse with the United Colonies made its appearance – the [Provincial] Congress Sitting, a Motion was made & immediately followed by a Resolution, that the Ship *Port Henderson* being British property be Seized, her Cargo Sold & the Money arising from the Sales deposited in the public Treasury – accordingly she was seized brought up to Charles Town & Monsr. Rilliet laid yonder letters again upon my Table the Sight of them draws a tear in each Eye – they contain no Treason no Plot nothing that can possibly work Evil to the State nor to Individuals I would give a hundred Barrels of Rice for the Safe passage of them to your hands.

Mr. Alexr. Wright who is going to take Leave of his Father Sir James has politely made me a tender of his Services, I embrace the offer & am in hopes his Interest may procure a passage in the packet for this & its contents which will be a Letter containing two Bills of Exchange for your Uncle ² & an uncovered Letter to your Dear Sister ³ I have taken off the Cover in order to avoid Bulk –

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, No. 10, SCHS.

2. James Laurens.

3. Martha Laurens.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Tuesday, March 26, 1776.

On motion, to establish a proper rank between the officers of the land and sea forces, of this colony.

Whereas it is expedient for the public service, that a proper rank should be established between the officers in the navy, and between the officers in the navy and the officers in the land forces of this colony: Therefore it is

Resolved, That rank be established in the following manner:

The captain of a ship or frigate, of not less than twenty guns, all not less than nine-pounders, of three years standing, to rank with a colonel.

The captain of a ship or frigate, as aforesaid, of less than three years standing, to rank with a lieutenant-colonel.

The captain of a ship that does not carry twenty guns, all not less than nine-pounders, to rank with a major.

The master or commander of a snow or brigantine, sloop or sloop, each carrying not less than fifty men, to rank with a captain of foot. And,

Lieutenants in the navy to rank with lieutenants of foot.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 132, 133.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK ¹

Remarks On Tuesday the 26th March 1776

4 [A. M.] Took one Reef in Fore sail
the Schooner Still Continued Lekeing

almost all hands Sick we are in a bad Setuation
Latd 0[bsd] 34. .35

2 [P.M.] hard gail
10 the gail modreated the Sea Sum what fallen
Set mainsail and Jibb

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

27 Mar.

ISAAC SMITH, SR. TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract] Salem March the 27th. 1776

Sir I wrote you by last, to which refer you. I beleive the brigantine of Mr. Gearey [Elbridge Gerry] is taken, a Vessell from So. Carolina which left itt About 20. days Ago, the Master of which says he saw a sailor who said be belonged to a brigantine with powder designed into the Eastern part of Our government, and that they came athot of a M[an of] War and threw in the Night part of the powder Over, before they boarded her in the Morning, but the Master never Askt him what the Capts. name was.

I have a Vessell Arrived in a short passuage from Cadiz. The Master says he heard att Cadiz she was saild, left Cadiz about the middle of last Month, there was a large ship from Phila. with flour suppose On the Continental Account – We are in expectation of seeing the remainder of the fleet come along . . .²

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 365.

2. The major portion of the British fleet, under Vice Admiral Molyneux Shuldham, and including General William Howe and many transports, sailed from Nantasket road for Halifax on the afternoon of March 27.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract] Cambridge March 27. 1776

I now beg leave to inform you that I just received Intelligence, that the whole of the Ministerial Fleet besides three or four Ships, got under way this Evening at Nantasket road and were standing out for Sea – In consequence of which I shall detach a Brigade of Six Regiments immediately from hence for New York, under the command of Brigadier Genl Sullivan (Brigadr Genl Heath having gone with the first) which will be succeeded by an other in a day or two, & directly after I shall forward the Remainder of the Army, except four or five Regiments which will be left for taking care of the barracks & public Stores & fortifying the Town and erecting such Works for Its defence, as the Honoble General Court may think necessary, and follow myself.

[Endorsed] Recd 6 April. –

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 563–65, NA.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO JAMES WARREN ¹

Sir

Cambridge March 27. 1776

His Excellency having this day taken the Paroles of Captains Nellis, Watts & Robertson ² who were taken by the Continental Armed Vessells, on their passage from England to Boston with Stores for the Ministerial Army, & Granted them permission to return to England with their Several Crews, as soon as the Fleet now in Nan Tasket road shall have sailed & quitted this Coast, in a Vessel they are about to purchase for that purpose – I take the liberty to solicit your friendship and favors in behalf of the bearer Captn William Wood ³ of White-Haven who was taken by two Privateers owned by persons in this Province, & hope that your Honourable Court will grant him the same Indulgence & liberty, given by his Excellency to those Gentlemen who were in the same predicament & circumstanced as Captn Wood is – I wou'd not have troubled you in Captain Woods behalf, did I not know him to be a Gentleman of merit & who in my opinion will not abuse any Indulgencies your Honourable Court may grant him, and will literally abide by an engagement he enters into –

Praying your excuse for this liberty I shall only add that whatever favors may be shewn this Gentlemen I shall esteem an Obligation laid upon Sir [&c.]

Rob H Harrison A D C

[Endorsed] In House of Representatives March 27 1776

Read & order'd that Mr Pitts & Coln Orne together with such as the Honl Board shall join be a Committee to take this Letter into Consideration and report thereon Sent up for Concurrence

William Cooper Spkr Pro Tem

In Council Mar 28th 1776

Read & concurred & Moses Gill Esqr is joined

John Lowell Depy Secy P T –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 307–08, NA Photocopy.

2. Nellis was master of the brig *Henry & Esther*; James Watts, of the ship *Stakesby*, and John Robertson, of the brig *Nelly*.

3. William Wood, master of the ship *Jenny*. He was granted permission to return to England on March 29, 1776. Mass. Arch., vol. 34.

SAMUEL COOPER TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Boston, March 27, 1776] ²

You will hear before this reaches you that the British Troops and Fleet have left Boston: They have retir'd with Disgrace from before the General & Forces of the united Colonies. I congratulate you on this Honor to our Country. Should the War continue, prepar'd as we now are, we should have been well contented they had remain'd here – The Bombardment & Cannonding from our Lines, reaching all Parts of Boston, was unexpected, and troubled their Host; our taking Possession of Dorchester Hills in so judicious & masterly a Manner completed their Constirnation, & left them no

Time to deliberate. They embark'd with Trepidation; & most of them I am just told sail'd this Morning – Where they are bound remains a Secret; whether to Hallifax, or the Southward or to both in Divisions. Boston stands, to the Surprize of many, but much plunder'd – I am a Sufferer among a Multitude of Others. My House was let to a Capt Cochran of the British Army upon written Engagement – He had the Use of all my Furniture, but has not left a Bed, Coverlid, Sheet, or any Pewter, China or Crockery – many other Things of great Value carried off or destroy'd – but This is a small Specimen of the Perfidy & Villainy of British Officers & Soldiers – I esteem it however an Honor to such a Cause to suffer with & for my Country. – Shall we have a Nego-tion this Summer – Must we return to the mild & gracious Governm't of Britain? – How is *Common Sense* relish'd among you; it is eagerly read and greatly admir'd here. The Inability of our Enemies to subdue us by Force is more & more apparent; I doubt not our Councils will avail themselves of this and ev'y Circumstance. I am dear Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Cooper.

1. Franklin Papers, IV, 82½, APS.

2. Date established by the contents of the letter, and the fact that Howe's main army sailed from Nantasket Road for Halifax on March 27, 1776.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO CAPTAIN FRANCIS BANKS,
H.M.S. *Renown*¹

(Copy)

Whereas General Howe has thought proper to order His Majesty's Troops under his Command to be Embarked, and to Evacuate the Town and Harbour of Boston, intending to proceed forthwith with them to Halifax, where I shall accompany them with part of His Majesty's Squadron under my Command.

You are hereby required and directed to employ His Majesty's Ship under your Command, in such manner as you shall judge best, either by Cruizing or Anchoring occasionally in preventing all communication or Commerce with the Town and Harbour of Boston; And whereas many Vessels are daily expected here with Stores and Provisions for the use of His Majesty's Fleet and Army, which are in extreme want of them; You are to take under your Command the Ships and Vessels mentioned in the Margin² and employ them in Cruizing between the Latitudes of Cape Cod, and Cape Anne at such distance from the Shore, where they are most likely to fall in with the above Expected Vessels, which you are to direct them to see in safety to Halifax, and then return to you.

You are also hereby required and directed on the Arrival of any of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Nantasket (except those you have Orders to take under your Command) to give their Commanders Orders to proceed immediately to join me at Halifax, or where ever else you shall from good Authority hear I may be.

You are to take, sink, burn, or destroy, all Rebel Armed Vessels you may meet with, and to continue upon this Service till further Order, Gov-

erning yourself in the Executing of it, by the General Code of Orders and Instructions, you have already received from me, sending all Vessels you may seize or detain to Halifax, to be proceeded against according to Law, and giving me an Account of your Proceedings by all opportunities that offer.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* in Nantasket Road the 27th March 1776

M Shuldham

By Command of the Admiral E Bragge.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

2. *Lively*, *Niger*, *Fowey*, *Swan* sloop, *Hope* and *Bolton* brigs, and *Dispatch* schooner.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir, *Chatham* in Nantasket Road 27th March 1776.

The day following the date of my last Letter which I sent by the *Lord Hyde* Packet (Duplicate of which accompany's this) I was joined by the *Milford*, and Captain [John] Burr delivered to me the Orders and Letters undermentioned, to which I shall pay all due attention.

Their Lordships Order of the 6th of October 1775, to take the *Syren* under my Command; three Orders of the same Nature respecting the *Boreas*, *Actaeon*, and *Triton*, dated the 20th October 1775; An Order dated the 21st October 1775 to send to Halifax, the Artificers who came out to be employed in the King's Yard there; An Order of the 24th October, 1775 to send the Foreman to the Smiths, to Halifax with the Artificers; and one to take the *Milford* under my Command dated 5th January 1776.

Your Letter of the 20th. October 1775, signifying their Lordships direction that I should send the *Charming Sally*, an Ordnance Store Ship, under a proper Convoy to Halifax, another dated the 4th November informing me of their Lordships having directed the Navy Board to send Three hundred Jackets for the use of the Marines serving on board the Ships under my Command; one of the 11th November to acquaint me of Sir Peter Parker's being Ordered to North or South Carolina; another of the same date with four Inclosures of Articles of Intelligence relative to the Rebels Trading to European Ports for Warlike Stores; two others of the same date inclosing Schedules of Packets for the different Governors; one of the 17th November acquainting me that two Subaltern Marine Officers were Ordered to Boston in the *Triton*, two of the 19th. November one of which inclosed Commissions for Captains [James] Montagu, [Alexander] Graeme and [Samuel] Graves, the other a Commission for Lieutenant Tyffe of the Marines who is on board the *Experiment*; From Mr [George] Jackson, one of the 4th January 1776, respecting a Ship from Port L'Orient bound to some American Port laden with Salt Petre; another dated the 5th January to inform me the Men sent to England from Fyal belonging to the *Renown* and *Experiment* were sent out in the *Milford* and *Greyhound*; one of the 6th of the same Month conveying to me their Lordships pleasure that I should send the Artificers who were to have come out in the *Boreas*, but now Arrived in the *Milford*, to Halifax; Five of the 8th January, one of them signifying Sir Peter Park-

er's being on his passage to Cork, and of some Alterations made respecting the Ships of his Squadron; another to inform me of American Armed Vessels being in the Gulph of St Lawrence and Canso Bay; one accompanying intelligence from Virginia and Maryland; the two others with the late Acts of Parliament and the King's Proclamation, and Draughts of different parts of the Coast of America; two of the 9th one of them to signify their Lordships directions to me that such Men as had been taken from the Transports by His Majesty's Ships should be returned to the Transports from whence they were taken; the other acquainting me of there being sent Marine Treatises, Statutes and Books of Instructions; and one of the 16th, inclosing a Duplicate Order relative to the Ordnance Stores on the Islands of Bermuda and [New] Providence.

I think it necessary to inform you that the *Charming Sally* laden with Ordnance Stores mentioned in your Letter of the 20th October 1775 is not yet arrived, and I must likewise acquaint you that the *Brownhall* which by your Letter of the 20th September 1775, to Vice Admiral Graves, informs me was Ordered hither with Naval Stores is also not arrived, nor have I had intelligence of either of them, I have further to add that the disappointment of the Arrival of these Ships has occasioned here a great scarcity of Naval Stores, and that many Species of Ordnance Stores are much wanted by the Fleet, particularly for the small Arm'd Vessels. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

I. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

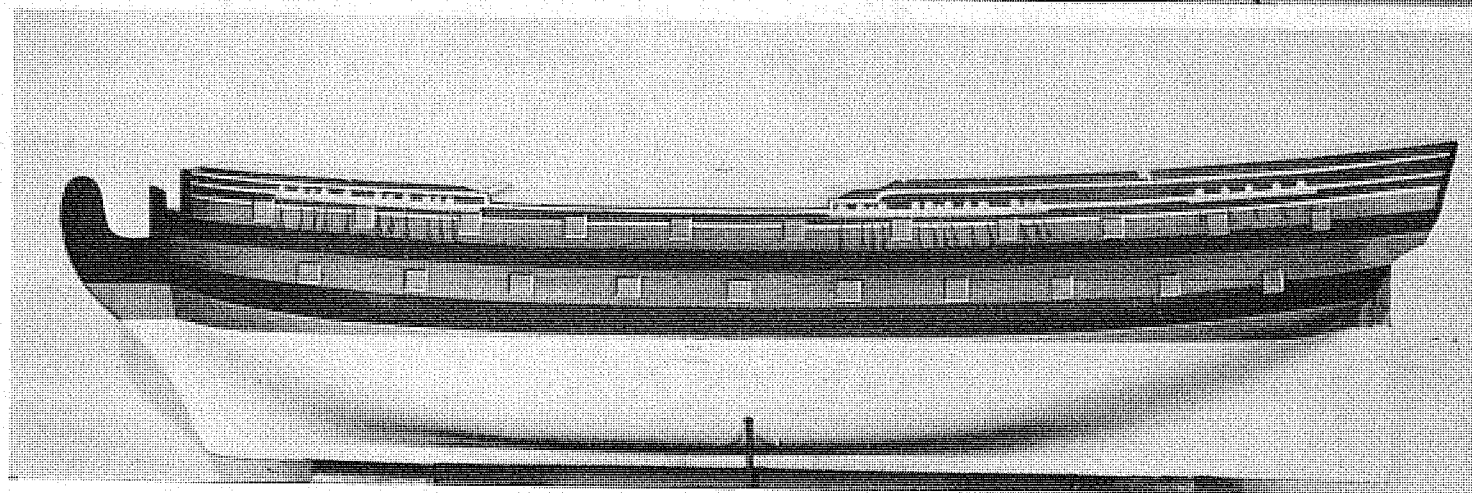
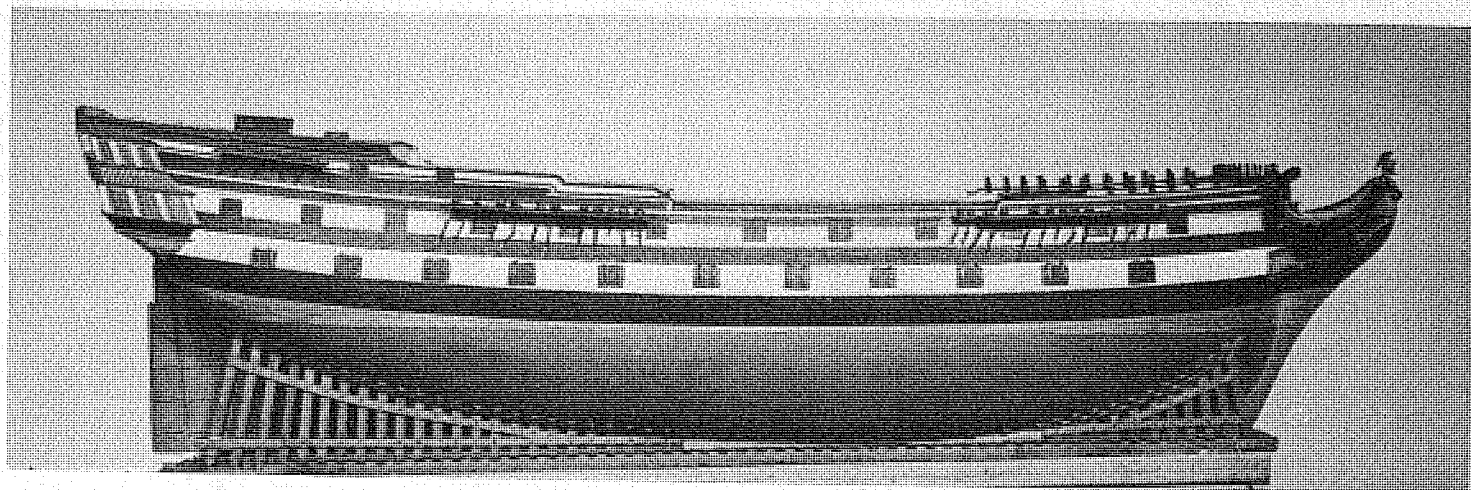
JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Chatham*, CAPTAIN JOHN RAYNOR ¹

March [1776] Moord at Nantasket road
 Wednesd 27 at 8 AM Made the Signal for Sailing
 at 3 PM Made the Signal & Weigh'd, made sail & hoist'd in all the Boats at 4 the light house N W 1 Mile at 6 in Company with HM Ships *Centurion Lively Savage & Tryal* Schooner with Sixty Six Sail of Transports & other Vessels at 8 Boston Light House WBN $\frac{1}{4}$ D dce 3 or 4 Leagues, fird 2 Guns & made the Signal for the fleet to come under our Stern, handed the Mizon top sail at 11 in 3d reef the fore & Main topsails

I. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Centurion*, CAPTAIN RICHARD BRATHWAITE ¹

March 1776 At Single Anchor in Nantaskett Road
 Wednesday 27th A M the Adl made the Sigl to Unmoor which we repeated, at 8 the Admiral made a Sigl for Sailing, Unmoored & Hove in to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable on the Bt Br, Sailmaker repairing the Jibb. First part Modt & Cloudy, Mid: fresh Breezes, Latter Light Airs & Clear P M at 3 the Admiral made the Sigl to Weigh, Weighed & came to sail in



(Top) HMS Centurion, 50 guns. (Bottom) HMS Phoenix, 44 guns.

Compy with the Adl & all the Transports, run foul of the *Niger* which Lay in the fair way & Carried away our Main Yard, Unrigged the Yard & Unbent the Sail, Launched the Yard overboard Empd stowing the Anchors at 8 one Sail in sight the Light House $W\frac{1}{2}N$ 3 or 4 Lgs At 10 split the Mizen Topsl & Handed it . . . at 11 Sett the Fore Sl at 12, 4 sail in Sight

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/177.

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

[Providence] Tuesday Eveng March 27th 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment

Voted That Mr E. Palmer gets the Masts and Yards that he has procured for the Ships rafted from Taunton down to Mount Hope, on the best Termes he can and that he give the committee Intelligence as soon as he gets them to Swansey –

Voted That the Ballance of Mr Elkanah Palmer's Acct be paid him by the Treasurer.

Meeting adjourn'd to Friday Evening

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Norwich, March 27th, 1776.

Ordered Mr. James Tilley to purchase what rope yarns he could of Mr. Even Malbone and what yarns will be needful to furnish the Colony ship with cordage for rigging, and manufacture the same at the cheapest rate that he can.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 256.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH TO TRANSPORT CAPTAINS ¹

Sir, New-London – March 27th 1776 –

The first fair wind you are to Proceede with the Troops you have on Board, up the Sound as farr as Hunts (the Pilot) & their to Remain Untill the Fleet arrives, or you Receive further Orders (desire Mr Hunt to have Five or Six Boats to assist in Landing the Troops – In Case you meet with any Difficulty, or Spy any Enemy, you are to Follow the Directions you will have from the Commanding Officer – ²

W. Heath Brigr Genl

To Capt. —

1. Heath Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

2. "26th. [March] they [the transports] fell down to New-London. 27th.—The troops were marched to that place, where they embarked, and came to sail about noon." Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 36.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Albany March 27th 1776.

The North End of Lake Champlain is open and I hope a few warm Days will open the Remainder of that, and also Lake George – We have here now about six hundred Men, who will move as soon as there is a prospect of conveying them across the Lakes.

The Cannon from New York are arrived and are on their way to Fort George, I fear they will not reach it in less than ten Days from this, if so soon as I cannot procure Cattle sufficient to move them at once from Half Moon (to which place they are gone by Water) owing to the incredible Scarcity of Forrage.

On the 22d Instant, one hundred new Batteaus were finished at Fort George, as far as they can be without pitch & oakham, which is not yet arrived from New York – Thirty five are however compleatly finished – I am of Opinion that a much greater Number are necessary to pour Troops into Canada, in Case it should be found necessary, but Congress has stinted me to the Number I have built.

The powder (only eight Tons) arrived here last Week & will be sent on with the first Troops.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, 10 HO. A.M.

March 27th, 1776.

Ordered, That Captain Charles Alexander and Lieut. John Hennessey be at liberty to enlist Wm. Craig,² a prisoner now confined in the jail of this city, and take him to Philadelphia; and that the said Wm. Craig be discharged from confinement on the request of these gentlemen.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 386, 388.

2. See *Journal of the New York Provincial Congress*, March 14, 1776.

WILLIAM LIVINGSTON TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE ¹

[Extract]

Elizabeth Town 27 March 1776

... The Man of war's Men set fire to the ship *bleu mountain Valley* last night, ... was happily extinguished – If they appear on such another Frolic, I believe the Towns men here will make them repent it. I am Sir [&c.]

Wil. Livingston

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 27th March, 1776.

By order of the Board, Robert Towers was directed to furnish Cap't. [Henry] Dougherty's Boat ² with 13 32 pound Cannon, Cartridges with Ball.

Resolved, That Henry Fisher be allowed for his services from the 16th September last, and as long as this Board may have occasion to employ him, the sum of ten pounds per month.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 526, 527.
2. The galley *Washington*.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, Delaware Bay, Wednesday 27 March, 1776]

Saw a Vessel standing in from Sea. I sent Mr [George] Ball (the 3d Lt) with the Pilot boat & Tender in quest of her, who boarded her, and drove another ashore. The former he put under the charge of the Tender, and he in the Pilot boat, endeavored to make the best of his way to the Ship, but by some unfortunate accident (which is not yet known) he was driven ashore in the Night, and with 3 Seamen, made Prisoners of War by the Enemy.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO LIEUTENANT JOHN THOMAS BOUCHER ¹

No 93

Sir We cannot oppose the Preferment of a Gentleman, who has manifested a laudable Zeal for his Country, and therefore accept of your Resignation This we do with the less Reluctance as your Station may still afford you an Opportunity of giving Assistance to our Province – We thank you for the services you have rendered us, and wish you Success in the Command of the Potowmack Fleet.²

[Annapolis] 27th March 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.
2. In the service of Virginia.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER ¹

[Extract]

No 94

Dr Sir We send you inclosed a Letter to the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County, if you approve, seal it and send it to them – since Writing we have seen Mr [William] Lux, and have had some Conversation with him about the Committee's detaining the two Vessels belonging to Hugh Young, one intended to bring us Arms and Ammunition, the other Salt – Young tells us, that the first has been unloaded & is kept with Intention to sink, as a Hulk, and that the other is employed in bringing in Ship Timber for the Frigate now building; ² no Consent of his, and contrary to the express Order of the Council of Safety of the 20th Instant

We wish to have this affair cleared up to our Satisfaction. W. Lux knows Nothing of the Matter – We request you would converse with some of the Committee and let us know how every Thing has been conducted – [Annapolis] 27th March 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.
2. One of the thirteen frigates being built for the Continental Congress.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Wednesday 27 March 1776.

Ordered That all the small Arms now at Baltimore Town belonging to the Public and not delivered out to the Troops stationed there, be immediately sent by water under a Guard to Chester Town for the Use of the independent Companies on the Eastern Side of the Bay; and that the Musquets imported in Capt. Tibbit and now at Baltimore Town, or on the way thither, be included in this Order. Also Ordered That four hundred and thirty four Cartouch Boxes, Belts, Bayonet-Belts and Slings, one Ton of Gunpowder and four Ton of Lead be sent to Chester Town for the Use of the Militia and independent Companies on the Eastern Side of the Bay; and that the Powder be taken out of the Public Stock now at Baltimore Town and the Lead out of the Quantity imported in Capt Tibbit, and now arrived at Baltimore Town, or on the Way thither. That Major [Mordecai] Gist be requested to assist Captain Stone in having the above Order fully executed, and that Capt Nicholson's Pilot Boat-Tender convoy the Vessel [that carries] the same to the Mouth of Chester River with Instructions to land the same at Rock Hall, Worton, or some convenient Place higher up the Bay, in Case of Danger.

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

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday, March 27th, 1776.

Upon the recommendation of Capt. R'd Taylor the following officers are appointed on board the vessel of which he is app'd Capt., vizt: Edw'd Woynicott 1st mate, James Gray 2nd mate, James Blaws mid-shipman, and Henry Lyburn Pilot.

Philip Chamberlayne is appointed 1st mate of Capt. [George] Muter's Cruiser.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 140.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Wednesday the 27th Day of March 1776
Five oClock PM

The General Assembly met according to Adjournment
And proceeded to ballot for the following Officers separately vizt
The Judge of the Admiralty
And upon casting up the Ballots

Mr Chairman reported

That Hugh Rutledge Esquire was duly chosen Judge of the Admiralty Resolved That His Excellency the President and Commander in Chief ² [be] sworn into Office To-morrow And

That Colonel [Christopher] Gadsden be desired to issue General Orders that the Regulars and Militia in Charles Town do parade To-Morrow and that the Artillery be fired when his Excellency shall have taken the State Oath Also that the Salute be returned by the Navy And that Proclamation with all due Solemnity be made of His Excellency's being sworn to the Administration of Government

1. A. S. Salley, Jr., ed., *Journal of the General Assembly of South Carolina, March 26, 1776–April 11, 1776* (Columbia, S.C., 1906), 4, 6. Hereafter cited as Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*.
2. John Rutledge.

South-Carolina and American General Gazette, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 TO WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 1776

Charlestown, March 27.

About a Fortnight ago a Packet arrived from England at Cockspur, after a Passage, it is said, of 9 Weeks. She has brought out the new American Restraining Act . . . We hear that there is a Mail for this Province on board the Packet, and that there is some Reason to expect it will be sent ashore.

It is said that Capt. Barclay, of the *Scarborough*, has taken all the Rice (about 1600 Barrels) out of the Merchantmen, carried down to Cockspur, and put it on board two Transports, with which he is immediately proceeding to Boston.

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

Remark's Wednesday March 27th

6 [A. M.]	Saw a Sail to Windward
8	Gave Chase in Company with the <i>Fly</i> find a Current to the South'd.
10	Tack'd to the Eastward
12	Our People Still Continue very Sickly with the Fever Latt Observ'd 35 . . 00 Longitude In 70 . . 38
2 [P. M.]	Tack'd Moderate Breezes & Cloudy Weather at 2 P M Brought the Chase too after firing two Guns, she Prov'd to be a French Schooner from New London bound to Cape Franchway out 6 Days who Gave an account of the Provincials Troops taken Boston.

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

GOVERNOR SIR BASIL KEITH TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

[Extract]
(No 2.)

Jamaica 27th March 1776

My Lord, I had the Honor on the 14th Instant to receive your Lordship's dispatch No 1. of the 23d December together with your Circular Letter of the same date inclosing the Prohibitory Act.

I am equally astonished and concerned at the Intelligence your Lordship mentions to have been received from Carolina, of the Rebels in North America being Supplied with large quantities of Gun powder from Jamaica; for My Lord, I have every moral certainly that there has been no such quantities of Powder upon this Island for many Months past and I can, and do boldly Assert, that in this very consequential part of my Duty, I have taken every Method in my power, to prevent the Rebels getting any supplies from hence, by stopping the Exportation of powder, Cannon, Small Arms, and all sorts of Military Stores, and long before I received the Royal Proclamation for suppressing Rebellion and Sedition, I ordered the Receiver General, to purchase all the Powder, and Arms he could find for the use of the Island. The Orders I gave him, and His Letters in answer upon this Subject, are Vouchers of my Conduct, and proofs of the very great Scarcity there has been for a long time past of these Articles as a further corroboration thereof, I have continual applications from the Colonels of Militia to send them powder and Arms, which every Man, by the Law, is obliged to furnish himself with, under very severe fines and penalties; but these Gentlemen write me they cannot get them to buy at any price.

My Lord, the Truth is, most of the American Vessels that Trade here lately, went from hence to Hispaniola, and laid out the returns of their Cargoes in Powder, Arms, Ammunition, Sugar, Molasses and other French produce and your Lordship will observe, that in my Letter No 24. I inform Lord Dartmouth ² that the North Americans were amply supplied with Gun powder, and other Military Stores in that Island.

As it was known in America that such Vessels came here, when they returned with Arms and Ammunition, it was, without consideration or inquiry, reported, that they were supplied with them at Jamaica. This, I trust, will appear to be the Fact, and that your Lordship will be persuaded that I have and will continue to pursue every Measure that can be effectual to prevent the Rebels getting supplies of any kind from this Island.

Since my last dispatch No 28. The Admiral sent me the Affidavit of a North American, who was taken by one of His Squadron, in a Vessel from Hispaniola bound to North America, a Copy of which, I have the Honor to Inclose . . . ³

It was some days before I could get together a Quorum of the Council, there being but seven Members upon the Island, and several of these living in very distant parts of the Country; when they met, I had the Satisfaction to receive their approbation of every step I had taken, for the good of His Majesty's Service and the advantage and security of this Community. —They

agreed with me, in doubting Marshall's Intelligence, and on the maturest consideration of the many bad consequences, both to Great Britain and Jamaica of an Alarm at this time grounded upon such suspicious information they were unanimous in opinion with me, that I should wait the return of Lieutenant [Charles] Cobb from Hispaniola, before I wrote to the Secretary of State.

That officer did not return till the 25th Instant, I send your Lordship His Letter of Intelligence and the remarks he made, agreeable to my request before He left this Island, as they better explain the present state of the French in Hispaniola, and their Idea of ours, than any Extracts I might make from it, Observing to your Lordship at the same time, that this Officer who has been extremely diligent, drew his remarks up hastily not foreseeing that I should think myself obliged to make this use of them.⁴

However, My Lord, luckily for us, we were not obliged to wait the return of Mr Cobb to be relieved from our fears and apprehensions; for soon after He sailed, we had repeated information to be depended upon, of the general falshood of Marshall's Affidavit in consequence of which, by the unanimous desire of the Council, I wrote to the Admiral a Letter of thanks for his readiness and constant attention, to the Interest and Security of this Island, and representing the [*sic* that] we now thought there was no reason to induce us to desire him longer to keep His Ships in Port.

In my former Letter, I have said, that the French had done nothing of late Years to any of their Forts or Batteries only those at Cape Nicola; the Fortifying and strengthening of which, has been their constant object since the last peace; but since Count D'Ennery's arrival they have been very active and diligent in repairing and supplying them all.

I have done my best endeavours for the internal Security and defence of this Island; and in the strongest manner recommended the Forts and Fortifications to the Assembly, as objects deserving of their most serious consideration, and Transmitted Lord Dartmouth, a Book containing plans and sketches of them all, with another of written descriptions and references to every thing belonging to them – last year I reviewed the better half of the Militia, and mean to go through the whole this year, if other Duty does not prevent me.

The Answers to the Queries relative to my Government, which I transmitted with my Letter No 21. of the 13th June 1775. will inform your Lordship of the Number of White Inhabitants, Men, Women, and Children, also of the free People of Different Casts; and of the amazing, and dangerous disproportion of our Slaves. – by it you will likewise see, the Number of our Military Horse and Foot white, and black; very many of whom are badly armed – but on my representation thereof the Assembly last Session voted for three thousand Stand of good Arms to be sent for directly.

In the present state of Public Affairs, it is, I apprehend more proper for me, to refer your Lordship to the first Lord of the Admiralty and to the Secretary of War, than to particularize the Number and strength of His Majesty's Ships and Troops stationed, and Quartered in this Island; I will only

beg to observe that the regulars are necessarily detached in many, and very distant Quarters.

Agreeable to his Majesty's pleasure signified in your Lordship's circular Letter I have strongly exhorted every person in this Island concerned in the execution of the prohibitory Act to do their Duty in the strictest Manner and I will venture to Assure your Lordship, that the Inhabitants in general of this Island are truly sensible that every possible attent[ion] has been shewn to the security of their Lawful Commerce and I trust, when His Majesty's deluded Subjects in North America consider the fatal consequences of their Conduct; and are convinced of the determined Spirit of the Nation to support it's constitutional Rights and know that the happy means are still held out to them by Accomodation and Union with the Mother Country under whose Wise Government and protection they have become, a great and flourishing People they will with contrition and Gratitude return to their Duty, and by their future zeal and Loyalty deserve a continuance of those blessings enjoyed by none, but Brittish Subjects. – For my own part I have the greatest Satisfaction in the information your Lordship is pleased to give me that every proper step is taken to accelerate this very desirable object . . .

I am extremely sorry My Lord to inform you that the Ship with our Supply of powder is not yet arrived and as the Agent wrote me she would Sail from the River about Christmas, I have been for some time very uneasy about Her. I Have the Honour to be My Lord [&c.]

Basil Keith

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 137/71, Part II, LC Photocopy.
2. Letter No. 24 was dated November 6, 1775.
3. See affidavit of Robert Marshall, February 8, 1776, Volume 3, 1180.
4. Charles Cobb's letter, dated March 25, 1776, gave an accurate account of all French forces and fortifications in the French Islands and completely refuted the Marshall affidavit. PRO, Colonial Office, 137/71, Part II, LC Photocopy.

28 Mar.

ANDREW BROWN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

Honoured Gentelmen Upon friday last I lay'd Befor[e] the Honourable House that I was very [anxtious] for to Serve by Sea and for to doo for the good and Well fair of the Cuntray to the Outermost of my pour And that there was at Salem laying above Bevely Being a Good Sound Schooner which Beloning [blurred] if which I have a Commission for which can be very Useful for a pacquet from port to port and also when She is not Employed she can be very Benefichall goin off into the Bay in fishing for the good of the Cuntray And Espesshally for the poor as I did Make mention of a commission there can be nothing done with out and as I said make Application With his Excellency General [Wa]shinton by orders Sent to me by the [Gen to Confirm] was for to make Application unto the Gentelmen of the Congress and my Business would be Answer'd and immededly for this three Quarters of the Year I have not gaind any Subsistance for my family even with me that I have receive no Subsistance upon account of the Difuculty of

the times and as I am not in very truth so able as for to go By land and follow the Army I hope it will please the Honourable Gentlemen of the chance for Grant me A Comission by Sea I for spoke when I could not come to Boston Cape Ann Salem & Bevely or [blurred] for Rendezvouze I have Occation be [blurred] of the Gentlemen of the Congress

Be pleasd for to give me an Answer I am honour'd Gentelmen [&c.]
To the Honourable Gentelmen of the Congress at Watertown

The Vessell can carry 8 Swivells Guns But there is no Occation for to run themselves in the Mouths of the Man of War but for to keep a good Look out –

Cambridge March 28th 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 364. Brown had previously written on same subject March 25, 1776.

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

March 1776 Moor'd in Graves End Bay.
Wednesday 27th AM Fired a Six lb Shott to bring too a Sloop.
P M Clear'd Hawse, Compleated our Water from Staten Island, at 10 Sent the *Asia*'s & our Boats Man'd and Arm'd to the Kilns,
Thursdy 28th at 6 AM the Boats Brought down & Anchor'd here the Ship *Lady Gage*,² havg lost a Grapnel.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

2. The *Lady Gage*, according to Shuldham's prize list of May 23, 1776, was "Cut from a Wharf" at Elizabeth Town. She was in ballast, and was sent to Halifax, PRO, Admiralty 1/484. She was condemned in Admiralty Court there, it being noted that she was captured "in the river Amboy ther Cargo all discharg'd and no papers were found on board no person on board but the mate" – James Downie, who testified that the ship belonged to "the Franklins in N. York and two Gentlem[e]n in London." Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769–1777, N.S. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT¹

March 1776 Moor'd as before [off Bedlows Island]
Wednesday 27 AM Clear'd Hawse
P M at 10 sent away all our Boats, Mann'd & Arm'd to join the *Phoenix*'s: Cut the Ship *Lady Gage* from her Moorings and towed her out, they also set on Fire the *blue Mountain Valley* a Ship Transport taken by the Rebels
Thursday 28 A M Boats return'd
P M sent two small Sloops, laden with Iron to the *Lady Gage* to deliver their Cargo on board her;

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, March 28, 1776

Resolved, That the Marine Committee be empowered to purchase, on the most reasonable terms, for the use of the continent, the ship *Molly*, and

to fit her out, with all possible expedition, to join Captain [John] Barry, on his cruize along the coast, between New York and Virginia.²

Information being given to Congress that some prisoners in the gaol of this city have meditated an escape, and are near carrying their plan into execution:

Resolved, That the gaoler be directed to confine John Connolly, [John] Smith, and [Moses] Kirkland, in separate apartments, and suffer no person to converse with any of them, without special orders of Congress.

Resolved, That the sheriff of the city and county of Philadelphia be directed, by Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, to call to his assistance a guard of fifty men from the barracks of this city for the defence of the gaol; and that the sheriff be farther directed to keep secret any intimation given him of a design to rescue his prisoners, and employ every means to discover and apprehend those concerned in such design.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 238, 239-40.

2. The *Molly* became the Continental ship *Reprisal*.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday 28 March R. Morris moved to purchase another Ship on Continental Accot in this Harbor to be fitted out for the Protection of Delaware Bay which was granted — ²

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

2. The ship *Molly*, subsequently, the Continental ship *Reprisal*.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 28th March, 1776.

By order of the Board, Robert Towers, Commissary, was directed to deliver Capt. Robert Whyte 9 pieces of sail Cloth for the use of the Provincial Ship.

Robert Towers Reports his having receiv'd & deliver'd the following articles:

Deliver'd by order of this Board, to —

Capt. Barry for Brig't *Lexington*, on acco't of Congress,

5 lbs. Salt Petre,

13 Dutch Firelocks,

2 Wall Pieces,

5 Bayonets,

8 Scabbards,

48 Musket Cartridges,

2 Budge barrels.

Deliv'r'd to make Cartridges for
Signal Guns,

112 lbs do. [Gun powder,]

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 527, 528.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE
BRIGANTINE *Lexington* ¹

[Philadelphia, March 28, 1776]²

Brigte *Lexington* — John Barry Esqr Commander
To The Commissioners of the Navy Dr

—For First Cruise.—

			£	Sh	d
1776	March 22	To 4 Bolts Holland Duck	a£8.10/	34	— . . .
	April 29	Cash paid Sundry disbursements from 18th Mar: to this day Vizt			
		“ paid Jas Bringhurst for 2 Padlocks	£ 4.	8	
		“ “ for 2 Cords Hickory wood, Hawlg &c	2.	6 . 4	
		“ “ Jos Stansbury for sundry Stone ware	5.	7 . 7	
		“ “ Michl Sisk for lining 2 Cambooses	7.	6	
		“ “ for 1 doz. Portwine for Medecine	1.	10 . —	
		“ “ George Goodwin for 4¼ lb Putty	4.	9 . —	
		“ “ Isaac Snowden for 3 half tan'd hyd's	3.	18 . —	
		“ “ Woodhouse & Trickett for Stationary	2.	— . 3	
		“ “ Willm Clifton for sundrys Pr Bill	19.	6	
		“ “ Cornellius Hilman for Rum	4.	10 . —	
		“ “ Dean Timmonds for 2 boxes Candles & 1 Soap	8.	9 . —	
		“ “ Hawling 2 loads carriages & wd to make them	11.	—	
		“ “ James McCutcheon for 2240 lbs Fresh Beef	25.	5 . 7	
		“ “ James Allenby Coopers bill	1.	7 . 6	
		“ “ William Rush Blacksmiths bill	82.	— . 9	
		“ “ Elijah Dow in full as Pr bill	7.	2 . 6	
		“ “ Daniel Dolby Coopers bill	9.	—	
		“ “ Mrs Bridges for a new Ensign	7.	10 . —	
		“ “ Benjamin Davis for a Drum & heads	4.	18 . 9	
		“ “ Jo Russell for 5 Barrls Flour	8.	0 . 6	
		“ “ Allen Moore for supplying the Rendezvous	13.	8 . 8	
		“ “ Thomas Cuthbert for wharfage	1.	10 . 6	
		“ “ Samuel Robins's bill	7.	1 . 2	
		“ “ John Appowen Sailmakers bill	21.	10 . —	
		“ “ Joseph Guisilwood Pr Order of the Com'ss'ry for hawling 30 Barrls powder	17.	6	
		“ “ Benjamin Condys bill	1.	18 . 6	
		“ “ John Lewis for repairing Gunlocks	1.	1 . —	
		“ “ William Perkins Smiths bill	3.	9 . —	
		“ “ John Locktons bill for day's labour	16.	5 . 6	
		“ “ Dunn & Hale their & Wm Rush's 2d Bill for Iron work for the Boats	23.	13 . 4	
		“ “ Michl Owners bill	4.	17 . 6	
		Amount Carried forward	£ 262.15.10	34	— . . .
1776		Amount Brought forward	£ 262.15.10	34	— . . .
April 29	To	Cash paid William Ahart Bakers bill	5.11.10		
	do	Benjamin Harbesons do	37.8.—		
	do	John Ridge Riggers do	7.16.—		
	do	William Annis for making Hammocks	8.18.6		
	do	White & Montgomery for 2 Kegs butter	4.14.9		
	do	Jonathn & Joel Evans for Cabin Stores	21.18.9		
	do	for 6 Riffle Musketts	25.—.—		

	do	Mathias Young Painters bill	6..--	
	do	Robert Fitzgerald Blockmakers bill	14.3..8	
	do	Thomas Truck & Jno Forrest for 2 Sundays work making catridges	16..--	
	do	Joshua Wallace for a hhd Rum	21.7..6	
	do	Charles Woolfall Blacksmiths bill	20.5..--	
	do	Wetherill & Cressons bill for Boards &c	11.19..--	
	do	Thomas Oliver for 9 days work a Catridges	2.5..--	
	do	Samuel Burge for 6 Barrells Rum	30.9..--	
	do	Samuel Kinder for Cogues &c	18..--	482.6.10
		Amot Sundry ship Chandlery Stores comprehending Boatswains, Gunners, Carpenters, Stewards &c		160.5.4
		T Ct qr lb		
		Amot Sundry Cordage wte 2.14.2.10 avgd @ 66/ 1 PCt		180.7.7
		Amot Benjamin Marshals bill for Tinware		9.9.2
May 17		1 Bolt Ravens Duck		
21		5 Pieces No 6 deld Abm Mason 207½ yds @ 2/1 ct qr lb	21.12..3½	
		1 Cast oatmeal 4..0.16 @ 10/	2.1.5	23.13.8½
June 17		2 Swivell Ladles		6..--
July 4		Cash paid for fitting a pump		3..6
10		do " Wm Rigdon for 8 lb Yellow paint hd of him in march		12..--
11		do " Wetherill & Cressons bill for Boards		2.6.3
23		1 Bolt Russia		8..--
Augt 27		6 Tons Pig Iron		54.---
Sept 8		Cash for an ommission on Allen Moores bill	10..--	
		do paid Wm Roberts bill for 3 amunition boxes	15..--	1.5.---

[No balance shown]

1. Woodhouse Collection, HSP. The Commissioners of the Navy originally were appointed by the Commissioners for Building the Four Frigates at Philadelphia. Their duties were to supply "Quantitys of Cordage, Ship Chandlery and other Stores and necessarys" for those vessels. The Commissioners were James Craig, James Wharton, Nathaniel Falconer and William Davis, Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XXIV, 331, NA. When their duties were extended by the Marine Committee to naval vessels in the port of Philadelphia is not disclosed.
2. The date given is the one on which the *Lexington* sailed from Philadelphia. See William Bell Clark, *Gallant John Barry* (New York, 1938), 75. The dates in the account are for payments subsequently made. As the services and supplies were rendered before the brigantine cleared the port, it was thought proper to use the departur date, rather than when bills were later paid.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOSIAH BARTLETT¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia 28th March 1776

Dear Sir I am just return'd from attending the remains of our worthy Friend Govr [Samuel] Ward to the place appointed for all the Humain ease His better part took its flight to world of Spirits on Tuesday morning . . . My last was by Express to Cambridge inclosing Bill Loading & invoice of your flour, which I wish safe to hand, but am somthing doubtful of it as the Coast is much infested with pirates its reported that a 40 gun ship is at the Capes The *Lexington* is gone down.² The M.C. [Marine Committee] have bot another ship which will be ready to sail in a week.³ The Battery

goes down to her stati[on] tomorrow⁴ & the Province ship will follow her in a few days.⁵ We have a report that our fleet is at South Carolina, but no certain advice of it I suppose you vissited Boston in you way, pray give me a particular accot how you found matters there—. . . I expect them Devils from the other side the water very soon its said they will certainly be here by the middle of April—. . .

1. Dreer Collection of Signers, HSP.
2. The Continental brig *Lexington*.
3. Subsequently became the *Reprisal*.
4. The *Arnold* Battery, of the Pennsylvania Fleet.
5. The Pennsylvania Ship of War *Montgomery*.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1776

Philadelphia, March 28.

We hear a tender, with ten or twelve swivels, fitted out by the *Phoenix*, is cruizing between Sandy-Hook and our capes, that she has taken two sloops and a brig off Egg-harbour; that they landed on Abscomb beach, where they plundered a house, inhabited by one Steelman whom they robbed and stripped of every thing, even to the clothes on the children's back.

By express from Lewistown we learn, that on Monday evening [March 25] a sloop of war and her tender came into our Capes.¹

1. The 44-gun frigate *Roebuck* and the *Maria* tender.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND¹

[*Roebuck*, Delaware Bay, Thursday] 28th Mar.

at this time I was so exceedingly ill, with an inflammation in my Bowells, that it was not possible for me to attend to the duty of the Ship. However I desired Mr Leak the 1st Lt would get the Ship under sail and stand out to speak with several Vessels that appeared in the offing. He did so, and at 6 in the afternoon found the first to be Mr [George] Ball's Prize (a large New England Sloop in Ballast)² and concluded the two others were the *Lord Howe* & *Maria* Tenders. He was however undeceived about 8 in the Evening, when the *Maria* joind us, and informed us the other was a Rebel armd Sloop of 10 Guns & about 70 Men which he had had a narrow escape in getting away from.³ We imediately made sail in quest of her, but a dark night coming on, Saw nothing more of her. Returned back to Cape Henlopen.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.
2. "By the *Roebuck*; and ships under Captain Hamond's orders . . . *Dove*, T. Atkins, master, M. Dence, owner, from Plymouth, in New England, to Philadelphia, in ballast, destroyed off Cape Hinlopen." *London Gazette*, May 10 to May 13, 1777.
3. Continental sloop *Hornet*, Captain William Stone.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday, 28th March, 1776.

Capt. James Cocke is appointed and desired to view and examine Capt.

Hutchen's sloop Packett now lying in Baily's creek, near Jordan's, and if it shall appear to him that She is a proper vessel to be fitted up for an armed vessel as a Cruizer in James River, that he, together with the person to be named by the said Hutchings, proceed to value the s'd Sloop with her apparel and furniture, and report their proceedings, together with his opinion what it will cost to fit her for service, to the Comm'ee as soon as possible.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 142.

JOSIAH SMITH, JR. TO MATHEW CLARKSON AND MICHAEL HILLEGAS ¹

[Charleston] March 28th, 1776

Messrs. Mathew Clarkson & Mr Hillegas (Philadelphia)

Gentlemen/

(Per Post Rider)

Your letter of the 28th February was deliver'd to me on the 24th Inst and as I have occasion to lodge some Money in your Quarter, 'twill be very agreeable for me to advance the Cash you have requested me to do to Theobald Ent, but I fear, his non-appearance here may prove a balk to us all. – we have been long looking for the arrival of Capt. [Francis] Proctor & his Company of Artillery Men, of whom we have heard nothing since their departure from your City, and if a worse Fate has not attended them, are fearful they are Stop'd in their way by some one of the British Cruisers now Swarming on the Coasts of North America,² one of which a Tender from the *Falcon* Man Warr at North Carolina, was a few days since taken by the *Comet* Briggt of our province, who likewise nearly took a Schooner of the same Gang, but lost her by means of the Night & Shoal Water. Shou'd Ent ever reach this place you may depend on my doing the needful with him for your account, and bargain with him on the lowest Terms I possibly can for the land you have directed – for Publick News must refer you to the advices gone & going by Authority from Hence, and now Conclude – Gentlemen [&c.]

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

2. Proctor and his artillery company sailed from Philadelphia, February 16, 1776, and was taken by H.M.S. *Syren* on March 15, 1776.

VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Antelope Jamaica

Sir./.

March 28th: 1776

I have received two Letters from Mr [George] Jackson ² the one an Answer to a former One of mine of the 9th of September the other respecting the Ships under my Command Cruizing to intercept North American Vessels within the Limits of my Station both dated the 6th December likewise the late Act of Parliament for prohibiting all Trade & Commerce with the Rebellious Colonies & His Majestys Proclamation for the Distribution of the Captures; all which I shall pay due Attention to.

I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships that since the Intelligence which I received in December last from Cape Francois in the Island of His-

paniola of the French making every Warlike Preparation there & of their expecting Seven Regiments & many Ships from Old France which I communicated to them by a Merchant Ship the 25th of last December and since that by two Pacquets – Captn Douglas of His Majs Ship *Squirrel*, who arrived the 6th of last Month from his Cruize brought me the following Intelligence “That there were a great Number of Men of War of the Line; & Troops lately arrived at Cape Francois from Old France & Martinaco” The Man who gave Captain Douglas the above Information; said, “he saw them at Cape Francois, & that he likewise saw Landed at that place a great Number of Troops & Ammunition, and that; after that he saw Troops Landed at Cape Nichola Mole under the Convoy of Two Frigates,” to the truth of which since his arrival at Jamaica he has made Oath to, before a Magistrate at Port Royal which Affidavit I inclose for their Lordships information.

Since this Man has been Sworn Captain Gardner has sent in a Schooner from Cape Nichola Mole which he took loaded with French produce & bound to Nantucket the Master of which Vessel inform’d him, that he saw at Cape Nichola Mole two French Frigates one of 36 the other of 20 Guns but they were Sail’d for the Cape, that very lately there where Eight Hundred Troops landed there & that there were Three Regiments more Dayly expected which Corresponds with the Latter part of the other Mans Deposition. Captn Gardners Letter I herewith Inclose

In consequence of the above Intelligence I thought it absolutely Necessary to communicate it to their Lordships as soon as possible & having no Vessel under my Command to send Home with an express, except the *Florida* Surveying Sloop (Lieut Cobb) which had I done it Mr Gauld could have done Nothing this Year in Surveying and I suppose would have received his 365£ from Government; the same as if he had been actually employed. The *Ferret* & her People being cast away & lost, & the *Diligence* at Pensacola I order’d the Naval Storekeeper to either Hire, or Purchase a Vessel of about 60, or 70 Tons for His Majestys Service. Hire, he could not, therefore I gave him an Order to Purchase a Schooner of about 70 Tons Burthen, a good going Vessel (which I have acquaintd the Navy Board of by this Opportunity, in case I should have occasion to send an Express to England, on the *Floridas* return from Cape Francois, who I had sent there to learn the Truth of this Information (as there was sufficient time for her going there & returning before I should have occasion to send her to Pensacola to carry on the Survey. She is since return’d Lieutenant Cobb, informs me that what the Man swore to was an absolute Falsity, and as to Troops what arrived were in Six large Merchant Ships and the Convoy of One Frigate only which were to Releive others, with some little addition to Strengthen the Island. therefor I shall employ the Schooner wch I have purchased & call’d the *Lady Keith* in assisting the *Maidstone* & *Squirrel*, in going inshore while on their Cruize to Intercept North American Vessels coming from Hispaniola, and as the *Florida* i[s] Mann’d out of the few Ships under my Command, which much Weakens them I have put my Nephew Mr Fra[n]cis L’Montais (who was acting Lieutenant of the *Antelope*) into her to Act as

Lieutenant 'til their Lordships Pleasure is known, and have order'd him to Compleat his Complement to Eighteen Men, and as he is a good Man, & well qualified for an officer, I beg leave to recommend him to their Lordships as such & hope they will Honor him with a Commission. I hope my proceedings in regard to this Vessel will meet with their Lordships Approbation.

I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships that since my last I have been Served with Three more Writs of Habeas Corpus; which I comply'd with for the Reasons I have before assigned and inclose for their information at [tested] Copies of the Writs with the Petitions & Affidavit for their being Granted I've likewise had Fifteen Actions brought against me for the Detention of those People, on the Receipt of which I inclosed them to His Majestys Attorney General to defend the Cause; in behalf of the Crown, in answer to which he acquainted me, that I might depend on his best Services to the extent of his Proficinal [Provincial] Department, as Council, but as he never acted as Attorney, it would be necessary I should employ one; and likewise Solisited me; to Join a Gentleman of the Bar with him, which Letter I herewith Inclose

I further beg leave to acquaint their Lordships that the Attorney which I employed in consequen[ce] of being Served with those Writs of Habeas Corpus & Actions, for the Detention of those People in pursuance of their Lordships directions has render'd into me an Account amounting to the Sum of £146:2:6 Currency, which I have order'd the Naval Storekeeper to discharge, & by this Oppertunity have inform'd the Navy Board thereof which I hope their Lordships will approve & Inclosed is the Attorneys Bill for their Information -³ Since I have received the late Act of Parliament (agreeable thereto) I have order'd all such North Americans, who were of no use in condemning the Vessels, to be set at Liberty onshore

I further beg leave to acquaint their Lordships, that as yet not one of the Nine Sail, sent in by His Majestys Ships *Squirrel* and *Maidstone* are Condemned, the Attorney General having given it as his Opinion, that the Six, wich were taken before the 1st of January 1776 are not Subject to Confiscation not[with]standing the[y] clear'd out from America, for some of the British Islands in the West Indies, Carried their Cargoes to Hispaniola, where they Sold them took in French produce, & were taken returning to the Rebellious Colonies. The Captains have since Fee'd another Council who is of opinion they are all liable to Confiscation, Copies of which Opinions: I inclose for their Lordships information⁴ & am sorry to acquaint them, that there are too many Friends to America; in this Island The Vessels are all Libell'd and will very soon be brought into the Court of Admiralty where I have not the least doubt of their being Condemned The Middle of this Month Two Briggs belonging to Newcastle on Delaware & Charter'd by the Congress, came into this Harbour, the former loaded with Flour & Bread, the Latter with Lumber, both of which I have Seized.

I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships that the 22nd of last Month Captain [Alan] Gardner of His Majs Ship *Maidstone* applied for a Survey on

his Surgeon, he having a long while Labour'd under a Fistula, in consequence of which I order'd a Survey accordingly (the Report of which, with Captain Gardners Letter I inclose) wherein the Surgeons are of Opinion that a change of Climate is the only chance he has of recovery, agreeable thereto; I have given Captain Gardner an Order to Discharge him & have Appointed Mr William Bradford (the Surgeons First Mate of the *Antelope*) to Succeed him, & have likewise given Mr Richard Shepherd (the Surgeons Second Mate of the *Antelope*) a Warrant as first, all which I hope their Lordships will approve

With regard to the Dissposition of His Majestys Ships & Vessels under my Command, I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships, that the *Maidstone* arrived the 14[th] of last Month and Sail'd again the 11t[h] instant, she wanted a great deal of Repairs, in her Masts; & Yards which occaision'd her to stay longer in Port than she otherwise would have done –

I have given Captain Gardner Discretionary orders, to Cruize off the Island of Henneaga, & use all possible means to Distress the Americans, observing the exceptions containd in the late Act The *Squirrel* has Careen'd, and is Haul'd off from the Wharf, & in a few Days will be ready to Sail, I shall give Captain Douglas orders to the same purpose, as those of Capt'n Gardner

The *Antelope*, in a few Days will Haul alongside the Wharf to Careen, after which I propose sending her to Cruize, & to Hoist my Flag onboard the *Maidstone*, when she comes in, as it will be her time to Careen as she will want to be intirely New Sheathed

The *Florida* I shall fit with all possible dispatch, & send her to Pensacola, to the Surveyior.

The *Lady Keith* Schooner is at present unloading a Store Ship and as soon as that Service is over, I shall send her to Cruize with the *Squirrel* & *Maidstone*, all of which I hope their Lordships will approve

Inclosed is the State & Condition of His Majestys Ships under my Command, & am, with respect Sir [&c.]

Clark Gayton

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. Second secretary of the Admiralty.

3. *Ibid.*, the account of Andrew Smith, the attorney, covered three pages and is endorsed, "1776 Attorneys Bill Amounting to the sum of £ 146:2:6."

4. See the two following entries.

"COPY OF A CASE WITH THE OPINIONS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL & THE HONORABLE RICHARD WELCH ESQR THEREUPON" ¹

[Jamaica, March 28, 1776]

By Orders from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty Dated the 2d September 1775, Their Lordships did require and direct Admiral Gayton, to give Orders to the respective Captains and Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under his Command, to Seize all Ships and Vessels belonging to any of the Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania The three

lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia; or owned by the Inhabitants thereof; and to cause all Ships and Vessels, which should be Seized in the Cases before mentioned, to be carryed to some British Port, not within the said Associated Colonies; and there detained till further Orders, or be proceeded against according to Law, as the Nature of the Case should require.

Admiral Gayton, in pursuance of those Orders, sent Captain Alan Gardner in the *Maidstone*, and Captain Stair Douglass in the *Squirrell*, to Cruize off Cape Nicolas Mole, and put them in Execution –

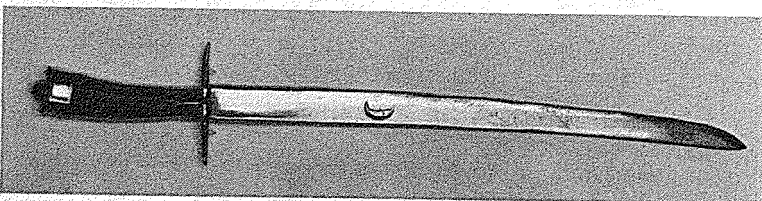
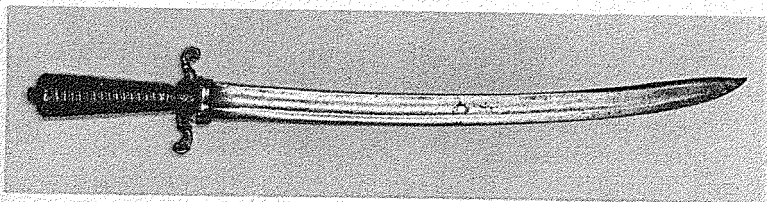
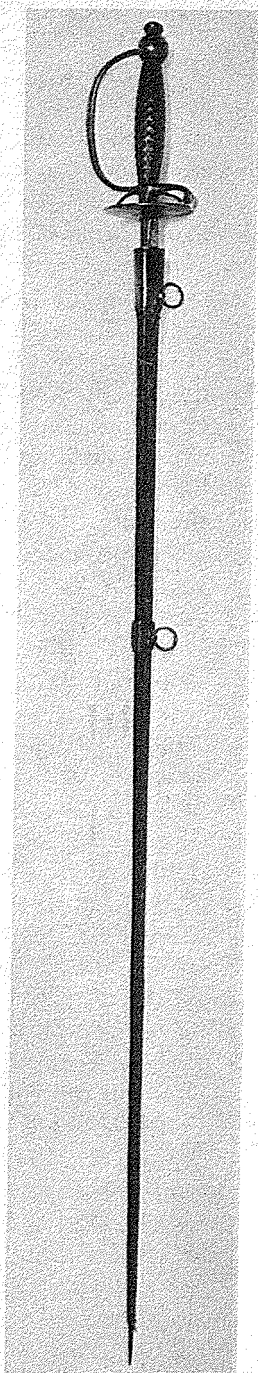
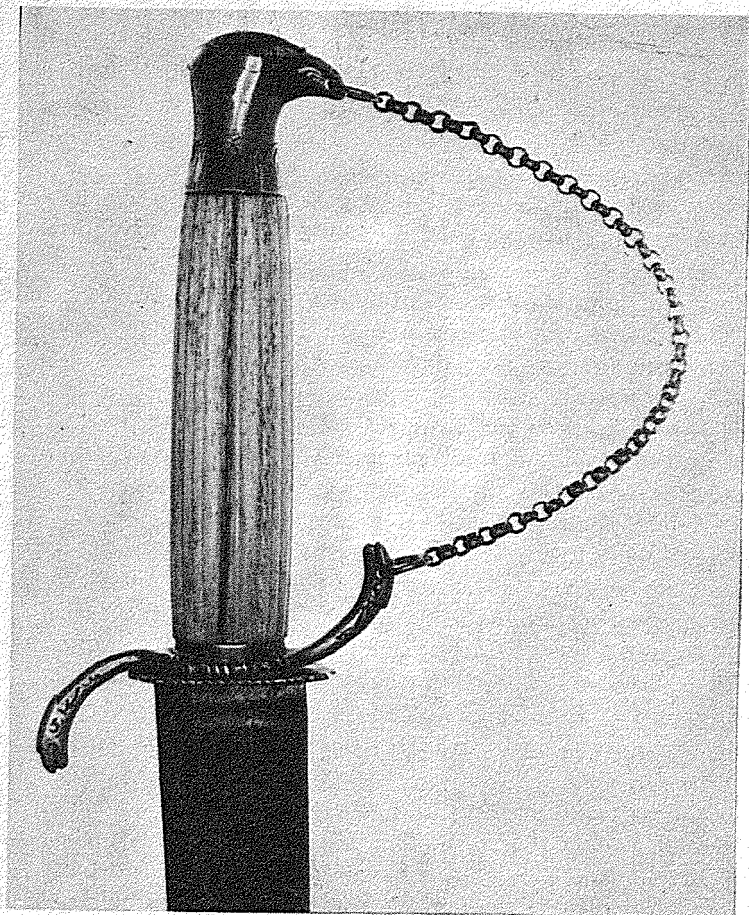
At the Time of Issuing the above mentioned Orders, Two Acts made in the Preceding Sessions, commonly called the Restraining Acts, were in force, by which said Acts, it was generally intended to prevent any Goods Wares or Merchandizes, being carryed from any of the Provinces or Colonys of Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, or Providence Plantation, New Jersey, Pensylvania the three lower Counties on Delaware Maryland Virginia and South Carolina to any other Land, Island, Territory, Dominion, Port or Place whatsoever, except to the Kingdoms of Great Britain or Ireland, or to some of the British Islands in the West Indies, to be laid on Shore there; and also to Oblige the Masters of all Vessels who shall lade or take on board any Goods, at any of the said Colonies, to give Bond and take out a Certificate thereof, in the Manner in the said Acts particularly mentioned, under the Penaltys in the said Acts mentioned and contained – See the said Two Acts –

On the 13th of December last, Captain Gardner Seized the Sloop *Dove*; whereof one Nicholas Bull was Master, as She came out of the Port of Cape Nicolas Mole, with a Cargoe of Sugar and Molasses, which She had taken in there. The *Dove* belongs to the Inhabitants of Rhode Island; had Cleared out from Rhode Island for Jamaica, on the 5th September 1775, with a Cargoe the Property of the Inhabitants of Rhode Island; The Master had given Bond and Obtained a Certificate pursuant to the above mentioned Acts, and had also got all the other proper Clearances for Jamaica; but instead of coming hither went into Cape Nicolas Mole, and Sold her Cargoe there; where She took in the said Cargoe of Sugar and Molasses, and was on her return to one of the before mentioned Colonys, when taken by the *Maidstone*.

On the 20th December last Captn Gardner seized three other Vessells as they came out of Cape Nicolas Mole – Vizt –

The Sloop *Susannah*, of which Benjamin Appleton was Master; She belongs to an Inhabitant of North Carolina, and cleared out from Beaufort in North Carolina on the 6th November last for Jamaica, with a Cargoe on Board, the property of the Inhabitants of North Carolina: As she did not belong to any of the Colonies mentioned in the restraining Acts, She only gave the usual Bonds, and got the proper Clearances for Jamaica; but went into the Mole, and there Sold her Cargoe, and took Molasses on Board; and was on her return to North Carolina, when taken by the *Maidstone*.

The Sloop *Penelope*, John Werden Master, belongs to the Inhabitants



(Top) Hilt detail of Esek Hopkins' sword. (Right) Sword of Captain Simeon Sampson, Massachusetts Navy. (Bottom) Small swords popular for naval use.

of North Carolina, and cleared out from the Port of Roanoke in North Carolina, the 9th Day of September last for Antigua with a Cargoe on Board, the property of the Inhabitants of North Carolina; She Sailed with the proper Clearances for Antigua, but went into Cape Nicolas Mole, where the Master Sold the Cargoe which he had cleared out for Antigua, and took on Board Molasses – He was on his return to North Carolina when taken by the *Maidstone*. –

The Schooner *Happy*, Eliphalet Smith Master, belongs to the Inhabitants of Philadelphia; cleared out from the Port of Bath Town in North Carolina, on the 8th Day of September last for Dominica, with a Cargoe belonging to the Inhabitants of North Carolina; and having got the proper Clearances Sailed for Cape Nicolas Mole, instead of Dominica, and at the Mole Sold her Cargoe, and took On Board Sugar and Molasses, with which, She was on her Voyage from the Mole to Virginia, when She was taken by the *Maidstone*. – N.B. The Sloop had not any Register when taken

On the 23d of December last Captn Douglass seized –

The Sloop *Cornelia*, Robert Sands Master; She belongs to the Inhabitants of New York, and cleared out from the Port of New York on the 24th Day of October last for Antigua; with a Cargoe belonging to the Inhabitants of New York; She Sailed with the proper Clearances for Antigua, but went immediately to Cape Nicolas Mole, where the Master Sold her Cargoe, and loaded her with Molasses, And was on his return from thence to New York, when she was taken by the *Squirrell*.

On the 28th of December last, Captain Douglass also seized

The Sloop *Afee and Hannah*, Benjamin Bell Master, belonging to the Inhabitants of New York; She was cleared out from the Port of Beaufort in North Carolina, on the Ninth Day of September last, for Barbadoes, with a Cargoe on Board belonging to the Inhabitants of New York and North Carolina; and having got the proper Clearances, Sailed for Saint Eustatius, where She Sold her Cargoe, and from thence went to Cape Nicolas Mole, where the Master bought a Cargoe of Salt, and was on Voyage from thence to New York, when She was taken by the *Squirrell*. –

On the 20th of January 1776, Captain Douglass in the *Squirrell* Seized The Schooner *Thames*, alias *Sally*, alias *Syrene*, Joseph Faribault Master; This Vessell belongs to Philadelphia, and the Master is a French Man, and when She cleared out at Philadelphia, he Obligated the Mate to Clear her out as the Master, for Jamaica, in Ballast; She then immediately Sailed for Cape Nicholas Mole, where the Mate Entered her as Master; from thence they proceeded to Leogan and took in a lading of Sugar and Molasses, and then went to the Port of Petit Gieaves [Goaves], where Faribault obtained a Set of French Papers for her as a French Vessell; which he might occasionally Shew to both French and English Ships of War, to protect him from Seizure, as Occasion required. – When he sailed from thence, his Destination was for some Port in New England, and when the *Squirrell* came in Sight, Faribault hid the English Register, Clearances &c, in some place so private, that the Captors have not as Yet been able to find them.

On the 28th January, Captain Gardner, in the *Maidstone*, Seized The Schooner *Dolphin*, Edward Manning Master, belonging to the Inhabitants of the Colony of Virginia, who had cleared out from Hampton in Virginia, on or about the 9th of September last for Grenada, with a Cargoe of Lumber, Bread and Flour on Board, belonging to the Inhabitants of Virginia. – The Master, having obtained from the Custom House the proper Clearance and Certificate Sailed to Grenada and delivered her Cargoe, and there obtained the proper Certificates for the Cancelling his Bonds at Hampton; and having cleared out from Granada in Ballast, for North Carolina Sailed from thence in the beginning of December last; But instead of going to North Carolina, proceeded immediately to Cape Nicolas Mole; where the Master took on Board a Cargoe of Sugar, Molasses and Coffee, and was on his Voyage from thence to North Carolina when taken by the *Maidstone*. – N B. This Schooner had also a Let-pass from the Governor of the Granadoes, as a Safe conduct from thence to North Carolina; Dated the 7th of December last. –

On the 2d of February 1776, Captain Gardner also Seized The Schooner *Nancy*, William Clark Master, belonging to the Inhabitants of the Colony of Rhode Island; who had cleared out from the Island of Nantucket in the Port of Boston, on the 9th Day of December last with Ballast and Stores for Jamaica. She proceeded to Cape Nicolas Mole, where the Master purcha[se]d and took on Board a Cargoe of Molasses and Rum, and was returning to Nantucket with that Cargoe, when taken by the *Maidstone* – N B No papers were found but a Short Clearance from Nantucket and her Register. –

These Nine Vessells were sent under the Care of Petit Offi[cers] to Port Royal Harbour, where they came under the Command of the Admiral. –

Afterwards, Captain's Gardner and Douglass returned from their Cruize, and soon after their Arrival, received the Act for Prohibiting all Trade with the American Provinces, and for repealing the restraining Acts. They, upon reading the Act, and considering, that the first taking of those Vessells had been in Obedience to the Admiralty Orders only, and not by Virtue of any Law, and conceiving that those Vessells were liable to forfeiture as American property, under the last mentioned Act, did on the 16th of February Instant, seize all the said Vessells, as they lay in the Harbour of Port Royal. –

The Sloop *Dove* was the only one of these Vessells, against which, any proceedings had been commenced in the Court of Admiralty; being the only one which was deemed Subject to any forfeiture, under the Restraining Acts; which Acts being now repealed those proceedings are Void. –

In that part of the Prohibitory Act which repeals the restraining Acts – there is the following recital – “And Whereas the Prohibitions and restraints imposed by the said Acts will be rendered Unnecessary by the Provisions of this Act.” – whereby it seems fairly implied, that it is not the intention of the Act to make Void all Forfeitures incurred under the former Acts; but on the Contrary, thereby to give a more effectual Method of recov-

ery, by making the Vessells with their Cargoes &c prizes, as if the Ships of open Enemys. – See Copy of the Law –

The Captors having some Doubts, how to proceed against the several Vessells they have so taken and Seized, as aforesaid. – Your Opinion is requested to the following Queres

1st Quere – Are all the above mentioned Nine Captures liable to Condemnation, by Virtue of the late Prohibitory Act, and the Seizure made in Consequence thereof? If all the said Vessells are not liable to such Condemnation, are any and which of them in that Predicament?

In giving our opinion on this Case, We shall reject the Consideration of State policy and State-Orders further than by observing that they can have no weight in a Court of Justice; unless it shall Appear they are warranted by Law. We know not of any Law or Statute authorising any of these captures previous to the restraining Acts and the present Prohibitory Act. We must confine our Attention to these Acts, and to such rules of Common Law as regulate their Construction. It does not Appear to us that any of the Vessells taken before the 1st of January 1776 were condemnable under The restraining Acts; for in respect to the Sloop *Dove*, she was only libel[ed] cautionarily and for the better securing the Penalty incurred by the Absentee proprietor thereof. Were it otherwise, that Act is now repealed and the Jurisdiction it created is repealed with it, so that no further proceedings can be thereupon had. The continuance of the restraining Acts is said to be rendered unnecessary, by the passing of and provisions contained in the Prohibitory-Act; We are at a loss to find any such provisions, without giving the Act a retropection beyond the express Term of its commencement. It is a penal Act and we are restrain[ed] by every rule of construction from raising provisions out of intent unaccompanied with enacting Clauses, to give such intents Effect; Nay, the Clause which enables Vessels belonging to Inhabitants of the Prohibited Colonies to Sail from this Island before March, contradicts such supposed intents. As little we apprehend is to be inferred from the Indemnity-clause, which makes the Acts of the Captors legal. Instead of giving them or rather confirming a right of Seizure previous to the 1st of January 1776, it only indemnifies them for having possibly seized without such right. What they have done is made legal as to themselves but not legal as to the captures which are not thereby made liable to confiscation. Nor are any of the Men so taken, within the meaning of the bearing or super-numerary Clause of the Prohibitory Act. We therefore think the Vessels taken before 1776 not condemnable under this Act, but only such as have been taken since, which must be proceeded against in the Usual way.

2d Quere – What Mode of Proceeding so you Advise in Order to Obtain the Condemnation of such of the said Vessells, as you are of Opinion are liable there[by] If according to the different circumstances in which the Vessells were Seized, you should think that different Modes of proceed-

ings should [be] followed with different Seizures, please [to] point out the particulars –

This Quere is answered towards the Close of what has been said on the last. We think moreover these proceedings cannot be too soon instituted, As unnecessary Detention before prosecution may be productive of Inconveniences, in case Sentence of Condemnation should not be obtained. The detention of every Man not taken since the Operation And by Virtue of the last Act may probably Subject the Admiral and Captains to Actions. If the Vessels taken before the last Act are not also released so as to enable the Owners to take Advantage of the provisoes in their favor, this may also expose the Admiral and Captains to the like Attacks. How to avoid these difficulties is a question of prudence: A too ready release or too obstinate a retention is equally hazardous: perhaps the Claimants may not be averse to make proposals accompanied with General release, and this may be so managed as to come from themselves.

Tho Harrison
Richard Welch ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Enclosed in Admiral Gayton to Philip Stephens, March 28, 1776.
2. *Ibid.*, on the same date Counselor J. P. Baker gave a contrary opinion contending that, "these Vessels will all be condemned unless the Law of Nations is to give way to common Law Rules in our Courts of Admiralty: And Rebellion is to be Assisted by favorable Constructions of Acts of Parliament, . . ."

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER SCOTT,
H.M.S. *Experiment* ¹

(a Copy)

Whereas the Sundry Transport and Victualing Vessels named in the Margin,² having on board them some Companies of His Majesty's Forces, sundry Stores and Provisions for the Use of the Kings Army and Navy at Boston in America, are now refitted, and ready to proceed on their Voyage

You are hereby required and directed to take under your care and protection, said Transports and Victualling Vessels, and also any other Merchant Vessels that may be bound there with Provisions and Stores for the use of the Kings Army and Navy; and Convoy them forthwith to Boston in America, stopping with them at Old Road St Kitts 48 hours to compleat their Water: You are strictly Commanded to make no delay whatever in executing this Duty and take notice that your activity and diligence herein may prove of the utmost importance to His Majesty's Service. You are also to take especial care none of the Convoy loose Company with His Majys Ship under your Command, and prevent as far as you may be able any of them being taken by the Rebels Cruizing Vessels.

On your arrival at Boston you are to put yourself, said Transport and Victualing Vessels, under the Command and Orders of Rear Admiral Shuldham, or the Commander in Chief of the Kings Ships at that Port; and are to

Deliver the Dispatches you will receive herewith as directed: for which this shall be your Order.³

Given under my Hand at English Harbour
Antigua the 28th March 1776

J. Young.

By Command of the Admiral. G L

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.
2. *Argo, Brownshall, Killingsworth, Resolution, Manners, Felicity, Nanny, Generous Friend, Prince Rupert, Patty, Britannia, Winford, Liberty.*
3. *Ibid.*, "A List of Victualing Transports bound to Boston . . ." giving the inventory of each vessel, accompanied Young's order to Captain Scott. The convoy sailed on March 31.

29 Mar.

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

[Providence] Fryday Evening March 29. 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment.

Voted. That the sum of Thirty six pounds Lawful Money be paid Mr Joshua Hacker for Forty five Water Casks for the Ships.

Reckoning [blank]

Meeting adjourn'd to Tuesday Evening

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

NATHAN MILLER TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Honrd Sir

Middle Town March the 29 1776

I Now with Inexpressable Anxiety of mind Take my pen To inform you of the Manuvers of the Minnisteral pirates Now Cruiseing about the Entra[n]ce of Our Bays they Have Taken no Less than Five Vessels within Four Days and Now in persute of One or Two More which I Doubt Not they will Bring in there whole Force which Cruize out at this Time might be Taken by One Brig of Twelve guns well maned which I think might Be Done in three Days there might Be men Enough Taken from the Trainee and Other parts of the Armeey if you Have No Vessel in providence there is a Brig Laying in the Gut at Howlands Ferry which would Answer the purpose Very well these Hints I Submit To your Wise Consideration and Subscribe my Self [&c.]

Nathan Miller

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 312.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS AGAINST THE CONNECTICUT ARMED BRIG *Minerva* ¹

Minerva, Capt. Giles Hall,

An armed Vessel for defence of Sea Coast

1775, Dec. 26 Andrew Johannet, Steward's account, at Saybrook

Sept. to Dec.	Cash &c from the State [<i>sic</i>]	109.17..6
	Disbursements	80.10.10½
	Balance	<u>27.16..7½</u>

Aug. to Dec	Provisions received and expended on board		
Oct. 9	Gov. Trumbull instructs Commissary Wadsworth to furnish Stores for six months		
Oct & Nov.	Bill of Mr. Wadsworth for the same	£211: 7:0	
	Commissions 1½ per cent, 6 days } attendance 6/	5: 0:0	216..7..0
	Received of Johannet,	27:16:7½	
1776 Jan. 19	Treasury Order	188:10:4½	216..7..0
Dec. & Jan.	Bill of Thomas Lamb, Clerk		2.13..6
1775 Sep.	“ G. Saltonstall, Oars		4.15..0
1776 Jan 25	Pay roll, Wages and Commissions		525..9..8½
Sep. to Jan	Capt. Hall's bill		2.16..6
March 29	do getting <i>Minerva</i> from Say- } brook to Rocky Hill		
“	Treasury order to Capt. Wm Griswold } for balance wages		15[2].10..0

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX (*Minerva*) 6, ConnSL.

EXPENSES OF CAPTAIN GILES HALL OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIG *Minerva* ¹

[Lebanon, March 29, 1776] ²

The Colony Connecticut to Capt Giles Hall		Dr
1775		
Sept	To Horse hire and Exspences to New Haven	£1..0..0
Novr 3	To Horse hire and Exspences for myself } and Mr Phillips to go to Labanan	1..4..0
1776		
Jany	To Horse hire and Exspences to go to Hartford	0..6..0
	To Horse hire and Exspences to go to Labanan	0.12..6
		£3..2..6
	To Horse hire To hartford & Exspences	6
		3..8..6
	deduct the Charge for Horse hire & Exspences twice to Hartford	..12..0
		£2.16..6

1. Conn. Arch., 1st. Series, IX (*Minerva*) , 5a, ConnSL.

2. Date established by summary of accounts against the *Minerva*.

ORDER ON THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF THE PAY TABLE IN FAVOR OF
CAPTAIN WILLIAM GRISWOLD ¹

Please to draw on the Treasurer for the sum of one hundred twenty five pounds twelve shillings, Bills in favor of Capt Wm Griswold, for & in payment of the Hire of the Brig *Minerva* employed the last Season as an armed Vessel in the Service & for Defence of the Sea Coasts of this Colony, under

the Command of Capt Giles Hall, according to Charter Party, as the Acco has been settled & allowed by the Govr & Council of Safety

[Lebanon] March [29] AD 1776

Test W^m Williams Clerk
£ 125 - 12 - 0

1. Conn. Arch., 1st series, IX (*Minerva*), 11a, ConnSL.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

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

March 29th, 1776.

Mr. Nichols. Low informed the Committee that the sloop *James*, Richd. Puller master, with provisions for the West Indies, in return for military stores imported, is ready to sail, and requests a permit.

Ordered, That the sloop *James*, Richd. Puller master, be permitted to sail, and it is recommended to all friends to American liberty to afford every necessary aid to the said sloop and master.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 391.

COLONEL GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN TO HIS WIFE ¹

[Extract]

New York, March 29th 1776. 7 oClock P.M.

I am again set down at the Bull's Head, and now go on to tell You that I went out with the Company that called on me and have taken a View of the greater Part of the Fortifications in this City, and am of Opinion that it would be extreamly difficult for an Army to force its Way into this Town from the Water for there are strong Breast Works raised across every Street that leads down to the Water at the Distance of About Ten and Twenty Rods from the Water behind each of which a considerable Number of Men may be placed and be kept covered from the Fire of the Enemy when at the same time they would be able to cut down the Enemy with their Shot surprisingly as they attempted to mount the Wharves, and on each Side of the City above it on the East River and on the West Side of it on the North River are strong Batteries to prevent any Ships geting above the City to do any Mischeif by Landing there, but least they should, there is a large Fort now building right back of the City in the Middle between the two Rivers, which goes on fast and will be soon done & when it is, it will command the Country from River to River and keep off any Enemy from that Quarter, and if any Enemy should get into the City this Fort will prevent there advancing into the Country, . . . The Ships that lie here are the same that You have heard off for sometime past, and there was a Gentleman of this City on Board the *Asia* last Night where was also the Capt of the *Phoenix* the Gentn was the first that gave them Intelligence that Genl How had left the Town of Boston, and they held up their hands & cryed out good God! if this is the Case we are perfectly in the dark. This does not look as tho How was coming here for if he was, one would have thought he would have sent an

Advice Boat to have informd these Ships of it. We have Advice here that Genl How lay in Boston Harbour last Fryday, Night. . . .

1. Silliman Papers, YUL.

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON TO CHARLES CARROLL, SR.¹

[Extract]

New York 29th March 1776

Dear Papa We arrived at this city yesterday evening about 7 o'clock after a very pleasant and agreeable journey of three days. Doctr Franklin is a most engaging & entertaining companion of a sweet even & lively temper full of facetious stories & always applied with judgment & introduced apropos – he is a man of extensive reading & deep thought & curious in all his enquiries: his political knowledge is not inferior to his literary & philosophical: In short I am quite charmed with him: even his age makes all these happy endowments more interesting, uncommon & captivating.–

This morning we have been viewing the fortifications erected & erecting in and around this city: the ardor of the citizens is astonishing: gentlemen of the first and men of all ranks, work on these fortifications: the minute men receive their common pay about 2/2 – I was told by a gentleman, that some gentlemen not used to work with a spade, worked so long, to set an example, that the blood gushed out of their fingers – While this spirit continues the Americans will ever remain unconquerable. – The *Asia* lies about a mile & half from the town: she does not molest the vessels wh bring hay & provisions from the back country down Hudsons river & from the Jerseys, because by leave of the committee of Safety, provisions are allowed to be carried to them – If this were denied she could interrupt the provision vessels wh would occasion in the present situation of things great distress: at present My Lord Stirling informs me there are, including melitia; 6000 men: the rifle Battalion is arrived & the greatest part of the army under Gen. Washington is expected – we have no certain intelligence of the enemy having sailed from Boston: their destination is still uncertain. –

30th P.M. 7 o'clock –

. . . we have no certain advice of the fleet's being sailed from Nantasket road. Howe's delay is a proof that he does not intend to N.York & that he embarked his forces with great precip[it]ation: they have certainly abandoned the castle after blowing up some part of the fortifications. I am more & more convinced that the greatest part of Howes forces will go to Canada: the Ministry will certainly endeavour to repossess themselves of that country it will be giving Some eclât to their arms, and they may annoy the colonies extreamly from that quarter: the burning of a few defenceless seaport towns will render them contemptible only, not formidable – . . . General Washington will certainly come to N. York when Howe leaves the coast of N England: this is a central place & the best adapted for the head quarters of the American army: from this place detachments may be sent to the eastward, Canada, & Southward. –

Ch. Carroll of Carrollt[o]n

1. Carroll Papers, MdHS.

JOHN ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN ¹

[Philadelphia] March 29, 1776

Since the joyfull News of the Reduction of Boston by the Forces of the united Colonies, my Mind has been constantly engaged with Plans and Schemes for the Fortification of the Islands and Channells in Boston Harbour. I think that if Cannon and Ammunition, in the necessary Quantities can possibly be obtained, Fortifications ought to be erected upon Point Alderton, Lovells Island, George's Island, Castle Island and Governor's Island, Long Island and Moon Island, and Squantum, the Heights of Dorchester and Charlestown and Noddle's Island. The Expencc of the Quantities of Cannon necessary to make this Harbour impregnable, will be very great, But this must not be regarded.

Cannot Vesseaux de Frize be placed in the Channell? Cannot Hulks be sunk? Cannot Booms be laid across? Nay, cannot the Channell be filled up or at least obstructed with Stone?

Cannot Fire be employed as a Defence? I mean Fire Ships and Fire Rafts? Cannot Gallies or floating Batteries be used to Advantage?

We suppose that the Fleet and Army, under General Howe are gone to Hallifax with Design to go up the River of Saint Lawrence, as early as possible in the Spring. They may go up the River early in May, if not the latter end of April.

We are taking Measures to give them such a Reception as they ought to have.

The Baron de Woedke is gone to Canada, a Brigadier. A Lady at Braintree can furnish you with his Credentials which are very good. He is a great officer.

Pray appoint a Committee to look for Sulphur in our Colony, and let me know what Progress Salt Petre makes.

Favoured by Francis Dana, Esq.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I 216-17. The contents of this letter were repeated in Adams' letter of the same date to his wife, Abigail, Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 366.

JOHN ADAMS TO COTTON TUFTS ¹

My dear sir

Philadelphia March 29. 1776

We are impatiently waiting for Intelligence of further Particulars from Boston. We have only heard that General How [William Howe] and his Army have left it, and that General Washington with a Part of his, has taken Possession of it. How shall I express my Joy to you at this great Event! As we are in Possession of Dorchester Heights, Charlestown Heights and Noddles Island, I think there can be no Danger of their Returning to Boston very soon. I hope, the Instant they leave the Harbour, that our Colony will begin to fortify it in such a Manner, that no hostile Fleet shall ever enter it again. I hope We shall fortify upon the Heights of Point Alderton, upon Lovells Island, Georges Island, Governors Island, Castle Island, Dorchester

Heights and Noddles Island. I had like to have forgot Long Island And the Moon and Squantum, for there should be a Fortification upon each of these.

What can be done to obstruct the Channell between the West Head of Long Island and the Moon? But more especially, can nothing be done in Nantaskett Road, or in the Narrows to obstruct the Channell.

Will Gallies, carrying heavy Cannon be of any service? The Men of War seem to dread them exceedingly. They convey a sure shot and a terrible one, and they are very nimble and alert.

But cannot some thing be done, with Fire? Fire ships or sloops, or schooners, or Fire Rafts or all together, I should think might be used to some Purpose.

They are making Preparations to defend this River in this Way, I mean with Fire. They have several Fire Vessells besides several Hundreds of Fire Rafts ready. They would fill the whole River with Flame.

If the Bottom in the Narrows of our Channell is hard, I should think that the Vesseau de Frize, which is used in this River would do. They are large Frames of great Timber, loaded with stone and sunk. Great Timbers barbed with Iron, pointed and feathered, are placed in such a Posture as to intangle a Vessell, and shatter her, and sink her.

I hope that No Efforts, No Labour, or Expencc will be spared in securing Boston Harbour against Enemies. It will be our Interest to do it, for as Privateering is begun and Trade will be opened, nothing will draw into our Country so many Prizes, so much Trade and Wealth as an impregnable Harbour. It will become the Principal Rendezvous in my Opinion of Privateers, and American Men of War, as well as a Principal Mart.

I hope, if Batteries, fixed or floating, Fire Works, Gallies, Vesseau de Frize, or all together can secure that Harbour, let it be done.

We are taking every Precaution to secure N.York, Virginia, Carolina and Canada, and by the Blessing of Heaven, I have great Hopes We shall do it with success. My Duty to Mrs.Tufts and Love to Mr. Cotton,² and believe me to be your sincere Friend.

John Adams

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 367-68.

2. Cotton Tufts, Jr.

JOHN MACPHERSON TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Honourable Gentlemen I have already taken the liberty, of pointing out my opinion of the many advantages which would arise to north america, by employing row gallies. Viz. The many superior advantages they have in calms, and little winds; the great advantage they have, in being able to take shelter from a superior force (in case of necessity) at all times, upon the coast of north america. As they draw less water, than vessels of the usual construction, and as I am persuaded I can construct them to sail much faster, than any vessels in great Britain; at least before the wind. These, with other considerations, led me to undertake to take, or destroy, every british ship of war, on the coast of north america, with twelve row gallies

only. Which command was promised to me, by Honble Messrs [Stephen] Hopkins, [Peyton] Randolph, & John Rutlidge. I sincerely believe, had I been expeditiously furnished with those vessels, there would have been few british ships of war, now on the coast of america, to molest our trade. I am still ready to undertake the same charge, and will risk my life, and every farthing I possess on earth, on my success.

Or if more agreeable to the Honble Congress, I will fit out two gallies at my own expense, the Honble Congress furnishing me with timber, guns, powder &ca, for which I will pay before my departure, and will risk my reputation, that I will take or destroy, an English man of war in avery little time. If I do not succeed, I do not wish to be reimbursed one penny. If I do, I should be glad the Honble Congress, would grant me a commission, for such a command, bearing date from the time that command was promised me, and that they would pay to my officers and men, the full value, of the first men of war I should take; or the estimated value of the first man of war I should destroy. I am little concerned, about any mercenary reward to my self. I should ill merit the confidence of the Honble continental Congress did I doubt their honour. Twelve row gallies will not cost near so much money, as the four frigates now building here.

I hope the Honble Congress, will not be offended; by my beging they will be expeditious, in fixing the matter with me. I am Honourable Gentlemen, with sincere esteem for your august body [&c.]

[Philadelphia] March the 29th 1776.

John Macpherson

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XV, 29-30, NA.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND¹

[*Roebuck*, Delaware Bay, Friday] 29th [March]

Took out of the Prizes every thing that could be of use to the Ship, and then destroyed the Vessels.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

MEMORANDUM OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N.¹

Roebuck at Cape Henlopen the
29th March 1776

Enclosed Captain [Henry] Bellew a Copy of Admiral Graves Private Signals, And appointed Mr. Phillips 3d Lieutenant in the Room of Lt. [George] Ball taken by the Rebels The Same day Mr Geo. Edwards had an order to Act in the Room of Philips prom[ot]ed.

1. Hamond Papers, Orders issued, UVL.

THOMAS AND JOHN DORSEY TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER¹

Sir

March 29: 1776.

Mr Richard Dorsey informs us that there is a Vacancy for a Lieut. of Marines on Board the Tender now fitting out at Baltimore Town, and that

he intends Applying to the Council of Safety for that place – We know he has been active in the Cause of Liberty from the Beginning of our Unhappy Disturbances, And has been for some time a Midship man on Board the *Defence*, Cap Nicholson can inform of his Conduct since he has been with him – If it has been such as will entitle him to preferment, We shall be much obliged to you for any Service you may be to him. We Are Respectfully Sir [&c.]

Thomas Dorsey Jn^o Dorsey

1. Executive Papers, Box 2, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Friday, March 29th, 1776.

Mr. Benjamin Pollard is appointed Lieutenant of Marines of the River Galley, commanded by Capt. [George] Muter, but not to enter into pay 'til he receives Instructions from the Comm'ee.

Same appointment to Mr. Thomas Merriwether, as first Lieut. of Marines, in the Cruizer for York River, commanded by Capt. [Thomas] Lilly.

Ordered, that notice be published in the *Virginia Gazette*, that on Monday 15th April, the Comm'ee will proceed to the appointment of officers for the several companies of Marines, to be employed in the Naval Department.

Ordered, that the committees of the counties of Nansemond and Isle of Wight be desired severally to appoint a person to take possession of the Estate of John Goodrich, the Elder, that may be found in their respective counties, causing an inventory and appraisement to be made and returned to this Comm'ee, and that they agree with each such person to superintend the management of the s'd Estate so as to yield the best profit, accountable to this Comm'ee, that the s'd Estate and profits may remain a security to the County for Mr. Goodrich's accounting for the money by him rec'd of the Treasurer for the purchase of Powder.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 143-44.

JOHN STERRATT & COMPANY TO HEWES & SMITH ¹

Gentm

Edenton 29 March 1776.

Inclosed you have Mr John Crocketts order on Saml Johnston Esqr for 1987 lb powder or the value thereof in money. The Congress for this Governmt may take the whole at Ten shillings pensilvania Cury p pound, or deliver as much powder to the Committee of Philadelphia or Baltimore for our acct – This we think will not be considered high if the risk is fairly Calculated as it cost 10/ pr lb in the West Indies and little or no benefits can now arise from the privelege of Shipping the Value – But if it shoud we wish to be allow'd no more than other private adventurers shall and have been allowed in the other Collonies – we direct You to Dispose of it to the public only as it was imported for that purpose – If you can procure Vessels or Charter at the rate of Ten pounds pr thousand freight to the West Indias we desire you to purchase White oak Staves & headings & ship the amount of

the privelege as soon as you can and Consign the Same to Mr Saml Roddy who will soon be here in order to go out with the first Vessel to some of the French West India Islands – If you find you cannot gett Vessels on these terms soon You will please apply the price of the powder One fifth to the order of Geo Kerr & Co Calepoint Virga and the remainder as we May hereafter direct – Be pleased to Address to us, Merchts in Baltimore & advise us from time to time of your proceedings. We are with due respect Gent [&c.]

Jn^o Sterratt & Co

I. NCDAH.

DIXON AND HUNTER's *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1776

Newbern, March 29.

On Thursday last arrived here, in 12 days from St. Eustatia, in the armed schooner *Caswell*, Mr. John W. Stanly, of this place. He sailed from Ocracock Bar the 26th of January, in the brig *Sally*, Captain Ridge, and the 12th of February made the island of Martinique; where the vessel was seized by the *Pomona* frigate, Captain Young; while she lay becalmed about two miles from the town of St. Pierre, and while Mr. Stanly was gone on shore to obtain permission to anchor there. The *Pomona* had anchored that night in the harbour of St. Pierre, and came out disguised like a merchantman. A sloop from Fairfield, in the same situation, was taken in company with the *Sally*.

Among the many vessels seized under the prohibitory act are the following, viz. From New York, the sloop *Sally*, Doge, *Charming Polly*, Truxen [Thomas Truxtun] *America*, Campbell, and schooner *Polly*, Alstine.

Rhode Island, —, Capt. Sweet,

Fairfield, sloop *Diamond*, Whitney.

Salem, brig *America*, Lambert.

Philadelphia, ship *Nancy*, Kirby, and brig —, Gregg.

North Carolina, brig *Sally*, Ridge, and schooner —,

James Green, cleared by Governor Martin.

Georgia, a brig, Capt. Deane.

Virginia, a brig.

South Carolina, brig *Union*, Boyd.

Connecticut, a sloop, Capt. Jones.

New York, a sloop, Capt. Gibbs.

The cruisers are so exceedingly vigilant among the Islands, that few vessels escape them. Notwithstanding which, a brig from Baltimore, a ship (*Liberty*, Capt. Monro) from Philadelphia, and two pilot boats from the same place, had got in safe to St. Martin's and St. Eustatia early in this month.

The following quantities of powder were shipped from Martinique and Guadaloupe within a few weeks, besides large quantities from the Cape and St. Eustatia which has caused that article to be as high as 5s. 6d. a pound, and none now to be had even at those extravagant prices.

For New London	20000
For Maryland	7000
For Piscataway	6000
For Ditto	5000
For Ditto	5000
For Rhode Island	9000
For Casco Bay	3000
Five sail for New London, sent out by N[athaniel] Shaw, on account of the United Colonies,	40000
For Plymouth	4000
For South Carolina,	20000
For North Carolina,	2200
	<hr/>
	121200

A brig belonging to New York, with wines from Lisbon, got into St. Eustatia the 11th inst. The master says a requisition was daily expected to be made by the Court of Great Britain for the delivery of all American vessels in the port, which would undoubtedly be complied with. In Martique and Guadaloupe there are at this time about 8000 troops, not long since arrived from France, who are industriously employed in repairing their old fortifications, and erecting new ones, particularly on the heights that command the plain through which the British troops passed to the back of Fort Royal when they reduced that place.

The French appear exceedingly friendly to the American cause, which they would have promoted by a much larger supply of arms and ammunition than they have hitherto imported, had they not been doubtful of the American submission to the claims of Parliament, and of course a discontinuance of the demand for warlike stores, which in that case would remain in the hands of the importers.

The common toast among the French, from the General down to the merchants, is *the independence of America*; until which is declared, they say our war with England can only be looked on as a domestic broil, unworthy the public countenance of those powers who would cheerfully enter into friendship and alliance with them, could it be done with propriety. It is a truth, that a certain great man in those islands wishes to have the honour of transmitting to his Most Christian Majesty an application from the Continental Congress to the Court of France, which he would engage should be presented and answered, *provided it was dated the first year of the republic of America*.

On the seizure of the before-mentioned brig, Captain Ridge, a memorial was presented to the Count de Choiseul, Governor of Martinique, and the General Nozier, representing the taking loaded provisions, so much wanted in the island, and within so small a distance of their harbour, as contrary to the established custom, distressing to the inhabitants, and insulting to the flag of his Most Christian Majesty, praying that orders might be given to prevent the like in future. The General ordered two frigates immediately

to receive their full complements of men, and to cruise for the security and safe conduct of American vessels bound into that island, and demanded by a flag of truce a restoration of the brig and sloop taken as before-mentioned. These frigates protected several vessels while Mr. Stanly was there, particularly Captain Denison of this port.

A privateer sloop of 10 guns, and a fine brig of 16, were fitted out, the first in Martinique, the second in St. Eustatia, and sent to America; and it is not to be doubted but that any continental armed vessels that might cruise in those seas, would be admitted into the French ports, and protected while there.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Scorpion*, CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE¹

March 1776	Moor'd off Brunswick in Cape Fear River No Carolina
Wednesday 27	Anchd here the <i>Palliser</i> Transpt and an Arm'd Schooner.
Thursday 28	Fresh Breezs with Rain Saluted Genl Clinton with 15 Guns on his coming onboard. Empd Occasly Mode & Cloudy with rain at 12 sent the Boat Man'd & Arm'd on a Secret Expedition
Friday 29	5 AM Boat Retd Anchd here the <i>Kitty</i> Transport.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

30 Mar.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

Watertown, March 30, 1776

My Dear Sir, — When I wrote you last I was at Plymouth sick and confined. I did not return to this place till three days ago. On my way Mrs. [Mercy] Warren and I lodged at Braintree, and had the pleasure of finding Mrs. Adams and family well. Here I find the world turned topsy turvy to such a degree that I can scarcely realize the present appearances of things; the enemies army fled and our own marching into other colonies. The last division of the British fleet sailed on Wednesday last [March 27]. I had a view of them without the light house from Pens Hill, about sixty or seventy sail. They made a pretty appearance. What their destination is we are not able to ascertain. The general opinion is that they are gone to Halifax, and some circumstances seem to confirm it. I presume before this you have had a full account of their principle embarkation, their fright and their depredations, etc., etc. Two or three ships only, with one of their store ships ashore on George's Island, remain in the harbour. Four hundred of our men under the command of Colonel [Benjamin] Tupper were to have gone last evening on Petticks Island with some artillery, to render their station uneasy, and perhaps destroy the store ship. I suppose the storm may have prevented. What is to be the next movement of the British fleet and army, I can't devise. There is no reasoning on their conduct and I must leave



James Warren.

abler heads than mine to conjecture. The General proposes to leave only four or five regiments here. This number we think very small, considering that we have been first and principally marked for vengeance and destruction, and the possibility and even probability that the attack may be renewed, as well as the necessity of fortifying the harbour of Boston. But we must submit. We have a committee gone to view the harbour of Boston, and to report the best method of securing it. Whether that will be best done by fortifications or by obstructing the channels, or by both, I can't say, but surely it ought to be done effectually and speedily. Who is to command here I don't learn. General Ward perhaps, if his resignation (which I hear he has sent) don't prevent, by being accepted before a subsequent letter he is said to have wrote reaches you . . .

I congratulate you on the success of our arms in North Carolina. We hear nothing from Quebec. As the seat of war is changing you will of course have shorter letters in future. All kinds of intelligence I am now to expect from you. When shall we hear that we are independent? Where are the Commissioners? What is become of our fleet, etc., etc. Remember you have not wrote me a long time. My compliments to all friends.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 217-19.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU ¹

March 1776

[In Nantasket Road]

Monday 25.

at 2 AM let go the best bower under foot at 9 hove it up at 10 fired Gun and made the signal for sailing at 1/2 past weighed & made sail for sea at Noon Boston Lt House WbS 3 Miles hove to wating for the fleet under my Convoy.

Fresh breezes & Cloudy

at 2 pm Made sail the fleet in Company at 5 close reefed the Foretopsail & first of the Main

Tuesday 26.

at 6 Cape Ann bore NbW 1/2 W 6 leagues the fleet in Company at 12 light winds with Snow AM fair the Convoy in Company.

Moderate & Cloudy at times

at 1/2 past 2 P M shortened sail for the fleet at 3 fired a Gun for the Vessells a head to drop into their station at 10 shortened sail for the fleet

Wednesday 27.

AM the fleet in Company, at 7 set the Mizentopsail at 9 out 2d reef of the Topsails the fleet in Company at Noon. Fresh gales & Cloudy

at 1 PM fired at the Head Vessells to drop into their station at 4 took in 2d reef of the Topsail at 9 close reefed them the fleet in Company.

Thursday 28.

at 5 AM out 4th reef of the Main set the Mizentopsail at 9 saw from the Masthead the land bearing NEbN and out 3d reef of the Topsails, At Noon Cape Sable NNW

distance 3 leagues & shortened sail for the fleet to come up.

Fresh breezes & Cloudy at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 fired & made the Signal for the sternmost Vessells to make sail at 6 reefed the Topsails the fleet in Company.

Friday 29.

at 6 AM the fleet all up let the reefs out of the Topsails at 8 saw Sambro light House NEbE 6 leagues at 10 shortened sail for the fleet, at Noon the fleet in Company. First and Middle parts fresh gales and squally with Snow latter light Winds. at 1 PM came to with the best bower in 10 fm water below Mauger's beach, veered to a whole Cable with most of the fleet under convoy within me, at 3 the Master Attendance came on board.

Saturday 30.

At 10 AM hove in to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable at Noon bore short. Light Winds and Variable at 1 PM weighed and made Sail with the store ship Transports & several of the fleet under Convoy at 5 Anchor'd off the dock Yard in 10 fm & veered to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable found riding here his Majesty's Ships *Orpheus*, *Cerberus*, *Kingfisher* & *Halifax* Schooner.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

SAILING PERMISSIONS FROM RHODE ISLAND GRANTED BY GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Account of Permissions granted by his Honor the Governor

March 5

Brig. *Industry* Edward Woodman Master to proceed to the foreign West Indies for Salt on the Colony's Acco.

Sloop [blank] William Lebaron Master the same Voyage

Both Vessels fitted by the Come for the Co of Newport

Schooner *Sally* Lavis Sisson Master for New-York.

Sloop *Diamond* John Norris Master for New-York.

7th

Sloop *Snow-Bird* David Lawrence Master, Maryland.

Sloop *Industry* Nathan Pettis Master for Connecticut.

8th

Sloop *America*. Ephraim Carpenter Master. Pennsylvania.

9th

Sloop *Greenwich* Isaac Upton Master. For New-York.

11th

Sloop *Diamond* Jonathan Carpenter. Master. for New-York.

12th

Sloop *Victory* William Rhodes Master. for Connecticut.

15th

Sloop *Betsey* George Coggeshall Master. for New-York & Connecticut.

18.

Sloop *Favourite* Abner Coffin Master. for Philadelphia. in Ballast

19.

Sloop *General Washington* Thomas Pickering Master for South-Carolina with Passengers & Stores for the Continental Service.

27.

Sloop *King Bird* Ebenezer Hill Master for Long-Island.

28.

Sloop *George* James Aborn Master for Connecticut with 16. Hhds Lime. Outward

Cargoes —In the Sloop *Polly* Simon Smith Master for Surinam.

March. 25. 300. bbls Flour; 65. bbls. Fish, 16 Hhds. ditto, 15 C Staves, 2000. Ropes Onyons, and 100 Boxes Sperma Caeti Candles. Owned by John Brown.

30. In the Sloop *Defiance* John Chace Master for South-Carolina. 700. Gallons N.E. Rum, 50 Casks Cyder, 6 bbls Oyl, 30 Boxes Sperma-Caeti Candles, 237. Bunches Onyons, 1000 lb Chocolate and 1000 lb Coffee Owned by John Brown.

1. R.I.Arch. These sailing permissions began on March 5, 1776, or at least that is when the record begins, and continued without a break until the British occupied Newport and blocked up Narragansett Bay in December, 1776. For permissions through July 4, 1776, see Appendix A.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1776 .

Providence, March 30.

The ministerial Fleet on this Station, which sailed from the Harbour of Newport on a Cruize Wednesday and Thursday Se'nnight, returned the day following with two Prize Sloops, both from New-Haven, with Provisions, one of them bound to the West Indies, the other to the Eastward. — They have since, it is said, taken three other Prizes.

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

March 1776 Brentons Point SBW, and the Flagg staf at the Fort EBN

Thursday 28 Sail'd the *Charlotte* Tender.
P M came in the *Hawke* and *Charlotte* Trs with 2 Prizes Vizt the Sloop *Hanah*, Jno Tradwell, Mastr from Surinam with Mollasses, Sugar, Coffe and Coco, bound to Providence, Do Sloop *Greyhound* Jno Askin Mastr from Philadelphia with Flour belong to Dartmo

Friday 29 A M Sail'd the *Bolton* and *Fortune* Tender
First and Mid part do Wr latter fresh Breezes and Cloudy

Saturday 30 A M came in the *Bolton* Armed Brigg with a Sloop Prize *Snow Bird* ² Davd Laurence Mr from Baltimore belongg to Providence with Flour Iron and Bread

First part fresh Breezes and hazy with Sleet Mid do lattr
Rain P M came in H M Sloop *Nautilus* with a Schooner
Prize & Sloop

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

2. The *Hannah*, *Greyhound* and *Snow Bird* are listed in Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484, but with no additional information than that given in the journal. The owners' bond for the *Snow Bird* was taken March 7, 1776, at Providence.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Sabbati, 10 HO. A.M.

March 30th, 1776.

The Committee considering of the best method to preserve the stock on Staten Island, if a fleet should arrive and attempt depredations, are of opinion that it should be removed to Jersey, on any appearance of an enemy.

Ordered, That Mr. Bancker get two good scows built, to have them in readiness to remove stock or Jersey troops to that Island.

Die Sabbati, 4 ho. P.M. March 30th, 1776.

Ordered, That Mr. Stephen Rapalye be permitted to go on board his Majesty's ship *Phoenix*, with the port master, to demand his schooner lately seized by order of Captain Parker, he having been sworn that he will not convey any intelligence relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of this city and Colony.

A letter from Genl. Thompson was read and filed, in the words following, vizt:

Gentn. – A number of troops are arrived, and more are hourly expected who must be quartered in the city, and as I understand that many of the inhabitants who have quitted the town have left part of their furniture in their houses, I must request that you will give such directions as you may judge best for securing the property of those people whose houses are or shall be occupied as barracks for the troops; and you will much oblige, gentlemen [&c.]

Wm. Thompson.

New-York, 30th March, 1776.

To the Committee of Safety.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 393.

MEMOIRS OF BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH ¹

[New York] 30th [March]

They arrived at Turtle Bay,² disembarked, and marched into the city at noon. The transports fell down to the city wharves, and landed the baggage,&c. Gen. [William] Thompson and Lord Stirling, with some New-York and New-Jersey troops, were in the city; and works were constructing in and around the city, on Long-Island, and at Horn's Hook; the command of the whole devolved on our General. The *Asia*, British man-of-war, then lay off in the harbour, with the *Lady Gage*, of 20 guns; but on the arrival of the

brigade, the *Asia* moved further down, just out of shot. Our General put a stop to the intercourse between the inhabitants and the ships, which had, until then, been kept up.

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 36, 37.

2. Heath's brigade of five regiments and an artillery company which had sailed from New London March 27, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety,

Philad'a., 30th March, 1776

Resolved, That Mr. [Samuel] Howell, Mr. [John] Nixon, & Capt. [Robert] Whyte, be a Committee to look out for two Vessels most proper for sinking in the passage between the Chevaux-de-Frise, and make Report of their proceedings to this Board.

Resolved, That Mr. [Samuel] Morris be requested to purchase a sufficient Number of Logs for building two Piers, for fixing the Boom to for obstructing the Navigation.

That Capt. Whyte & Mr. Morris contract with some persons to build the said two Piers.

By order of the Board, an order was drawn on Jno. M. Nesbitt, Esq'r, in favour of Lieut. [John] Hennessey for £4 10, for Waggon hire, in bringing Seamen from Brumswick [New Brunswick] to this City.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 530, 531.

ROBERT MORRIS TO SILAS DEANE ¹

Philada March 30th 1776

Dear Sir You will find herein an Invoice & bill of Loading for Sundry Merchandize I have shipped onboard the Sloop *Betsey* Capt John Tucker which is Consigned to you & is intended for Sale in the Island of Bermuda provided the Sloop can be admitted to land the same with Safety there, and I think there is not much reason to doubt of your being able to accomplish that point, as the Island will probably be in want of the Cargo which is also cleared out from the Jerseys previous to the 25th March, consequently does not come within the late Prohibitory Act of Parliament, however Capt Tucker will put in at the West End of the Island where there is no Custom House & he will directly apply to Henry Tucker Esqr to whom I have given him & you letters, this Gentn I expect will be able to inform you of every thing you wou'd wish to know respecting that Island, and I flatter myself he will be willing to afford you all the assistance & advice you can stand in need off, One grand point to be accomplished is to procure a New Register for the Sloop *Betsey* which I hope may be obtained by pleading that her first Register is lost, and as she was built and originally Registered in the Custom House in Bermuda and it does not appear in that office that ever the property was Changed I think they can have little objection to renewing that Register from the Record, perhaps the former Owner may be willing to lend

his Name or if that cannot be Ventured on Capt Tucker must have her Registered in his Name as a Resident in that Island which will effectually Cover the property.

If you succeed in obtaining a Register for her which must be dated before the 1st Jany 1776, but the farther back the better, I think you had in that case best to make the remainder of your Passage in her, but here I must observe that I have pointed out some business for Capt Tucker to execute which if he can accomplish will oblige him to leave the Sloop, in that case you & he can either appoint the Mate or procure another good Master to go in her, I think the latter wou'd be best, and that if you go in her You shou'd take a New Master, Mate & hands clearing her out from Bermuda for London and making them believe you are bound there, (except the Master who shoud know better) – Capt Tucker will very soon know whether he can execute the business I have pointed out to him and if he cannot do that he will Stick by the Sloop, he is directed to be govern[e]d entirely by your orders in writing, and if she is Registered in his Name and he leaves her You will then see that he signs proper instructions as owner to the New Master. If on your arrival at Bermuda you find thare is no safety or protection there for either Yourself, the Sloop or Cargo you will doubtless proceed on, direct for your destined Port in Europe without loss of time, only in such case I wou'd wish Capt Tucker to remain in Bermuda if he can do the intended business, and another good Captain can be immediately got, if not he must go on; but if you find safety and protection for yourself, Vessell & Cargo, I think you had best in such case to Land & make sale of the Cargo or put it into proper hands for Sale none can be properer than Mr Tucker if he will Act therein, and procure as much Money or good bills of Exchange to be advanced you thereon as you possibly can,

I imagine this Cargo will sell directly for ready Money and that you may receive the whole in hard Money or bills, whatever you do receive must be put to the Credit of the Indian Contract, and if you leave any part unsettled You'l direct the same to be Accounted for to me hereafter, I have also written Mr Tucker to pay you in hard Money or good bills, a ballance due to me on a former Cargo of provisions I sent thither and whatever you receive on this Account please to give Mr Tucker a draft on Messrs [John] Alsop, [Philip] Livingston, [Francis] Lewis & myself for that Amount you Crediting the Indn Contract for the same, These points Settled, If you cannot get the *Betsey* a Bermuda Register or if you determine not to proceed farther in her, order the Captain of her to proceed from Bermuda for Hamburg and there put himself under the care of Mr John Parish untill he receives further orders from me or from Willing Morris & Co but if you do obtain for this Sloop a Bermuda Register I think you cannot do better in that case than to proceed in her from that Island to Bourdeaux clearing her out for London as already mentioned for by doing this you save the trouble and expence of Chartering any other Vessell, and her Register, Clearance for London with orders suitable from the Ostensible Owner named in the Register will make her as Safe a Conveyance as any can be. Shoud you pro-

ceed in this manner you will not have Occasion for this Sloop at Bourdeaux as I shall send you others to Answer your purpose, therefore I wish you to order her from thence to Hamburg as already mentioned to wait my farther orders or those of my House, as we have the public Service to attend to in that quarter but shou'd you find it necessary to detain her & not send her to Hamburg inform Mr John Parish thereof by a few lines to prevent disappointment.

Shou'd you find it necessary to Charter a Vessell in Bermuda to carry you to Bourdeaux You are Authorized to do so by the Secret Committee and your Contract will be made good by them Mr Tucker will assist you to do this on the most reasonable terms, but I hope it will not be necessary. If you transact any business in Bermuda I think you will do well to establish a Correspondance with some Gentln there on whom entire dependance can be had, who wou'd undertake to keep a look out for such Vessells as you may order to Call at the West end of the Island for advice and as I shall then lodge such intelligence for the Captains as I may then think most likely to bring them safe into Port, but at all events I think you had best establish this matter & let them call there, particularly the Sloop *Betsey* if you send her back from France, and if she goes to Hamburg I shall take care of that because Tucker must there resume the Command

I do not recollect any thing more that is necessary for me to add at this time except to assure You that I am Dear sir [&c.]

Rob^t Morris

To Silas Deane Esqr Passenger in Sloop *Betsey*

1. Silas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

NARRATIVE OF WILLING, MORRIS & CO.'S CONTRACT WITH THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract] [Philadelphia, September 19, 1775 – March 30, 1776] ²

In September 1775 Willing Morris & Co entered into an agreement with The Honble Congress by their Committee appointed for that purpose, to deliver them Certain Arms & Ammunition they had written for by the Ship *Lion*, Capt [John] Wilson,³ provided she arrived safe with the Goods, on which they received an advance of Eighty thousd Dollars. This Ship arriving in Europe at the time the Foreign Courts were most watchfull to prevent the Exportation of such Articles from their Dominions, Capt Wilson was disapointed altho' he applied to different Merchants in Spain, France & Holland. and was obliged to return without the Goods bringing back the Specie & bills intended to pay for the purchase.

Congress thought proper to accept the latter and directed the Secret Committee to Renew the Contract which was done in Feby 1776. Mr John Ross of Philada Mercht was half owner of the Ship *Lion* & Consequently half Interested in the Contract tho' not named therein. To prevent further disapointments, he determined on a Voyage to Europe to prosecute this & other business. We purchased afine Brigt in which he went [passenger] [Meanwhile] Willing Morris & Co . . . made application for

leave to Export Provisions (during the time of the prohibition) on the Continental Account & Accordingly obtained permits for the following Cargoes –

One p Ship <i>Morris</i> ⁴ Cap [Thomas] Bell. Cost p Inv[oic]e	£2560. 2 .7
One p Ship <i>Nancy & Polly</i> ⁵ Capt Wade	3105.15 .8
One p Ship <i>Aurora</i> ⁶ Capt [Jacob] Getshius	4474.13.10
One P Ship <i>Clementine</i> ⁷ Capt [Patrick] Brown	3036.12 .41½
One p Ship <i>Neptune</i> ⁸ Capt. [Robert] Collins	4569.16 .0
One p Ship <i>Sampson</i> ⁹ Capt Farquharson	6983.19 .7
One p Ship <i>Lion</i> ¹⁰ Capt [John] Wilson	4441 .5 .2
	<hr/>
	£29172 5 .21½

This entire Sum was supplied by Willing Morris & Co and it is the Proffit or loss on the Cargoes that belongs to the Continent the design being to replace for W M & Co in Europe the Money they had drawn for, to serve the Public and the Money Mr. [William] Duncan was to lay out in Hamburg ¹¹ & the Exchange was to be Estimated at the same rate the bills had been supplied that is 175 pCt.

Willing Morris & Co therefore Charge Congress in a Contract acct for the Cost of these Cargoes	£29172 .5 .21½
& for the Cost of 601 Bolts of Canvass Stg .	
£3094,15 .7 a 175 [Pr] Ct	5415.17 .3
	<hr/>
	34588 .2 .51½
& for Cost pd Mr Gibbs the Ship <i>Auroras</i> pct	2057.10 .2
	<hr/>
	£3,6645.12 .71½

1. Robert Morris Papers, HUL.
2. These dates are approximate, the first being the day the Secret Committee was elected, and the latter the probable date that the last of these vessels sailed for Europe.
3. Captain John Wilson in the ship *Lion* had cleared Philadelphia ostensibly for Falmouth on July 24, 1775, *Pennsylvania Packet*, July 24, 1775.
4. The ship *Morris*, of 250 tons burden, was owned by Willing, Morris & Co. The date of her sailing was sometime in February 1776, *Public Advertiser*, London, June 11, 1776.
5. The *Nancy and Polly*, of 120 tons burden, was owned by Thomas Wharton, Jr., Ships' Registers, HSP. She had arrived from St. Vincents in ballast under Captain Woolman Sutton about October 20, 1775, *Pennsylvania Journal*, October 25, 1775.
6. The *Aurora*, Captain Thomas Read, had arrived from London October 5, 1775, and had brought the news of the two unarmed munition brigs sailing from London for Quebec; news which induced the first naval efforts of the Continental Congress, *Pennsylvania Journal*, October 11, 1775. She sailed under Captain Getsheus and was in the river Delaware ready to go under convoy of the Continental fleet in January 1776. See Volume 3, 617. She did not sail, however, until some time in March.
7. The *Clementina*, Captain Patrick Brown, had entered from Scotland at about the same time as the *Aurora*, *Pennsylvania Journal*, October 5, 1775.
8. The *Neptune*, Captain Robert Collins, had entered from London about November 10, 1775, *Pennsylvania Journal*, November 15, 1775. She was named by Captain Parker as in the Delaware River at the same time as the *Aurora*.
9. "The *Sampson*, Capt Farquhar, from London, which sailed from Poole [Liverpool] in August last, for America, is safe arrived at Philadelphia, after being out 18 weeks." *London Chronicle*, April 20 to April 23, 1776.
10. The *Lion* must have been the last vessel to sail from Philadelphia under this contract, as she

bore letters stating that three vessels loaded with flour had cleared that port on March 30, 1776, *Public Advertiser*, London, May 27, 1776.

11. See Volume 2, 329, for the account of the death at sea of William Duncan in the ship *Duke of York*.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, Delaware Bay, Saturday] 30th [March]

Sent a Flag of Truce ashore to Lewis Town, to endeavor to get Lt [George] Ball & his Men exchanged for other Prisoners, but could not get any satisfactory answer.²

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

2. *Ibid.*, *Roebuck* kept busy. The following day she chased a brig, unsuccessfully. To keep a tight blockade of the American coast, the British needed many more ships on station.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO JOHN PRINGLE, PHILADELPHIA ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore, March] 30

. . . Your Brig will heave down on tuesday & we hope to Begin to take in Next week . . . one Capt Stockholm passed through this town for Your Place a few Days ago, he was taken in a sloop from Eustatia, Bell had a Quantity of goods in him he Reported here that Your Keith was taken & sent to Boston, we hope in god it may be false, Young bell owes me 23/9. if he is not gone pray ask him for it, what mad[e] that young man Leave this in such a hasty manner twas't we suspect that some person Interested has frightened him away, - otherwise he Could never been so foolish as to push off a second time after he was fixed on going in the Brig . . . if we had your Brig Loaded we would take a Ride in the Country to Endeavour to Collect some Debts

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

JOHN HEYMAN'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

Ship *Defence* Captain Nicholson

To John Heyman

Dr

1775

Decembr 23 To 24 feet of 4 Inch oakplank @ 7d/2 p . . . £0..15..0

To 26 feet of 2/7 ditto . . . @ 4d/2 p 9..9

To 87 feet of 2 Inch ditto @ 3d p 1..1..9

To 2 Gallons of Rum 10..0

27 To 18 feet of Timber 9..0

To 8 feet 4 Inch plank 5..0

28 To 17 feet of Timber 8..6

To 14 feet ditto 7..0

1776

29 To 25 feet of a fleet 1..5..0

Jany

To 32 feet of Timber 19..0

1 To 14 feet of Sollid Timber 14..0

2 To 16 feet of Timber 8..0

3 To 14 feet of Inch plank 1..51/2

	To 200 ct of 20 penny Nails	3..4
	To 14 Ougers and Three Kinks	2..0..7
	To 4 Knees @ 5/6 p	1..2..0
	To Oakam & pitch for the Pilot Boat	2..0
4	To 6 Knees @ 5/6 p	1..13..0
	To 16 feet of Flick	16..0
8	To 49 feet of 2 Inch plank	12..3
9	To 132 feet of Ditto	1..18..0
	To 40 feet Ditto	10..0
	To 30 feet of Timber	15..0
11	To 40 feet of 2 Inch plank	10..0
13	To 69 feet of Inch plank	7..2
	To 28 feet of 2 Inch plank	7..0 ¹ / ₂
15	To 2000 of Trinels	6..0..0
	To 6 ct of Oakham @ 4 p [lb]	10..0..0
	To 32 feet of Inch plank	3..3
	To 22 feet of 2 Inch Ditto	5..6
16	To 7 feet of Inch—Ditto	0..8 ¹ / ₂
	To 16 feet of Timber	8..0
	To three Ougers Inch & quarter Each	15..0
17	To 32 feet of plank	8..0
18	To 24 feet of Ditto	6..0
	To 215 feet of spears	5..7..6
	To 32 feet pine Log	1..12..0
	To a Log for the Keal and Beam	2..6..0

£ 46..13..

£46..[13]..0

1776 Brought Over—

Jany	20	To 110 feet of plank	1..5..0
	23	To 16 feet of Ditto	4..0
	24	To 2 Standers	15..0
		To 156 feet 2 Inch plank	1..19..0
	25	To 229 feet of Ditto	2..7..3
	31	To 30 feet of Timber	15..0
		To 372 feet Of Sollid Timber	3..6
Febry	1	To 20 feet of Timber	10..1
		To 100 feet of 2 Inch plank	1..5..0
	2	To 2 Knees @ 5/6 p	11..0
		To plank for the Caption	4..0
	6	To 36 feet of 2 Inch plank	3..0
		To 2 Gunless for the Barge	4..0
		To 2 Supporters for the Cathead	5..6
	12	To thirty feet of Timber	15..0
	13	To 34 & 1/2 feet Ditto	17..3
	16	To 5 feet Ditto	5..0
	20	To 1 Knee	2..6

	To man & horses Sent after the Spears	14..0
	To John Hayman 2 days	1.. 0..0
	To 5ct 18lb Oakham	8..12..8
21	To 4 Knees	10..0
	To the Heady and pitch pot	1.. 0..0
	To 2 Knees	5..0
23	To 40 feet Compies Timber	1.. 0..0
24	To 26 feet Ditto	13..0
March 10	To a Compies of Timber	14..0
13	To 9 feet Timber	4..6
	Due Errors Excepted and Contents	73.. 6..2
Reced in full 30 March 1776	deduct a	
	Sp[e]ar returned 22/.	1.. 5..-
John Hayman	use of Iron	
	Pot 5/.	
		<hr/>
		£ 72.. 1..2

Balto County March 22nd 1776 Then Came Before me the Subscriber One of the Honble the Proprietaries Justices for said County & made Oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that the above account is just & true as it stands stated & that He has not receiv'd any part or parcel thereof, or, satisfaction or security for the same. Sworn the day & year above written

Before Wm Smith Junr

Gentn Please to pay the within

Acct being due for our Ship

Defense Ja^s R. Morris.

To Messrs Lux & Bowly

l. MdHS.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, MARCH 30, 1776

Williamsburg, March 30.

We have certain intelligence, by express, that on the 2d instant the American fleet, commanded by Admiral Hopkins, put into the island of [New] Providence, and took possession of 280 pieces of cannon from 6 to 18 pounders, and a large quantity of ball and other warlike stores, which they found in the town and fortification of Nassau; but the Governor being advised of their approach, had secured all the powder except 17 barrels, by sending it off in the night. The Admiral ordered the Governor and Council, the Collector of the Customs, and the Judge of the Supreme Court, to be confined in their houses till the stores should be got in; but suffered no injury to be offered to the persons or property of any of the inhabitants. It was imagined the fleet would be ready to sail in two or three days.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

[Extract]

(No 1)

Ship *Dunmore* in Elizabeth River Virginia

(Duplicate)

30th March 1776. —

My Lord It gives me great comfort, in the very unhappy situation which I am left, to think that my Conduct meets with his Majesty's Approbation. I can assure your Lordship, were it not for that, and the earnest desire I have to serve him, no earthly consideration could induce me to continue in this wretched State, where there is not a hope of gaining either honor, Credit, pleasure, or Profit. No! my Sole comfort is that I am doing my utmost to serve the best of Sovereigns.

What your Lordship observes in my dispatches of the 22d of October, of the disposition of many of the People here to take an open part against the Rebels, is exactly as I had the honor to inform your Lordship, and I really believe now, had the *Liverpool* Arrived (as your Lordship had reason to expect) about that time, I am well Satisfied it would have made a wonderfull change on the face of Affairs in this Country, but, my Lord, She did not Arrive here till the 19th of December, two Months after that, as your Lordship will have seen by my Subsequent Dispatches.

Common fame has long since informed me, that an Armament was preparing for the Southern part of This Continent, and many a pleasing Idea it gave me in the midst of my distress, the hopes that I should soon have relief, and your Lordship, however Sensible your feelings may be, will not easily conceive what I felt on the receipt of yours, which informs me that, notwithstanding all my Applications, representations, Sufferings and the Efforts I had made with two incompleat Companies of the 14th Regiment, that Notwithstanding all I had said or done, no Attention was paid to it, but am left, in the first Colony on the Continent for Riches, Power, and extent, without the smallest assistance, and the preference given to a poor small insignificant Province, which has not a Safe Harbour with depth of Water that will admit half the fleet that is sent there, and as I am informed, should the Army Land, they must wade through a Sandy Pine Barren for many Miles before they reach the Inhabited part of the Country.

General Clinton in his way to North Carolina, called here and Stayed with me two or three days, when I gave him every information in my power relative to the Situation of this Colony, and his Majesty may be assured, should the General return here, he shall have every assistance that one most Zealously devoted to His Majesty's Service can give him.

Your Lordship will observe by my Letter No 34, that I have been endeavouring to raise two Regiments here, one of White People, the other of Black. The former goes on very slowly, but the latter very well, and would have been in great forwardness, had not a fever crept in amongst them which carried off a great many very fine fellows, the Medical People here thought, and I believe with reason, that it proceeded from their being much Crowded on Board the Ships, and want of Cloathing, both of which we have

now provided against, the first by Landing and taking possession of a Small Neck of Land, which I have fortified in the best manner our Abilities and Circumstances would admit of, and I think tho' we have now several thousands of the Rebel Army in our Neighbourhood, who frequently come and take a few Shot at us, and retire, yet I am satisfied they will not willingly give us any disturbance there, tho' they threaten it much; We have in this little Fort four Ovens, and pretty good Barracks for our Ethiopian Corps, I have bought a large Quantity of Oznaburgs, of which I am making Summer Cloathing for our Garrison.

My Lord in my dispatch No 34, I had frequent Occasion to mention a Family of the Name of Goodrich, Natives of this Colony, this is a Spirited, Active, industrious Family, and it has cost me much trouble and pain (knowing the Service they would be of to which ever Party they joined) to secure them in His Majesty's Service; The Male part consist of a Father and Seven Sons, five of which are Arrived to the Age of Manhood, who are now most Zealously engaged in His Majesty's service, four of them are perfectly well acquainted with every River, Creek or Branch within this Bay. I have now five of their Vessels employed constantly running up the Rivers, where they have orders to Seize, burn or destroy every thing that is Water Born, that they can get at; they often Land and take off what Provisions they can get, which keeps the Rebels in constant motion, and I generally send a few of the 14th Regiment with them, they Land only when they are not likely to meet with opposition, and have orders to retire on Board so soon as they see any force coming against them. I mention this Family to your Lordship, for two reasons, the first is, least any of their Vessels of which they have many, in various parts of the World should fall into the hands of any of our Ships of War, that they may have that Attention Shewn to them that I think them so well entitled to. — My second reason is, that should we ever see better times in this Quarter (which I pray God we may soon) that His Majesty may Shew them such marks of His favour as he thinks their Services are deserving of. — They have all left their Houses, Negroes, Plantations, Stock, and every thing else at the Mercy of the Rebels, and are now with their whole Familys Water Born in this Fleet.

I have received the late Act of Parliament with your Lordships Dispatches, which I have hardly yet been able to look into, but should be glad to have your Lordships opinion whether the Word "not", in the 217 Page and 18 line, standing between the words Provinces and herein, is meant to be part of the Bill, or is only an error in the Press. If it is part of the Act, it then restrains every Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief, of any of His Majesty's Colonies or Provinces now in Rebellion, from sending Vessels to Supply themselves or those under their protection, with the Necessaries of Life, which I hope could never be meant.

Since writing the above, I have been reading the Act with more attention than I had leisure to do before, and I must observe to your Lordship, if my Construction of it is right, it will be impossible to be complied with, for the Act says, in the 222d Page, that "the Prizes are not to be carried into any

of the Colonies herein particularly mentioned." Now all come under that Predicament, Nova Scotia and the Floridas excepted, so that every Vessel as soon as taken must be sent to one or other of these places, which would take them near three Months to go and return, in which Vessel they must send an Officer and a Number of Men, according to the Size of the Vessel, was this to be the case, there is not a Man of War on this Station, that would have either Officers or man left in her in a Month; were they even to detain them in the Fleet, where such Captor was made, they must leave so many Men in them, that in a very Short time their Ships would be so weak that they would not be fit to go to Sea, which was the Case here for sometime, and having no Judge of the Admiralty here to try them, I was obliged to find a remedy for this inconveniency, which was this; I appointed five Gentlemen in the Fleet to Act as Commissioners, who are empowered to take Depositions and Enquire fully into the Circumstances of any Captors made by the Men of War, or the Tenders, if in their opinion, the Vessel and Cargo were Seizable, they then appointed Sworn Appraisers to put a Value on the Vessel and Cargo, and the Vessel and Cargo were Sold to the highest bidder at Publick Auction, and the Monies arising from such Sales are deposited in the hands of responsible People, either till His Majesty's pleasure should be known, or if a Judge of the Admiralty should afterwards be appointed, and the Owners of the Vessels were not satisfied with the Judgment of the Commissioners, the Cause might be tried by the Judge of the Admiralty from the Deposition &c. taken by the Commissioners, of which they are required to keep regular Books properly Authenticated. This was the mode I thought requisite to adopt rather than His Majesty's Service should suffer by employing the Sailors in taking care of Prizes, and to prevent the goods from perishing and being tottally lost, and probably the Vessel also; indeed, most of these Prizes have been Loaded with Provisions, which we should ere this have been in the greatest want of, had we not been so fortunate as to have taken them. I am [&c.]

Dunmore

[Endorsed] No inclosure recd with this Duplicate

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353, 757-69.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Saturday the 30th Day of March. 1776

Ordered That the Honourable Mr [William Henry] Drayton Colonel Charles C. Pinckney Captain [Alexander] M[o]ultrie Colonel [John Lewis] Gervais and Captain [Paul] Trapier [Jr.] do forthwith prepare and bring in the following Bills

A Bill to impower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in Case of Captures and to establish the Trial by Jury in such Cases.

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 14, 20, 21. The Provincial Congress had on March 26, 1776 resolved itself into a General Assembly, which, in its first session that day, elected John Rutledge president and Henry Laurens vice president.

VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹*Antelope* Port Royal March 30th 1776

at 7 P M

Sir In great haste as the *Grantham* Pacquet sails Early to Morrow Morning, I beg leave to send the inclosed Express to you for their Lordships information; which I received Just now from Mr John Brown Chief Justice of His Majesty's Island of [New] Providence;² I shall do all in my Power with what Force I have, to assist the Island when required. I shall write to the Commanding Officer at Boston and acquaint [him] with this Express to me.

I am farther to acquaint their Lordships that I have seized one Mr [Ebenezer Smith] Platt – he was a Committee Man at Georgia, and is the Man that Boarded the *Phillipa*, one [Richard] Maitland Master of Georgia last Year & seized all the Government Gun Powder & carried it to the Rebels. I have had him some days in Irons, but could not get the iden[tity] of his Persons sworn to untill this afternoon, which was from the above Maitland, and his people that was with him when the Powder was seized and is now here loading with Sugar and as I have seized the above Platt at Port Royal, I presume he must be tried on this Island for the Robbery and Executed on this Island. I shall let his Excellency Sir Basil Keith know about him tomorrow morning and shall inform their Lordships by the next Pacquet what is done with the same Platt,³ I am with great respect Sir [&c.]

Clark Gayton

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 71b.

2. See John Brown's letter to Gayton, March 22, 1776.

3. What Gayton summarized in a paragraph regarding Ebenezer Smith Platt was described in detail later by Elizabeth Wright, daughter of Patience Wright, the wax modeler, in a letter to Benjamin Franklin. It reads in part:

the 13th of July 1775 there Arived A Vessel in Savanah Harbour Commanded by A Captain Maitland, Laden with Goods and some Powder & Arms from Merchants in England Consignd to their Correspondents – Merchants in Georgia – the People of Georgia at that Time had just formd a Congress amongst themselves and began as well as the Other Provinces to be Divided into Liberty & tory Partys – The Merchants to whom the Goods were Consignd were of these different Oppinions – A Stoppage of Trade then taking Place and Goods being rather Scarce – the Congress Previous to the Arival of the Vessel Purchased the Goods of the Merchants at An Advanced Price – but rather against the Will of those of them who were in the opposition to the Congress – in Consequence of which the others fearing there might be any obstruction to the Landing the Goods or that Possibly A Mob might be Rais'd to Destroy or Prevent the Congress from obtaining them – applied to Mr Plat with two other Gentlemen to go on board the Vessel which Lay some Miles off and see that She was Safe brought up to the Town and that none of the Goods Should be Landed til Her Arival There – they gave them an order to the Captn & Mate to Receive and Entertain them in the best Maner on Board – but they seeing the Captn afterwards in Town shew'd Him the Order – and As He was not going on Board again just then He gave them an order to the Mate, much to the same Purpose as the other, viz, to Receive & treat them well – & was very Polite & Friendly – but by what hapned afterwards it appears that He was rather Averse to the Congress haveing the Cargo – they staid on Board 6 Days – Saw the Vessel brought up to the Town and Nothing Landed Except some Horses for Governor Campbell at Charlestown south Carolina – they then went on Shore thought No more of it and Another Commitee was sent in their stead, who Landed the Cargo – after Captn Maitland had Cleard His Vessel in Georgia he set sail with a Cargo from there for Jamaica – and soon after Mr Plat went as Merchant in a Vessel of His own which He had fitted out for the same Port leaving

his Partner to superintend his Business & Property in the Mean time - After His Arival in Jamaica He Saw Captain Maitland There who was Exceeding Friendly to Him & invited Him to Make His home on Board His ship whilst he Staid in Kingston - this offer He Declined - but they frequently fell in Company with Each other and allways upon the footing of Friendship for about 8 weeks when they hapned one Evening to Meet in a Coffee House in a good deal of other Company amongst which was Captain Miller of New York, with several other Captains some of them had got a little heated with the Liquor and one amongst the rest, gave as A Toast "Damnation to all Americans" to which Mr Plat Reply'd, that No Gentleman of Honour or Goodness Could drink such a Toast as it was Repugnant to the Rules of Society - on which the other grew warm as well as some of the Company - and Mr Plat fearing A Quarrel imediately Withdrew - Captain Maitland who by this time had grown warm with the Liquor and Conversation soon after His Departure, Cryd out "That Damned fellow was one of them on Board my Ship at Georgia with an order from the Congress and Landed the Powder and Arms for them[""] - most of the Company was Exceedingly Pleasd at the Discovery and the next Day Reported it all over the town, not omitting the Governor Sir Bassil Keith - who imediately sent word to Captain Maitland that He ought to Come & Exhibit an information Against Mr Plat - the Captn having grown sober again was Exceedingly Sorry for what he had said and sent word to Mr. Plat that He wish'd he would Absent Himself or Leave the Place, Elce He must be oblidged to Comply with the Governors Comands

Mr Plat Amazed, tho indifferent, at his information returnd Answer that His Business did not Suit him to leave the Place at that Time - that He had nothing to dread from any information He Could make against Him - and that He was at liberty to act as he thought Proper in the Case - Mr Plat was at that Time haveing Disposed of his Vessel & Cargo fitting out another for Turtling & fishing before His Return to Georgia - as He Lay off in the River Prepared to Sail - the Admiral's Boat Came allong Side and Asked for Mr Plat - the Captain Reply'd that He was on Board - on which they imediately Seiz'd the Vessel & Crew alledging it was on account of An information of Captain Maitlands against Mr Plat, before the Governor - Mr Plats Captain & Crew were Set at Liberty about 3 weeks afterward - but Mr Plat was Confind in Irons and for a fortnight Debar'd from Seeing or writing to Any of His Friends - and treated with the greatest insolence and indignities by the Sailors.

Franklin Papers, V, 56, APS.

PIERRE BEGOZZAT TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir

St Pierre. 30 of march 1776

This will go to you by the way of north carolina, you will be acquainted by it of capt Soule is yet in St Pierre expecting two or three thousand more of gun powder to go away.

We are expecting vessels every days is long time Since we have none. ten or twelve vessels expected from europa are detained at See by bad whether.

The 13 of this month the government hath made St Pierre a free port for all the provisions the north america can afford us. May and June will be a very proper time to have gun powder plenty here.

The bateries of this island are all disposed like in war time, several vessels taken round this island have engaged the governement to Protect any vessel who will be wanting of the assistance of our guns. Our frigate are cruzing to remove the english frigate of[f] our cost.

In this moment we receive t[w]o vessels from old france, i hope it will be gun powder enough to clear out Capt Soule in the first day of next

week. I hope he will take six guns to fortify himself against the small tender he may fear. I am [&c.]

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 312-13.

31 Mar. (Sunday)

NARRATIVE OF LIEUTENANT JOHN STARKE, R.N.¹

[Quebec, January 1 – March 31]

This successful defeat of the Rebels,² while it animated and encouraged the besieged, pointed out the necessity of observing the utmost vigilance; and the duty was very hard and constant through out the winter and the Spring; for as the Snows fall frequently and heavily during that Season, a number of men were often employed, besides the guard, to clear the Great Guns from it, and so deep was it at times, that the Officers in going their rounds were frequently up to the middle of it; and were obliged to wear leggins and other contrivances to defend themselves against the severity of the cold.

The Prisoners who had been treated with a lenity which they ill deserved, attempted to corrupt the Sentinels appointed to guard them; but a discovery being made in time, their purpose was frustrated – They had fallen upon means of communicating their design to their companions the besiegers without, which was to break out of confinement in the night, open the gates of the Town, throw the beds and quoins of the guns into the ditch, and apprise their friends without by a signal of their success, who were to be ready to come in to their Assistance, and seize upon the Garrison –³

To such a degree of vigilance and alertness did the Officers perform their duty, that several of them did not venture to cast off[f] their cloaths or accoutrements for weeks together, but lay down with them on their backs, both night and day, that they might be prepared against any surprise – Others felt the severity of this constant and fatiguing duty, but it was particularly so to Lieutenant Starke, who had but a few Months before, returned from a Station of four years in the Warm climate of the East Indias.

1. "The case of Lieutenant John Starke of His Majestys Navy, together with a short sketch of the operations of the War in Canada, in which he was employed, during the years 1775, 1776 and 1777." NMM, Ms. 49/129.
2. The defeat of Montgomery and Arnold on December 31, 1775.
3. The attempted break-out was planned around March 26, 1776, but was discovered on March 31 – James Melvin, *A Journal of the Expedition to Quebec, in the Year 1775, under the Command of Colonel Benedict Arnold* (Philadelphia, 1864), 17. Other diaries of the expedition speak of the attempted escape, but Melvin was the only one to pin it down to definite dates.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SCHOONER *Halifax*¹

March 1776	Remarks in Halifax Harbour
Friday 29th	AM the Comdr sent on Bd an Order to Moor. First and Middle parts Hard Gales and Squally wt Snow Latter little

- wind and fair Weather PM Empd as pr Occasion Anchord
Here Several Vessels with Inhabitants from Boston
- Saturday 30 AM Unmoord and Hove short on the Sm Br
First and Middle parts light Airs and fair Latter Mod
Breezes and Cloudy Weather PM Warp'd in to Butten wharf
and Landed the Emegrants Provisions and Stores belonging
to them ² and Hauld in to the Streem Anchord Here His
Majestys Ship *Fowey* and *Diligent* Brig with the *Adventure*
store ship wt a Convoy from Boston having On Bd Part of
the Light Horse and Inhabitants
- Sunday 31 AM Weigh'd and towed up to the Dock Yard Came to wt
the B[t] B[r] Veerd to 1/2 a Cable and Moord to one of the
tripping Barges Unbent the Sails
First part Moderate Breezes and fair Weather Middle and
Latter Fresh Gales & Cloudy wt some snow.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

2. *Ibid.*, a party of the Royal Emigrant Regiment, with six months' provision had boarded the *Halifax* on March 28, intended for Boston.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN JOHN LANGDON AND GEORGE WENTWORTH ¹

Memo of An Agreement made, between John Langdon Esq, of the one part, & Geo. Wentworth, of the other part – Said Langdon, hath Agreed to hire of said Wentworth his Rope Walk, with all the Implements of said Walk for the Term of time he may want said Walk, for the Making of Cordage &c for the Ship he is now building,² for the Consideration of two dollars p day. to Commence on the day said Walk is Improv'd for said purpose, said Wentworth engages to keep such walk & Implements in good repair at his own expence, but in Case Larger Implements &c, shou'd be wanted than is Commonly used in the Walk, said Langdon engages to provide such at his own expence, and to be Return'd when the Walk is deliver'd up. – also said Langdon Agrees to hire said Wentworth, to Superintend [illegible] And to hire, a Fore Man & other People Acquainted [with the bu]siness to work in Said Walk, who are to be under his Direction in Consideration of which Service said Langdon Engages to pay him [illegible] Dollars pr day to Commence [blank] Said Wentworth on his part engages to Follow the Directions of said Langdon, and to Account with him for what Hemp, Cordage, or Cash that he may receive, for the paying of Men for Labour, or any other Charges that may Arrise, in Said Business, its also Agreed that Said Wentworth shall have power, to Hire, what Number of persons, he may want, and to Agree, with them for their Labour, & to pay them off weekly as their Necessitys may require, said Langdon Engages to Furnish Cash for the afore said purpose. Portsmt March [31] 1776

1. John and Woodbury Langdon Papers, NHHS.

2. Subsequently the Continental frigate *Raleigh*.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Hope* ¹

Remark's on bd the *Hope* Saturdy the 30th March 1776
 Beackers 1 [P.M.] Fresh Breezes and Squaly with Drizzling Rain at 1/2
 Isl N W Past Saw a Sail Standing to the Wt ward made Sail & Chaced
 4 Miles hir, Came up wt the Chace, Proved to be the *Betsy* Schooner
 from Virginia wt Inden Corn Bound to Selam, took Charge of
 hir, at 3 made Sail

Remark's on bd the *Hope* Sundy the 31st March 1776
 8 [A.M.] Saw Boston Light house SW Dist 8 Leags boraway
 for Do as Did the Prize Schooner. Came to in Nantasket Road
 wt the Sl Br in 5 fm as Did the Prize ² found laying here his
 Majesty's Ship *Renown* & *Dispatch* Schooner & two Transports.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1823.

2. The prize schooner, having arrived after the evacuation of Boston, was sent to Halifax for condemnation. Her master was Henry White, and the Vice Admiralty Register, N. S. Arch., records she "was going into some one Port or place in some one of his Majestys Colonies now in open Rebellion, to Trade."

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT ¹

March 1776 At Single Anchor in Nantasket Road
 Tuesday 26th Fresh Breezes & Cloudy Wr
 at 4 PM anchord with the small Bower & Veerd to 1/2
 Cable, found riding here His M Ships *Chatham* (Rear
 [Vice] Adml Shuldham) with the *Centurion*, *Lively*, *Re-
 nown*; *Savage* Sloop with some arm'd Vessels and a num-
 ber of Transports – employd Watering –
 Wednesday 27 The Ships Company was put to 2/3ds allowance of all
 Species.
 Strong Gales & squally Wr employed as before, at 3 PM
 sailed hence H. M Ships *Chatham* *Centurion*, *Lively*,
Savage Sloop and a great number of Transports, in going
 out the *Centurion* ran foul of us and carried away our
 Fore Topgallant Mast Do Stay & Jibb Stay and tore the
 Jibb – unbent the Torn Sail & bent another
 Thursday 28th Carpenters empd making a new Fore top gallant Mast.
 Fresh breezes & cloudy at 3 PM shifted farther in at 5
 fird a Gun & made the Signal for all Masters of Merchant-
 men at 6 fird several Guns Shotted at the Whale Boats
 passing by –
 Friday 29th employed getting ready for Sea
 First part fresh Breezes & fair Wr, latter Moderate &
 Cloudy at 4 PM made the Signal to Weigh, Do weighd
 and came to Sail with the Convoy
 Saturday 30th 2 AM made the Signal to Tk Do TKd Ship at 6 Boston
 Light House West distance 2 leagues . . . Sailmakers repair-

ing the Fore Sail at Noon Tkd Ship – Convoy in Company
 Fresh Gales & hazey Wr with Snow, bore down to the
 Convoy occasionally,
 Sunday 31st fir'd the Fog signal from 2 to 4 AM Sail maker as before.
 Spoke the Sloop *Polly* was informed She was very leaky –
 at Noon the Convoy in Company. –
 Fresh Gales and Cloudy with rain.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

JOSEPH BELCHER TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Warren March 31st ¼ past 1. O'Clk

Sr Have this Instant received Advice by Express from Colo Jabez Champlin of Newport, that One Man of Warr is Arrived in the Harbor and that Twenty Seven sail of Vessells, Undoubtedly the Ministerial Troops, are seen within Seconet Point, am Desired to give you the Earliest Intelligence, Doubt not but you'l send Reinforcements as soon as possible. I am Sir [&c.]

Joseph Belcher

P.S. I shall set out for Newport Immediately

Witness Henry Ward Secry

1. RIHS Mss., XII, 102.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

A Copy Providence March 31st 1776 5 oClock P.M.

Sir I am to inform your Excellency that I have this Moment an Express from Newport informing me that a Ship of War hath arrived in the Harbor of Newport, and that Twenty seven Ships undoubtedly having the ministerial Troops on Board are within Seconet Point. Upon this most alarming Occasion when we have not more than 400 Soldiers upon Rhode Island, and not above 700 or 800 more in the whole Colony besides the Militia not more than Half armed I must use the most pressing Instances with your Excellency to forward sufficient Succours to the Colony with all possible Dispatch. I am about issuing the necessary Orders for calling the whole Militia together and taking other proper Measures.

I am Your Excey's [&c.],
 Nich^s Cooke

1. Washington Papers, LC.

"MANIFEST OF CARGO IMPORTED IN SLOOP *Unity* PAUL ALLEN MR
 FROM CURACAO" ¹

[Providence] March 1776

3080 lb Powder – in 117
 Quarter Casks
 129 Small Arms

68 Peices Checks
 50 Peices Stripted
 Holland

with Baganots	12 Peice[s] Holland
20 Baganots (more)	120 Peice[s] Brit[ain]es
60 Pistols –	102 Blankets
48 Cutlasses	20 Peices Rhomall
4 Swivels Guns	Handkerchiefs
19 lb Lead –	20 dozn Stript Ditto
11 m Flints	5 C Twine
57 Boalts Duck	13 Pe[ic]es Camblits
68 Bolts Oznabridges	92 Rheams Paper
42 Peices Bagging fit for Nansacks &c	66 [?] Rhubab
	30 [?] Jesuits Bark

1. Maritime Papers, Manifests, Import Cargos, R.I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS¹

- March 1776 Latt 39.53
- Thursday 28. $\frac{1}{2}$ ps 12 [A.M.] Saw a Sail Wore Ship Out Rfs and Made Sail at 2 AM brot Too a Schooner from Philadelphia for Plymouth Laden with flour² Sent a Petty Officer & 3 Men Onb her at 3 Wore Ship at 4 Do W[eathe]r A great Sea from the N W Took the Schooner in Tow Modt and Clear Wr. at 2 PM Tkd at 6 in 2d Rf TS Sounded 25 fm brown sand
- Friday 29. at 4 AM Wore ship at 8 Out all Rfs made more Sail 8 PM Wore Ship sounded from 32 to 20 fm black specks & fine sand at 10 In 2 Rfs TS
- Saturday 30. Rhode Island Light House NW 2 Leagues AM Wore ship at 5 Saw a Sail to the Estd gave Chace to Do & Cast off[f] the Tow fired a Number of Shot at the Chace at 7 Brot Too a sloop from Baltimore³ sent a Petty Officer & 2 Men to take Charge of Her, and took her in Tow Snow & Rain PM Came too with the Bt Br in 16 fms in Rhode Island Harbor Veerd a whole Cable Anchord here our Prizes found lying here H M Ships *Rose Glasgow Swan* & *Bolton* Brig with some Transports & Tenders &c
- Sunday 31. AM Employed Sending the Stores on board the Ships that we brot from Boston Modt & Clear PM Sent the Rem[ainder] of the Stores on board the diff Ships.⁴

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.

2. *New York Packet*, E. Pringle, master and owner, from Philadelphia, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

3. Probably the sloop *John*, William Chace, master, "found on a Trading Voyage with the Colonies now in Rebellion." Vice Admiralty Register, N.S. Arch.

4. The *Nautilus* also brought Vice Admiral Shulldham's orders for the *Swan* and *Bolton* to cruise in the track of any vessels bound for Boston, and for the *Glasgow* to proceed to New York and then southward with dispatches. See Shulldham to Stephens, March 8, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Glasgow*, CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE ¹

March 1776 At a single Anchor at Rhode Island
 Friday 29 PM the Tenders sail'd on a Cruize
 Saturday 30 AM they came in again with a prize Sloop Rec'd fresh
 beef
 Mode & Cloudy PM arrived here his Majestys Ship *Nauti-*
lus & two Prizes
 Sunday 31 AM Rec'd from the *Rose* 4 Casks of Pork
 Fresh Gales & Cloudy PM Rec'd from the *Rose* 50 barrs
 of Flour 1 Punchn of beef 1 Punchn of Rum & 1 hhd of
 Brandy

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

NARRATIVE OF ANDREW ELLIOT ¹

[October 20, 1775-March 31] ²

Every thing again went on quietly in the Custom House line, (and the Collector was often employed to go on board the Governor's Ship with messages &ca) until December when General Lee and the Connecticut Troops took possession of the Town; ³ The Collector then obtained leave from the New York Congress to send his Family to New Jersey, and leaving his own house in the Country Lodged in Town and still continued doing his duty without interruption till March 1776, when he received from Captain Parker of His Majesty's Ship *Phoenix* a Copy of the Act of Parliament stoping all Trade with the revolted Colonies, and being the same day warned with others to assist at the Fortifications, he immediately applyed to Lord Sterling then Commanding at New York for Leave to join his family in New Jersey which was granted with a boat and Officer to see him off; The Collector to prevent suspicion of his carrying off Papers (which he could not have done as he was going amongst the Rebels) did not go to the Custom House, but with a Servant and a small open trunk went on board the boat for Amboy in New Jersey having previously directed his deputy to lock up all Papers and Books that were in the Custom House.

1. Andrew Elliot Papers, Box 1, folder 6, NYSL.

2. Dates fixed by day after delegation of the New York Congress called on Elliot (October 19, 1775) and the day the Act of Parliament restricting all trade was received in New York. Elliot specifies this as in March, it could have been no earlier than the 31st of that month, since Shuldham, off Boston, did not receive it until March 24, 1776, by H.M.S. *Milford*.

3. Lee arrived in New York February 4, 1776; not in December, 1775.

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

March 1776 C[ape] Henlopen NbW 22 Leagues
 Monday 25th At Noon exercised the Ships company at the upper
 Deck Guns, the *Maria* Tender in Company.²
 Fresh breezes the first part, middle and latter light airs
 and fair weather, Sounded every hour, at 6 in the after-

noon Cape Henlopen lighthouse WNW 4 miles, at 7 Run upon the Beach and at 1/2 after backed her off without the least apparent damage, and at 8 Anchored in Old Hoar kill road in 5 fathoms, the light house SE 1/2 S 1 Mile

Tuesday 26th

At 8 in the Morning Saw a Sail Standing up the Bay, sent the Boats Manned and Armed after her; Exercised great Guns and Small Arms, lost off the cables three Hamocks.

Ditto weather the Boats returned with a Small Pilot Boat Schooner, in Ballast, and nobody on board her;³ Armed her and put a Lieutenant ⁴ and Several Men into her, sent her and the *Maria* after two Small Sloops coming down the Bay, which they took and brought on board, one in Ballast, and the other with Groceries, which I distributed amongst the Ships company:

Wednesday 27th

the Pilot Boat Tender, commanding by Lt [George] Ball gave chace to a Sloop without the Capes, sent the *Maria* to Second her; at Noon Scutled and Sunk the Two Sloops alongside.⁵

The first part fresh gales and clear, latter moderate and hazy;

Thursday 28th

In the morning Saw Several Sail in the Offing, the Tenders out examining all Sails in Sight, exercised great Guns and Small Arms.

Moderate and cloudy weather, in the afternoon found the Mizzen topsail Yard was Sprung, Ordered the Carpenter to make a new one; On the appearance of Several Small Vessels heaving in Sight from Sea, weighed and gave Chace, at 6 Spoke a Sloop in Ballast from New England taken by the Pilotboat,⁶ at 7 brought too and was joined by the *Maria* Tender, and at 8 made Sail after a Rebel Sloop of 10 Guns, which had chaced the *Maria* ⁷ at 10 lost sight of the chace, and made Sail towards the Lighthouse and Sent the *Maria* and Cutter after a Sloop which had anchored within the Hen and Chickens

Friday 29th

at 2 in the Morning they returned with her, a Sloop in Ballast;⁸ At Noon Anchored and Exercised great Guns and Small arms. Found that the Pilot Boat Lieutenant Ball had drove on shore the preceding day, and was lost, with a quantity of Ordnance, Small Arms &ca⁹ First part moderate and cloudy, the latter hard gales with heavy rain and loud thunder; at 2 In the afternoon the *Maria* brought in a Small Sloop laden with Oats

for Philadelphia¹⁰ at 5 Made Sail after a Brig and a Sloop laying under Cape May

Saturday 30th at 2 in the morning being exceeding bad weather anchored in 6 fathoms, the Lighthouse SSet at 6 Observed the Two Sloops taken the preceding [day] on Shore off Lewes Town, Struck yards and Topmasts. Fresh Gales and very Squally weather the first and middle parts, latter moderate and fair, at 10 PM got up the Yards and Topmasts,

Sunday 31st at 6 in the morning weighed and made Sail after a Brig under Cape May, but being obliged to go round the overfalls, at 8 lost sight of her,¹¹ at 10 took the *Maria* in Tow, and Stood in for the Lighthouse. Moderate and cloudy weather at 2 in the afternoon Cape Henlopen WbN $\frac{1}{2}$ N distant 4 Leagues, at 7 cast off the *Maria*, at 9 Anchored in Hoar Killroad in 7 fathoms water, the Lighthouse SSet

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.
2. *Ibid.*, the *Maria* had joined Hamond on March 22, coming from Norfolk, and he "manned and armed" her.
3. The schooner had been a Cape Henlopen pilot boat which had been abandoned by its crew who rowed safely ashore.
4. The master's log of the *Roebuck* reads: "arnd the Schooner . . . Lieut Ball proceeded without the Capes to look out." PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.
5. The two sloops were described in Howe's Prize List of March 31, 1777, as "A Small Sloop nobody on board," in ballast, destroyed; *Polly*, William Bowen, master and owner, from Philadelphia to North Carolina with "9 lb. Shot, Iron & Groceries." PRO, Admiralty 1/487. Henry Fisher, writing from the Cape on April 1, further identifies the trio of sloops as "a Small Sloop then lying in the road, belonging to Egg-harbour in ballast . . . two other small sloops from Philadelphia, One to Synnepuxon the other to North Carolina," Papers CC (State Papers, 1775-91), 69, 113, NA.
6. The sloop *Dove*, T. Atkins, master, M. Denie, owner, from Plymouth for Philadelphia, in ballast, destroyed off Cape Henlopen, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.
7. This engagement was with the Continental sloop *Hornet*, William Stone, commander. See Barney, ed., *Life of Joshua Barney*, 32.
8. The sloop *Dolphin*, T. Burgess, master, J. Simpson, owner, from Dartmouth for Philadelphia, in ballast, destroyed off Cape Henlopen, Howe's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.
9. See Henry Fisher to Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, April 1, 1776.
10. The sloop *Betsey*, C. Wey, master, W. Shepherd, owner from Chincoteague for Philadelphia, with oats and tobacco, destroyed off Cape Henlopen, Howe's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.
11. The Continental brig *Lexington*, Captain John Barry, which, "on Sunday Morning went out - The Ship and Tender put out to Sea after the Brig but returned on Sunday evening into the road," Henry Fisher's letter, April 1, 1776.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JOSHUA BARNEY¹

[February 18, 1776 to March 31, 1776]

we then sailed together, and our Rendezvous was at the Island of Abico, [on arriving there, we proceeded directly to New Providence (one of the Bahama Isles) The town & Fort surrendered to us with the Ships & Vessels in the harbour, without making any resistance we secured all the cannon,

powder, Morter shells &c, that was there, and left the Island on our return we had bad weather,] ² and one night the *Fly* tender ran foul of us & carried away our Mast-head & Boom; ³ in the morning we were almost a wreck, in this situation we did every thing in our power, and proceeded for the Coast of S.Carolina, where we were beating off & on for several days; we sent a boat on shore, but the bad weather preventing her returning or our staying on the Coast, we then proceeded to the Northward and about the 1st. April 1776 arrived off the Delaware, we sent a Boat on shore for a pilot, a little to the southward of the Capes; one came off, & gave us information that the *Roebuck* of 44 Guns was at anchor in the roads that he had a tender which cruised off & on, to stop the Americans.⁴ to avoid her we steerd over to Cape May; on our way we fell in with the tender, our Guns were housed; of course they could not distinguish what we were; she came close alongside of us, at which instant I was running out one of our Guns & had a match in my hand to fire at her when our Captain, ordered me not to fire as he had no inclination of shedding blood!!! ⁵ when the tender immediately sheered off, by which means she escaped us,⁶ & our Captain was regarded by all on board as a Coward, indeed he had for several weeks before been constantly inclined to praying & to a religious turn; we went into the Delaware Bay by Cape May Channel, but from the foggy weather the pilot run us on shore on Egg Island Flats, where we had our rudder knocked off, the weather was very cold & our crew suffered much, all the officers except myself & the Captain were sick, and he dare not come upon Deck after what had happened the day before.

1. Manuscript Autobiography, DARL.

2. The bracketed sentences are inaccurate, as the *Hornet* never reached the Bahamas with the fleet. Even later recollections and faulty memory cannot account for Barney's false claim to participation in the capture of New Providence.

3. The collision with the *Fly* occurred on February 21, 1776, just three days after the fleet sailed from the Delaware.

4. According to Henry Fisher at Lewes, the *Hornet* appeared near Indian River on March 29, 1776, "and sent on shore and got a Pilot," See Fisher to Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, April 1, 1776.

5. In the margin appears "note; the Match Staff." This apparently refers to an account that "... impelled by an irresistible impulse of indignation, he forgot for a moment the respect due to discipline, and threw the match stick at the head of his commanding officer - the latter managed to avoid the blow by a rapid movement within the door of the round-house, or poop-quarter-deck, into the frame of which the iron point of the match-stick entered and stuck fast!" Barney, ed., *Life of Joshua Barney*, 33.

6. This encounter, which was with the tender *Maria*, according to the journal of the *Roebuck* occurred on the afternoon or late evening of March 28. This would indicate that, if Henry Fisher's date is correct, the *Hornet* picked up the pilot after, rather than before, the meeting with the tender.

RECEIPT RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

[Baltimore]

Recd March 31st 1776 of Capt James Nicholson On Accot Ship *Defence*

Thirty Shills for the Use of two Horses & Myself Guarding William Jones a
Deserter from sd Ship from Harford Jail to this place
£ 1.10.0

[his]
Wm X May
[mark]

1. Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, MdHS.

ACCOUNT OF BRIG *Wicked Dick* [*Wild Duck*] ¹

[March 31, 1776] ²

The Brig *Wicked Dick*

To amount of Vessell and stores & Accot rendered £1703..4..2 stated
To sundry Stores deld here viz.

25 Canon Worms cost p	9..3..0	
1 Star Shot	0..3..0	
112 packs Grape Shot	14..0..0	
1 Iron ramrod	..4..0	
22 packs Langrige	5..4..0	
12 do Grape Shot	2..2..0	
32 Iron Bolts	4..1..-	
4 p Swivels	72..0..0	
97tc Shot	8..4..0	
260 Balls	14..0..0	
4 Cowhorns	80..0..0	
3 p of one Powder	105..0..0	
96 Cutlasses	66..0..0	
316 t Sheat Cad	21..2..0	
½ ps Duck used for T. Paulins	6..1..0	
25 tcs powder used in sealing } a 4/6 }	18..6..0	
	427..6..0	127..8..0
		1830.12..2
Vanbebbbers Commission 5 pCent		91..3..7
		1921.15..9
To Amount of Capt Chews Accot disbursements		163..4..9
		2085..0..6
deduct 10 pCent difference of Money		189.10.11
		1895..9..7 Maryland.
To amt of Capt [James] Tibbetts Accot disbursments and Wages as near as can be ascertained }		165..0..0
		£2060..9..7

1. MdHS.

2. Approximate date.

NARRATIVE OF MAJOR GENERAL SIR HENRY CLINTON ¹

[February 27 to March 31, 1776]

From this day to the 9th of March, we were buffeted by violent Storms in Shoal Water. & on the Most dangerous Coast. The Frigate too in which I Sailed did not appear to be in very fit Condition for Combating so boisterous a Season. having been some time before (as I was Inform'd) thought in too bad Condition to be trusted on a voyage at that season even to Halifax for repair. The Tediousness of the Passage, however, gave me most anxiety, As Lord Dunmore had inform'd me, that the Regulators & Highlanders of North Carolina were Embodied & then on their March to Wilmington. & I had every reason to expect that the Fleet from Ireland must be by this time on the Coast. being now join'd by the *Syren*, Frigate, with Lord William Campbell on Board,² we had the Pleasure at last of Coming to an anchor within the Cape on the 12th without Loss or Accident. There was no sign however of the Irish Fleet, and to add to our Mortification Governor Martin³ Communicated to me, the Melancholy Tidings that the Kings Friends in the Back Country (whom he had invited to Arm in January in full Confiden[ce] of its arrival) had been attack'd by the rebels on the 27th of February, & after meeting with some loss were now totally dispers'd & many of them in Confinement. I found also from Lord W Campbells account of his Province, that the Loyalists there, overflowing with zeal & elated with some advantages they had gain'd over the rebels, had been equally precipitate in showing themselves [and] Consequently overpowered & disarm'd, & many imprisoned. All these Misfortunes were occasioned by the Extraordinary delay of the Armament from Corke, and our stock of Provisions so reduced, that if the Fleet had not arrived, the Consequence might have been most fatal.

These were but gloomy forebodings of my future Success. I had the Pleasure however to find that the Governors were not dispirited. th[ough] they had both been driven for shelter on board ships of War. I was therefore happy I had it in my power at least to give them an opportunity of stretching their Legs on Shore. by landing the few Men I had with me. (two light Companies)⁴

1. Manuscript history of the Revolution by Sir Henry Clinton, CL.

2. Lord William Campbell came on board the *Mercury* from the *Syren* on March 11, 1776, journal of the *Mercury*, PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

3. *Ibid.*, Governor Josiah Martin was saluted upon the arrival of the frigate in Cape Fear harbor on March 16, 1776.

4. *Ibid.*, as the Marines from the *Mercury* were sent ashore to exercise on March 29, 1776; it is likely that the light infantry landed about the same time.

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

March 1776

Moored at Cockspur Savannah river

Saturday 30

The first and Latter parts fresh breezes and fair the middle part Light Airs Inclining to Calms at 2 pm sailed hence His Majestys Ship *Scarborough* in Company with the *Tamer*,



Sir Henry Clinton.



Sir Peter Parker.

Hinchinbrook, *Symmetry*, *Whitby* and all the outward bound merchantmen at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 weighed and came to Sail at 4 Ditto Anchored at Cockspur with the small bower in 3 fm at Low Water at 6 Do veered away and moored with the Bt Br to the ESE a whole Cable on the small bower and $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable on the Bt Br

Sunday 31st At 6 AM Died of his Wounds Mr James Nichols a Volunteer who was shot in his Head by the Rebels on Tybe Island the 26th [25] Inst Do recd from the *St John* Sloop our four Guns of 3 Pounds

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH¹

March 1776 Tybey So 68° Wt 23 leagues
[Saturday] 30 fresh breezes & hazy at 1 PM got under weigh in Co with the *Scarborough*, *St Lawrence*, *Symmetry* & *Whitby* Transports with a Ship, Brig & Schooner Prizes,² at 3 got over the Barr at 5 the Light house Wt 10 Miles.

[Sunday] 31 At 9 AM hove too and Sounded 21 fm fresh Gales & Clear $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 made Sail at 2 PM parted Co with his Majys Schooner *St Lawrence*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

2. Ship *Rittenhouse*, brig *Georgia Packet*, and schooner *Violenti*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY¹

March 76 At a Single Anchor off the [Tybee] Light House.
Satyry 30th AM punished Josh De Lahoe with a dozen lashes for drunkenness took up the stream Anchor, Hoisted the Longboat in & lashed her, made the *tamer's* Signal for the Captain; lost in sounding the River a Hand lead & line, put on board the *Volante* Prize Schooner,² to Clear the Ship being very much Cumber'd, to carry to Boston under our Convoy & likewise to water her, [torn] Hhds, staves fifteen hundred & Sixty, five hundred & forty pieces of Heading, water Barrells Eighteen, Hhds eight full hoop'd with Eight Hundred & Sixty loose Hoops.

Fresh Breezes & Hazy wr at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 weighed & made sail, in Company His Majys Sloop *Tamer St Lawrence* Schooner, 2 Transports, 3 prizes and several Merchant Vessels, at 3 P M shortned said & brot too Mn Sl to the Mast, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 made sail, Tybee Light House WbS 5 Leags at 6 made the *St Lawrence's* Signal to keep astern of the fleet & a signal for the Convoy to keep together, the Convoy in Company

Sunday 31st Tybee S78° West distt 26 Leags
A M in Co as before, at 8 lay too & Hoisted the Cutter out, made the *Rittenhouse's*³ signal to speak her, $\frac{1}{2}$ past parted Co

the Merchant Vessels, made the *St Lawrence's* Signal for an officer, at noon the *Tamer*, *St Lawrence* *Whitby*, *Symetry* & 3 prizes in Company. –

First part Modte Breezes & Hazy wr Middle & Latter fresh Breezes & Hazy at 1 P M made sail, the *St Lawrence* parted Co with us, at 6 the Convoy in Co made the *Tamer's* Signal to keep a stern of the Fleet, Handed the Mizn TS at 9 shortened sail for the fleet to keep up, in Co as above;

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. *Ibid.*, the schooner *Violenti*, taken February 1, 1776.

3. The ship *Rittenhouse*, Ambrose Bartlett, master, from Lisbon for Philadelphia, taken December 28, 1775, by H.M. Sloop *Raven*, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

ST. GEORGE TUCKER TO JOHN PAGE¹

[Extract]

My dear Sir, During the long Period that I have been absent from Virginia I have not had the pleasure [of] a Line from you, nor indeed from any one of my Friends in York, Williamsburg or Gloster. I am willing to impute this to Accident and the Interruption to Communication between this place and the Continent. That Interruption is now likely to be greater than ever, as we have had an authentic Copy of the Act of parliament prohibiting all Trade and Intercourse whatsoever with any of the united Colonies, and subjecting all vessels to forfeiture for a Breach thereof. God knows what infatuated Blindness prevails among a set of Men who seem to have resigned the important Interest of the British Nation, to the Calls of Ambition and the Considerations of Conquest. By this act all American property is to be considered in the same Light as that of an open and declared Enemy. Is not this enough to drive them to adopt the Character they impose upon them? I must acknowledge myself as blind as they are, if by such Measures they do not endanger the very Existence of the British Empire, which if once dismembered of so valuable a Branch as the American Colonies must soon dwindle: loose it's Importance in the political Scale of Europe & perhaps finally become a Province of some of those Powers which she scarcely considered as formidable Rivals whilst her united and Collected Strength remained. Every Friend to his Country and it's Constitution must survey with Horror the Approaching Scene of Bloodshed and Devastation – The once happy people of Gr: Britain and America instead of cooperating with each other for the mutual Interest of both Countries, are now about to imbue their hands in the Blood of those whom they once regarded as parents. Brethern and Friends – The Genius of Commerce is put to flight by the Din of Arms, and the rustic allarmed at the sound of the martial Trumpet quits his plough and brandishes the sword. . . . Are the people of this Island and the rest of the West Indies to be sacrificed to the Ambition of [illegible] Minister and a corrupt parliament? Or is this blood to be received as an expiatory offering for the Lives of a People over whom Councils or Conduct they have neither power nor Influence? . . . Hitherto,

the Hand of Providence has indulgently supplied us with a sufficiency for our subsistence – But at present there is not a morsal of Provisions to be sold in the whole Island except a few thousand Bushells of Wheat which were sent here in Consequence of the Scheme I mentioned, and which were prevented from being exported by an Act of the Legislature – The people, however, have no other Means of manufacturing it but by grinding in hand Mills, so that the expedient must be wretched on any other occasion – When that is consumed, as we have no prospect of any further supplies we must resign ourselves to our cruel Fate and perish in the Arms of each other. The Tortures of the Rack must be more tollerable than a scene of such universal Distress. May propitious heaven avert it! but I fear the deadly blow is inevitable. . . .

St: George Tucker

Bermuda March 31st. 1776

The Honourable John Page Esquire, One of the Members of the Council of safety for the Colony of Virginia.
via South Carolina.

1. Lloyd W. Smith Collection, MNHP.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO THE CAPTAINS UNDER HIS COMMAND¹

(a Copy)
General }
No 13 }

Whereas I have received Information that sundry Vessels from the West India Islands, Laden with Gunpowder, and Military Stores for North America, pass under French Colours, and Papers, and have onboard them a Nominal French Master, pretending likewise to be bound to the Islands of St Pierre and Miquelon, (on the Coast of Newfoundland) thinking to pass for French Vessels and to elude the Vigilance of our Cruizers, and thereby Cover the property of the Rebels.

You are hereby required and directed carefully to Examine all Vessels you may fall in with answering the foregoing description, and should you, on a strict and diligent search, (which is to be made with Decency and without insult) find such Lading of Gunpowder, and Military Stores on board them; You are to Seize them forthwith, and bring or send them to me to English harbour Antigua, to be proceeded against according to Law; for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my Hand at English
Harbour, Antigua the 31st March 1776.

To The Respective Captains
of His Majesty's Ships *Portland*, *Experiment*,
Argo, *Hind*, *Lynx*, and *Pomona*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Argo*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM GARNIER ¹

March 1776 Moored in Bridge or Carlisle Bay Barbadoes
 Sunday 31st at 6 A M unmoored Ship, at 10 Broke the Small Bower Cable
 and Came to Sail, found Our Cables Rubbed in Several places,
 at Noon took a prize an English Brigg from Falmouth New
 England Bound to Barbadoes. Sent the Gunner, a Petty offi-
 cer and 8 Seamen to take her to Antigua, to be tried there in
 a Court of Admiralty.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/19.

2. The brig *Falmouth*, John Martin, master, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 24, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Pomona*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM YOUNG ¹

March 1776 The Dog and Prickly Pear W 2 Leagues
 Saturday 30 at 9 AM Saw a Sail to the Eastward gave chace fired 3 Shot
 and brought too the Chace found her to be a Sloop from
 North Carolina, sent an officer on board and 5 Men and took
 her Crew ²
 Sunday 31 Moderate and fair
 at 10 A M fired a Gun shotted at a Schooner and brought her
 too found her to be from the Bay of Honduras bound to
 Eustatia belong[in]g to Virginia sent an officer and 4 Men on
 board and took possession of her receiv'd her Men on
 board us ³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

2. Sloop *Martin and John*, Martin Mahar, master, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 24, 1776.

3. *Ibid.*, schooner *Two Brothers*, Smith Milliner, master.

1 Apr.

DR. HALL JACKSON TO ELBRIDGE GERRY ¹

[Extract]

Portsmouth, April 1, 1776

. . . I congratulate you on the precipitate flight of our enemy from Boston. May the same panic and confusion in which they went off ever follow them. We are strongly fortifying Boston so that a return of the troops will be impracticable. . . . Our man of war goes on at a supassing rate ² . . . I am fully persuaded if her sails and guns were ready she will be at sea the 1st of June.

1. FDRL.

2. The Continental frigate *Raleigh*.

NARRATIVE OF DANIEL LUNT, MASTER OF THE SLOOP *Unity* ¹

On the 25th of February last on my homeward bound passage from Point a P[e]tre on Grand Terre, about two leagues distant from Cape-Ann, I fell in with and was taken by the *Lively* sloop of war and carried into Boston,² the next day was put on board the *Renown*, - [Francis] Banks commander, as we came on board Capt. Banks ordered us, with what bun-

dles of cloaths, bedding &c. we had with us on the Quarter Deck, then called for, and ordered the 2d lieutenant, and master at arms, to search our beds, overhaul all our bundles of cloaths, to see if there was any money amongst them, then turning to us said I will search you myself, and that well too you scoundrels, whilst they were opening and searching our bundles, agreeable to Capt. Banks's directions, they began their search upon us, under his immediate inspection, by stripping off our cloaths, and critically searching every place in the lining halled off our boots, searched our stockings, halled down our breeches about our legs searched their linings, and left no place unsearched where a farthing might be concealed, and continued the whole time breathing out slaughter and death upon us, for no crime, or supposed crime, unless our being born in America can be esteemed such, after getting through with this branch, of his inhumane and unnatural procedure and robbing me of fourteen Johannes, and Capt. Ephraim Little of about one hundred more, he called for and delivered us up to the Boatswain with an express injunction to take us on the Main Deck, and see to it that we were kept constantly at hard labour, adding; if we made the least difficulty about complying with this his commands, the boatswain, must inform him, and he would order us immediately flogg'd his commands in this matter were strictly complied with, we, I mean, all the masters of American vessels who have of late, unfortunately fell into their hands, were constantly kept at the hardest and most ignominious services on board and were from day to day loaded with curses and reproaches, from the principal officers, and that whilst there was constantly a ready compliance with his unrighteous and inhumane commands, and as though it were not a sufficient punishment, for having been born in America, and not found in arms, against our country to be reduced from comfortable circumstances, our families robbed, of all means of subsistence, and we pillaged of the last farthing, which might serve to supply our present necessary expences, or replace our cloathing which we were, in a great measure robbed; we were commanded and constantly insulted, without reply, by men far inferior to those formerly under our command, having the breath of Hell continually flaming about our ears, and this unequal to vent the malignity of their souls, informed us our torments were to be perpetual, by assuring us we should never again set our feet on American ground. Thus they continued tormenting us, till by these devices, and being constantly kept on short allowance, several of our people judged themselves excuseable, in yielding to their solicitations by entering on board an East Indiaman, with an assurance of being sent to that country, and there kept at hard service, during the remainder of our lives, being worn out by continual fatigue and constant reproaches, I grew sick of a life not worth enjoying. I resolved to attempt an escape at all hazards, and in the night between the 20th and 21st. of March last, finding the watch on deck asleep, I cut away a boat from along side, and got on shore on Point Shirley, and am influenced to publish this narrative, not only that the truth might appear, but at the earnest desire, and in consequence of an agreement

of a number of Ameri[can ship-]masters, who still labour under these distressing circumstances.

Sign'd Daniel Lunt

Newbury-Port, April 1st, 1776.

N.B. In consequence of an agreement with my brethren whilst under this more than Egyptian bondage, which ever of us should be fortunate enough to make his escape, was to have proceeded immediately to Head Quarters, and given General Washington an account of the matter, but by the many hardships I endured, whilst under the controul of these deserters from the infernal pit, I was so far reduced as to be by no means able to comply with this part of our agreement, and since I have got home I have been for the most part confined to my house, and not able to write, which may apologize for my neglecting this publication so long. Let not the friends of those now in their hands, fear more severity from this publications falling into the hands of our enemies, greater severity is impossible. Our friends in their hands, will find a sure assylum in death, which they will at any one day meet with pleasure. – Will not God revenge our righteous cause.

P.S. In justice to Capt. [Thomas] Bishop, commander of the *Lively*, I would inform the public, that I was treated with kindness and humanity all the time I was with him.

[Endorsed] in Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety. }
Newbury Port, April 19, 1776. }

Voted. That the several Printers on the Continent, be, and hereby are desired, to publish the foregoing narrative of Capt. Daniel Lunt's, and we do hereby certify, that the said Capt. Lunt was born and brought up amongst us, and is esteemed a man of truth, and we think full credit may be paid to the said narrative.

By order of the Committee,

Jonathan Titcomb, Chairman.

1. *Essex Journal*, April 19, 1776.

2. The sloop *Unity*, bound to Newburyport with a cargo of molasses and coffee, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

"A RETURN OF ARTILLERY & STORES IN BEVERLY & ON BOARD THE ARM'D
VESSELS" ¹

Number Guns	Size	Vessels Names	Commanders	Swivlls	by whom Supply'd
6	4	<i>Hancock</i>	Commo [John] Manly	10	United Colos
2	2	<i>Lee</i>	Captn Watters	4	Do
2	4	<i>Warren</i>	Captn [William] Burke	-	Do
4	4	<i>Linch</i>	Capt [John] Ayres	6	Do
<hr/>					
4	4	<i>Lee</i>	Capt. [Daniel] Waters	6	Collo Glover
2	4	<i>Warren</i>	Capt Burk	10	Do
2	4	} <i>Franklin</i>	Capt [Samuel] Tucker	10	Do
4	2				
2	2	<i>Linch</i>	Capt Ayres	4	Do
<hr/>					
3	4	} Belonging to the Town together with 50 Shott for ditto			
2	6				
1 half Barrel of Powder & 40 Cartrages for 4 pounders					
2 Half Barrels of Powder Taken Out of the Prizes Belonging to the Continent & Captures					

William Bartlett Agent

Beverly 1 April 1776

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Head Quarters, Cambridge, April 1, 1776.

Sir: I have this moment received your favor of yesterday by Express, and shall take every necessary step to send you all the reinforcement I possibly can, and that without delay. General [Nathanael] Greene was to have march'd to day with five Regiments for Norwich, by way of Providence; I have ordered him to hasten his march. General [John] Sullivan with Six Regiments, set off last Friday Evening for Norwich; I have sent an Express after him, Ordering him to file off his Brigade for Providence. If the alarm should prove false, I must request the favor of you to send an Express to meet General Sullivan and order him to continue his route.

I am unacquainted with the Situation of Rhode Island and cannot tell how far it may be supported, but should think it advisable immediately to take the Stock from that and the neighbouring Islands, to prevent the Enemy from getting a supply of fresh provisions, which perhaps is their object. I make no doubt, you will take every necessary precaution to stop their progress, and you may depend upon being supported, as far as is in my power.

If it should be certain, that the Ministerial Army intend to effect a landing upon Rhode Island, I shall soon be with you; In the mean time I beg you will send me constant and particular Accounts of all occurrences, that you may think worth communicating. I am Sir etc.

P.S. upon second Consideration, I must request you at all events to send an Express immediately to Genl. Sullivan, whether the Alarm should prove true or false.²

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, 458-59.

2. *Ibid.*, 456-57, Washington notified Hancock of the Rhode Island alarm this date, and on April 4 informed him that the report proved false.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT.¹

[Watertown] Monday April 1st 1776

The Committee appointed to take into consideration a Letter from Tristram Dalton Esqr of Newbury Port,² and the Papers Accompanying the same, relative to the Brign *Unity* and her Cargo now lying in the West Indies, by reason of the death of Capt Michael Corbit, Master of said Brign in the Service of this Colony - [reported]

Resolved That Moses Gill, John Brown & Abraham Watson Esqrs be and they hereby are impowered and directed to employ some suitable person to proceed immediately to St. Thomass and dispose of said Brign & her Cargo in such manner as they shall think will be most for the Intrest of this Colony, and send or bring home the Neet proceeds of said Vessel and Cargo in Cash, or such Articles, as he shall think most advantageous to the Colony. -

Also Resolved, That there be allowed and paid out of the Public Treasury of this Colony unto Isaac Noyes, one of the Marriners belonging to the Brign *Unity*, the sum of Twenty Eight pounds, Two shillings & Eight pence, for his Wages, and the further sum of Two pounds five shillings for his Expences from York to this place and other Services in full to this date -

Resolved That there be paid to Mr Michael Hodge for the Use of the Committee of Correspondence &c. for Newbury Port, the sum of Nine hundred and fifty pounds, Eighteen shillings and Two pence, in full discharge of their Accounts Exhibited to this Court, for fitting out the Two Armed Vessels, called the Sloop *Machias Liberty*, and the Schooner *dilligent* Comanded by Capt Jeremiah Obrian, which was done by the Order of this Court. -

Further Resolved that the sum of Twenty One pounds four shillings & five pence be allowed and paid to Mr Michael Hodge for the Use of Jackson, Tracy & Tracy in full discharge of their Accot Exhibited to this Court for sundry Supplies which Capt Jeremiah Obrian received of the said Jackson, Tracy & Tracy for the Use of the Two abovesaid Armed Vessels, before the Committee of Correspondence for Newbury Port received the Order of Court -

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 700, 702, 706.

2. Dalton's letter, addressed to Moses Gill, was presented to the House of Representatives on March 28. It was referred to Nathan Cushing and Major Cross, and the Council added Charles Chauncey to the committee.

JAMES OTIS TO THE KEEPER OF THE IPSWICH JAIL¹

Colony of the
Massachusetts By } The Major part of the Council –

To The Keeper of the Goal at Ipswich in the County of Essex –
Greeting You are hereby ordered & directed to receive into your Custody John Rich, who was Master of the Sloop *Success* & sent to the Genl. Court by the Comtee. of Safety of Majorbagaduce for supplying the Enemy in Boston with Provisions or necessarys for their Subsistance, the facts appearing by the deposition & papers attendg sd. Rich to be true – And you are him safely to keep until he shall give Bond with sufficient Surety to the Treasurer of this Colony – in the Sum of Two hundred pounds Conditioned, that he the said Rich will not supply our Enemies with any thing whatever or be anyways aiding & assisting thereto; and that he will not hold any Correspondence with them, nor have any connections with any person that shall be concerned with them and that he will be Accountable to the General Court in any breach of said Bond –

In the Name & by Order of the Council –

James Otis President

Council Chamber [Watertown] April 1st. 1776.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 287.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1776

Watertown, April 1:

We hear that the enemy left about 100 pieces of cannon at Castle William; but each of them either with a trunnion beat off, or spiked up.

Near or quite all the enemy's fleet lay below the Castle 'till Tuesday last, when a considerable part of them (said to be about one half) put to sea. The remainder (except 5 ships of war) sailed on Wednesday afternoon.

The general opinion is, that the enemy's fleet and army, lately fled from Boston, are bound for Halifax.

The man of war building at Portsmouth for the Continental service, will, it is said, be ready to launch in about a month.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ED[MUND] QUINCY ESQR TO COLONEL MIFFLIN DATED STOUGHTONHAM APRIL 1ST 1776”¹

A Captain & two Seamen that were taken by the Men of War deserted Fryday from the Fleet, they Say the first Division consisting of the *Foy* & *Nautullus* with 68 Transports sail'd for Halifax last Monday. the Second Division, Admiral Shuldham in the *Chatham* the *Centurion* and the *Lively* with 62 Transports sail'd Thursday, from all they could learn they were bound to the SoWard not half Mann'd and had been at short Allowance 14 Days – The *Renown* of 50 Guns, the *Senegal* of 28 & the *Hope* of 16 Guns mov'd from their station in King Road off the Light House for fear of our

fire Rafts, but its determined they shall put to Sea speedily – The *Niager* sail'd fryday with 6 Transports for Halifax, – had it not been for 6 Transports that came from Halifax with fresh provisions, kill'd aMonth ago, they could not have gone to Sea for some time unless forc'd by our Fire Rafts under the Command of Majr [Benjamin] Tupper, its said by a Vessel from London to the Fleet that 50 Sail of Merchantmen loaded was bound to Boston its to be hoped that Capt Manly will give some Account of them, – The whole Sail'd Mr Nutton says had not three Weeks provisions left, I hope the Philadelphia fleet will speak with those gone Southward – a large Morter 15½ Inch was fish'd up near Mr Row's Wharf where were also discovered at low Water a great Quantity of Shott Shells &c.

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 159, 9, NA.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Providence April 1th 1776.

I Yesterday wrote your Excellency that I had information by express from Newport that a large part of the Ministerial Fleet & Army were near that harbour, since which by the Intelligence I have further Received I am inclined to beleive that the fleet was not seen as was reported. The Alarm was given upon the following Occasion . . Three of the Soldiers being upon a rising Ground near the Town were positive they saw a Fleet within Seconet Point and counted distinctly Twenty one Sail. immediately upon this the Sheriff of the County of Newport dispatched an Express with the information. One of the Ensigns Also says that three large ships were seen off the Light house from Canonicut Yesterday at 11 oClock A.M. After having taken all the Measures that appeared necessary to collect a sufficient Force to oppose the Enemy I sent a person in whom I could confide to Newport who hath just returned and informs me that it seems to be the General Oppinion that no Fleet was descried; but that the persons were deceived by the weather which was very thick and foggy and hath so continued ever since. I think it my duty to acquaint your Excellency of this by my son who goes Express, and am with great Esteem and Respect, Sir [&c.]

Nicholas Cooke

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 585–86.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1776

Newport, April 1.

Last Wednesday the two brigs belonging to the ministerial fleet took a small sloop, a little to the eastward of this harbour; and the next day one of the brigs, a schooner and a small sloop tender, took two large sloops, one bound to Nantucket, loaded with provisions, &c. and the other to the West-Indies; and on Friday these cruisers took another sloop just without Seconet Rocks.¹

Last Saturday arrived here the *Nautilus* sloop of war from Boston, with a small tender, and a schooner taken on her passage.²

1. Shuldham's prize list for April 24, 1776, lists four sloops taken by the *Rose* and the vessels in her squadron, but gives no more information than their names and cargos: "*Sally*, Grain &ca, *Greyhound*, *John*, *Snow Bird*, Flour." See journal of the *Rose*, March 21, 1776, for more information about *Sally*.
2. The *Nautilus* not only brought in the schooner *New York Packet*, E. Pringle, master and owner, from Philadelphia for Plymouth, but the sloop *John*, William Chace, master. See *Nautilus's* journal, March 28-31, 1776, under latter date.

JABEZ HUNTINGTON TO JOSHUA HUNTINGTON¹

Dear Sir

Lebanon Ap'l 1st 1776.

On hearing that part of the Ministerial Fleet arriv'd at Newport Yesterday and the probability that some of them may Come and Lie before N London Harbour Gov'r Trumbull and Com'tee advise that you Send a Post directly to Capt. Francis at Saybrook to stop the Transports that are there untill further order and also advise that Capt. Francis Send out a Boat from Saybrook to Direct the Transports returning from N York to stop at Saybrook with those now there untill you have further directions. In haste from your affectionate Parent.

Jz. Huntington

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, XX, 34-35.

JOHN COTTON, JR. TO BARNABAS DEANE¹

Middletown Apl 1 - 1776

Sir, I Recd the Inclosed Directed to you and supposing it to Contain the peice of freight I made bould to Open it I Recd 49 bo[l]ts of Duck 29 Coils of Riging of Different sizes 2½ Cabls with 5 hhd's Oacan 7 Barrs of Jarman Steel and 448 Barrs Iron for which I have pd £4..16 Which you Must Charge to Capn [Josiah] Buck with 18 lb Riging a 9d I have Likewise Lett Mr Wallace in Mitchells Schooner have 25 lb of Spun yarn, if you Can Gett with you a Quantity of Old Canvas for parseling for the Ship I wold have you Doe So as we Shall Want a Quantity there is here a Sloops Main Sail Which I can have for 10£ if you Geet None With you Which is all Necessary from yr [&c.]

John Cotton Jun^r²

1. Barnabas Deane Letters, ConnHS.
2. While Barnabas Deane was contractor for the frigate building in Connecticut, the actual builder was John Cotton, Jr. This vessel subsequently was named the *Trumbull*.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL¹

New London April 1 A M 9 Clock

Honorable Sir This moment Mr Adam Babcock, came in (from Westerly this morning) and advises that he there saw an Order Issued by Colo [Joseph] Noyes to the several Militia Capts under his Command (dated last night 12 Clock) to March imediately to Newport, haveing recd an Expres[s] from Colo Henry Babcock at Newport, dated yester[day] noon,

adviseing that 21 Ships had just arrived the[re] but did not say from whence they came – the l[etter] says the Ships are in the Offing; and the Express ad[ded] that four of the Ships were got abreast Newport, so[me] of the Fleet standing in on the East side the Islan[d] the others directly for the Harbor – This I thoug[ht] it my duty to advise Your Honor by Express [torn]

The two Plans of Fortifications that I shew'd yo[ur] Honor & left undesign'd on your Desk, not supos[ing] they would be of any advantage to you, and as t[hey] perhaps may be of some advantage here, should [be] pleas'd to have them again when you please

I intended to have made a few observations on the Plan for the Neck – Namely that to finish the w[ork] as it now stands & described by the Picket line, as [it] is much more extensive then the other, & propos'd [work] for 10 heavy Cannon (as in each Case) will be much m[ore] expensive than that propos'd by the other Plan, and indeed to remove the Materials already used, to the [other] propos'd work, will be 50 PCt less then to proc[eed] as the works are now began – If the Fort is to [be] inclosed the first Works will be vastly more expensive than necessary – it was ever my opinion to have the Front line East & West – Should in future days it be tho't necessary to make a Regular Fort, with Bastions, I conceive the Corners of the Plan are well calculated to be made into Bastions, & if the Fort should be tho't best to be a Square, it is only to extend the diameter N[o] & So so as to be equal to the E. & Wt – And if the Barr[acks] were sunk 6 feet under the Surface (as in the Grand B[arr]acks) The Parapat would Cover them from a Canon[ade] – And if the Fort should be made a Square, it w[ould] admit of a handsome Parade between the Barracks & Platform – I am Yr Honors [&c.]

G. Saltonstall

1. Conn. Arch., Trumbull Papers, V, 26a, 26b, ConnSL.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Lunae, 9 HO. A.M. April 1st, 1776.

A letter from Brigadier-General Heath, was received and read. He therein mentions that a sloop is arrived from Albany, with a number of women and children and baggage taken at St. John's, and sent here by Gen. Schuyler, on their way to New-Brunswick, that the captain was fearful of going to Brunswick lest his vessel might be detained by the ships of war on his return, and he requests the committee to take the management of obtaining a pass from Capt. Vandeput, for the sloop to go to Brunswick and return, which he doubts not will be readily granted, as it will obtain every convenience for the prisoners.²

Ordered, That a member wait on the General and inform him that there are boats here from Brunswick who will readily receive the prisoners and baggage and carry them to Brunswick, and that he request the General to order the prisoners and baggage to be sent by those boats.

Die Lunae, 4ho. P.M. April 1st 1776.

Simeon Deane, attended with a copy of an agreement, dated the 11th Jany. last, between Samuel Ward, Benjamin Franklin and others, a committee of secrecy of the Continental Congress, and Silas Deane and Barnabas Deane of the Colony of Connecticut, authorizing them to ship the produce of the United Colonies to proper ports in the foreign West Indies, and in Europe, to the amount of thirty thousand dollars, with an appointment thereon, dated the 21st of January, to Simeon Deane, to carry the said contract into execution.

Simeon Deane informed the Committee that he has had separate permits from Mr. Ray, and other gentlemen of this city, as a sub-committee of the general committee of the city, but that the whole exports in consequence of the agreement, do not much exceed half the sum permitted to be exported, and requested a farther permit for 230 barrels of flour.³

Ordered, That the general committee of the city of New-York, or the sub-committee of inspection and exportations, be at liberty to permit Simeon Deane on account of the said contract, to export from New-York to Connecticut, with design to be thence exported to some foreign port, 230 bbls. of flour, (on the usual terms or bonds on which he formerly exported,) in a sloop whereof John Reiley is master.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 395, 396.

2. See Heath to New York Committee of Safety, April 1. Heath Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

3. "Permission is desired for two hundred and thirty barrels of Flour, to be shipped from this port for Connecticut River, on board Sloop, John Riley, Master, for account of the honourable Continental Congress, per order of Silas and Barnabas Deane, as per agreement to be now shown, which is not completed. Of this Simeon Deane can testify, and show his power of attorney for said Contract. The above flour consigned to Barnabas Deane. Simeon Deane New-York, April 1, 1776;" Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 1422, printed from document later destroyed in the New York State Library fire.

CHARLES SMITH TO CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N.¹

Bridewell, [New York] Monday, April 1st, 1776.

Sir – I take the opportunity of doing myself the honour of acquainting you with my disagreeable situation, heving been close prisoner ever since I have been in York. I must do the New-England people justice under whose care I have been, that they behaved extremely well. Since their departure, the Yorkers took possession of the barracks, kept me much closer confined, and on Saturday afternoon gave me three days allowance that was due of pork and bread only, and conducted me safe in Bridewell since. I understand my allowance is to be five pence sterling per day, Bridewell allowance. I am beholden to the goodness of the jailer for my bed and blanket, or else I believe I might perish. I shall not, sir, trouble you will a detail of all my misfortunes, as they are in no wise pleasant, but take the liberty to-subscribe myself, [&c.]

CS. Smith ²

P.S. King [Isaac] Sears, on my first arrival, called me rascal, and pushed me

on to jail with his sword. As to the sailors, I am sorry to inform you they are gone to Philadelphia, to go on board the privateers.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 183.
2. Smith, a mate of the *Asia*, was put on board the ship *Sally*, to convey her from New York to Boston and was driven ashore in a gale of wind at Montauk early in March. He and his crew and passengers were taken prisoners.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, April 1, 1776

Resolved, That Mr. [James] Mease, Commissary be directed to advance Captain [Bernard] Romans one month's pay for himself and the officers and men of his company, and also subsistence money to Albany.

Resolved, That Mr. M'Kean [Thomas McKean] and Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine be directed to examine the gaol [of Philadelphia] and particularly the apartments where [Moses] Kirkland, [Dr. John] Connolly, Smith [John F. D. Smyth] and [Allan] Cameron are confined, and report what is necessary to be done to have them safely and securely kept.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with Mr. M'Knight [James McKnight], and examine into his account, and the nature of his claim, and report thereon to Congress.²

The members chosen, Mr. R. [Robert] Morris, Mr. M'Kean [Thomas McKean], and Mr. [John] De Hart.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 243, 246.

2. McKnight was prize master of the sloop *Sally*, taken by the British sloop *General Gage*. He deliberately ran the prize ashore on the Jersey coast, and claimed his share in her cargo. For inventory of the *Sally's* cargo, and the former master's list of his private property, see next entry.

CLAIM OF JAMES MCKNIGHT, PRIZE MASTER OF SLOOP *Sally*¹

To the Honble Continental Congress

To Wearing Apparel, Linen, a Watch &c	£25..0..0
Wages due to the time I was taken	4..0..0
Sundry Articles which I Carried as a venture	7..0..0
	£36..0..0

The Sloop *Charming Sally* was cleared out from Domingo to New-foundland, as I saw the Clearance of her on board the Sloop *General Gage* – to which I could be Qualified if Called upon – The above is a Low Estimate of things belonging to me on board the sloop *Joseph*, Capt. Radden. when taken by the Sloop *Genl Gage* – on the 14th Feby 1776 –

signed: James McKnight²

1. Papers CC (Petitions addressed to Congress), 42, VII, 9, NA.

2. See Petition of Peter Simon, May 1, 1776.

JOSHUA HUMPHREYS' BILL FOR OUTFITTING THE CONTINENTAL BRIG
*Lexington*¹

1776 April 1 Stephen Hopkins Esqr for the Brig *Lexington*
To Joshua Humphreys

To Thos Thompson for	9 day[s]	@ 9/-	4. 1. .-
Joseph Bowers for	4½ do	do	2. 0. .6
Henry Rhile	4½ do	do	2. 0. .6
Joseph Fanning	2½ do	do	1. 2. .6
John patterson	2½ do	do	1. 2. .6
Jonathan Grice	2½ do	do	1. 2. .6
Reynold Wharton	4½ do	do	2. 0. .6
Charles Broadley	4½ do	do	2. 0. .6
Andr Smiley	2½ do	do	1. 2. .6
Wm Toy	4½ do	do	2. 0. .6
James Carr	9/ do	8/-	3. 12. .-
Rodger Herald	4½ do	@ 8/-	1. 16. .-
Apel Lee	4½ do	@ 7/-	1. 11. .6
Normond McLeod	4½ do	@ 6/6	1. 9. .3
113 feet 2 inch pine	@ 4d p		1. 17. .8
Joshua Humphreys Attendance			2. 5. .-
1 day 3 Stages	7/6		7. .6
1 do 2 potts & Ladle	3/6		3. .6
			<hr/> £31. 15. 11
1 Day John Mulloy			9. .
	bill deliver'd		<hr/> £32. 4. 11

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

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

At a Meeting of the Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 1st April, 1776,

Resolved, That Nicholas Fitzsimmons be appointed 3rd Lieutenant to the Floating Battery.

Mr. [Angus] Macbean being brought before this Committee and charged with endeavouring to go on board one of the King's Ships in Delaware Bay, contrary to the direction of this Committee, upon application to them for that purpose, Upon hearing his defence, and fully examining and considering the same,

Resolved, That Mr. Macbean's proceeding down the River, on his said design, might have happen'd through a misapprehension of the Verbal answer given by this Board upon his said application, as only implying a refusal to grant him their authority for that purpose, from which he infer'd that he was at Liberty to attempt it, without such authority, if he could effect it; and altho' this Committee are of Opinion that his said Design was ill judged, and might have been attended with dangerous consequences, Yet it

does not appear that there is any ground to charge Mr. Macbean with any evil intentions, to the prejudice of this Country.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 531, 532.

PETITION OF WILLIAM DUNLAP TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Philadelphia, April 1st, 1776.

To the Honorable the Committee of Safety for the Province of Pennsylvania
The Petition of William Dunlap Humbly Sheweth:

That your Petitioner hath been employed in the Command of a Vessel in the Merchant's Service on Lake Erie, and is well acquainted with the Navigation of that and the other Lakes. That going from Lake Ontario to New York, he was Stopped at Oswego by Guy Johnston, who carried him to Montreal where he was detained about five months.

That on the arrival of General Montgomery at Montreal, he was released, and by Permissions from the General and other officers, (which he begs leave herewith to lay before you) he proceeded to this City.

That he is desirous of entering into the service of America in such Employ as he shall be thought capable of, and therefore prays your Honorable Board will be pleased to make him such appointment as you shall see meet. And your Petitioner, as in Duty bound, will ever pray.

William Dunlap.

1. Hazard. *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 593.

WILLIAM PRICE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

To the Honourable the Committee of Safety

The Petition of William Price of the City of Philadelphia Mariner last Warr Lieutenant of the Ship of Warr *Britania* Capn McPherson
Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner deeply affected by the actual situation of this once happy and flourishing City and Province, and zealous to support the rights and liberties of the united American Colonies in general at the risque of his Life and Property, and deeply impressed with the shocking and piratical barbarities committed by some tenders belonging to the Men of Warr now cruizing on our coast, which in the opinion of your Petitioner might easily be prevented, and the entrance of this river be rendered more open and less dangerous to Vessels coming in and going out, He humbly proposes to this Honourable board the fitting out two good sailing sloops or schooners each to mount twelve six or four pounders with swivels and men in proportion whose destination shall be to cruize in the bay and along shore within and about the shoals, as far North as Egg harbour and as far South as the Capes of Virginia, by which means they will be sufficient to take and destroy separately whatever tenders they have or may fit out, and protect the Vessels going out or coming into this river, if this plan is approv[e]d of by your Honourable b[oa]rd your petitioner if agreeable is willing to undertake the

command of one of them, as he is capable of managing any Vessel of warr, and perswaded that those Vessels will be [e]ffectual against the Tenders, and in very little danger from the Men of Warr and frigates

And your petitioner will ever pray &c

Wi[llia]m Price

[Philadelphia April 1, 1776]²

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.
2. The date is approximated. The British tenders first became active off the Delaware Capes in late March, 1776. The petition of Price may have been instrumental in the action of the Committee of Safety on April 2, 1776 to appoint a committee directed to seek a small vessel to fit out and cruise in Delaware bay against British tenders, *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 533.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen

Lewes April 1 1776.

On Monday evening last [March 25] a Man of War and her Tender came within the Pitch of our Cape and anchored – as you have been informed by last express – the Pilot Boat stationed near Lewes Creek's mouth did not discover the signal at the Light House, nor See the Ship that evening as it was near dark before she came to the Pitch of the Cape, And when the Alarm Guns were fired the People on Board the Boat, altho' they heard them very plain, imagined as they said that we were cleaning the Guns with a proof charge: Tuesday morning the Man of War's boat took My Pilot Boat, the wind being light and Northerly and Ebb Tide – but before they boarded her the hands in the Pilot Boat left her and Rowed on Shore at the Broad kill in their Skiff. – The same day the Man of War with their Tenders and Boats took a Small Sloop then laying in the Road belonging to Egg harbour in ballast the People of whom left her first in their Boat. they also took two other small sloops from Philadelphia One to Synnepuxon the other to North Carolina and on Wednesday sent them on shore in their own small Boats, Stripped and scuttled the afsd three Sloops and set them adrift, by these People we learned that it was Captain Hammond of the Kings Ship the *Roebuck* of forty four guns –

They made another Tender of the Pilot boat, sent her out took a New-England Sloop Bound to Philadelphia for Corn and that night laying to Near the Cape the hand at helm falling a Sleep let the Pilot Boat run on the Beach when the third Lieutenant their Pilot and two Sailors left her, went on the Cape and were taken on Thursday by our men. – We stripped the Pilot boat of every thing of value and found Ten Musquets and five Pistels which had been hove over the side where the boat lies – On Friday and Saturday they took nothing – On friday the Sloop *Hornet* appeared near Indian River and sent on shore and got a Pilot, but we have not seen her Since and the same evening the Brig [*Lexington*] Capt Barry came down under Cape May And on Sunday Morning went out – The Ship and Tender put out to Sea also after the Brig but returned on Sunday evening into the road² – We have been Day & Night on Guard both on the Cape and at Lewes and Pilot Town – The Several Companies of Militia from all Parts of

the County who live within twenty or five & twenty miles of Lewes came in as soon as they could be expected seemed all quite unanimous and hearty in the Cause determined to defend their Country. there has been near 1000 Men in at times the last Week so that we were obliged to discharge Many of them not having Occasion for half the Number. We prevailed on those lived at a distance to leave some of their Best of their Arms (for Numbers of them want Firelocks) which are not to be purchased,

On Saturday last Capt [Charles] Pope's Company of the Delaware Bata-
lion of regular Soldiers came down from Kent all well equipped – How long
the Ship intends to Stay here we cannot learn – If any thing Material should
happen, I shall endeavour to let you know it. I am, Gentlemen [&c.]

Henry Fisher

To the Committee of Safety in Phila.
pr Mr Edwards

P S from what I Can Learn from the Prisoners that we have got you
may dayly Expect Several Large ships, therefore, I hope, that you may be
upon your Gaurd as, from what I Can Learn that they are to Come up your
River – The Leutenant & other Prisoners will be sent up to you to Morrow
by land, or Else it shall Caust me A fall.

Henry Fisher

[Endorsements]

Lewistown April the 2, 1776

Four O Clock – To the Gentlemen that Keep the Stage Horses you are Re-
quired to let the bearer Mr Saml Edwards have them as he is one of the Sta-
tioned Pilots therefore Can Relate matters more Particular than I Can
Write – H. F.

Cedar Creek April 2d 1776. 6 O Clock Thomas Evans.

Dover Tuesday 10 Minutes after Nine O Clock Arive Dispacht at 10
O Clock Apl 2d

Battle

Cantwell bridge Tuesday fifty two Minutes after one Dispached 10
Minutes after Two April 2d 1776 Math Delany

Wilmington Tuesday 38 minutes after 7 Oclock Arrived Express and
Dispacht 55 Minutes after 7 Oclock April the 2d 1776 – Thos Kean

1. Papers CC (Pennsylvania State Papers), 69, I, 113–15, NA.

2. See journal of the *Roebuck*, March 25–31, 1776 and footnotes.

HUGH YOUNG TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Sirs

[Baltimore, April 1, 1776]

I have this day been call'd upon by our Committee to answer a Com-
plaint that I Should have made against them, to you for takg the Schooner
Peggy, & sending her for Plank for the Privateer – I'm Sorry you should so
far misunderstand me as to put such a Construction on my words, as I did
not mean any such thing I dare say Messrs Smith & Hall on reflection will
recollect all that pass'd relative to that Vessell. viz.. That I immagined you

DEATH TO COUNTERFEITING

Carolina Currency

N^o FOUR DOLLARS

By Authority of Congress
at Halifax April 2^d 1776

W. H. Haywood

4 DOLLARS

Carolina Currency

N^o FIVE DOLLARS

By Authority of Congress at
Halifax April 2^d 1776

W. H. Haywood

5 DOLLARS

Seven Dollars and an half

Carolina Currency

N^o SEVEN DOLLARS
AND AN HALF

By Authority of Congress
at Halifax April 2^d 1776

W. H. Haywood

7 DOLLARS AND AN HALF

Carolina Currency

N^o 33 of TWENTY DOLLARS

By Authority of Congress
at Halifax April 2^d 1776

W. H. Haywood

20 DOLLARS

would not look upon our contract immediately binding, as She had been taken to Carry Plank on account of the Publick. Their answer was By no means. I have however got her again & Shall begin to load agreeable to our Contract in a few days

I am Gentn [&c.]

Hugh Young.

If you are writing to the Committee; I shall be much [pleased] by your Clearing up this matter as they Seem much [vexed] about it H Y

1. Red Book, XIII, 84, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Monday, 1st April, 1776.

Capt. Eliezar Callender is appointed to the command of the 2nd Cruizer to be employed in Rappahannock River, and Capt. [William] Green first mate. Celey Saunders is appointed Capt. to one Rowe Galley, to be employed in Rappahannock, and Wm. Saunders 1st Lieut. in same Galley.

James Markham is appointed Capt. of the 2nd Rowe Galley in s'd River.

The Comm'ee proceed to settle the wages of the several officers of the Navy and Marines, as follows: A commodore, 15s.; a captain, 8s. per day; first mate, 6s.; second mate, 4s.; boatswain, 3s., and a common sailor, 2s.; a captain of Marines, 6s.; a lieutenant, 4s.; a midshipman, 3s.; a marine, 1s.6d.; and that they ought to be engaged to continue in the service so long as may be judged necessary by the General Convention, Gen'l Assembly, or Comm'ee of Safety of this Colony, but not compelled to continue more than 2 years from the 10th of this month; to be subject to such regulations as shall be established for the navy by the s'd Convention or Assembly, and the sea officers to be upon half pay from the time of their several appointments 'til the respective vessels they are to serve on board of, are completely fitted for service, when their full pay is to commence; and the Marine Officer to be on half pay from the several appointments 'til the companies are reviewed, when the full pay is to commence, and the seamen and marines to be entitled to full wages from the time of their enlistment.

Ordered, a Letter be written to Mr. Meriw'r Smith to know whether his vessel is appraised and fitting for a cruizer acco. to former order, and if it is what progress is made therein, but if she is not begun to be fitted, that he be desired not to begin the repairing her, and in that case that Mann Page and Field. Lewis, Esqrs., be desired to purchase a proper vessel to be employed as the 2nd Cruizer in Rappahannock, and proceed to have her fitted up under the direction of Lieut. Wm. Green. (A Letter written accord'y.)

Colo. Lewis and Mr. Page are desired to send to Fort Cumberland for any cannon there belonging to this colony, also for one at Col. Cresops [Thomas Cresap] and empowered to purchase any other necessaries which may be wanting for the vessels in Rappahannock river.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 146-48.

LIBEL AGAINST THE SHIP *America* ¹

[Cape Fear, April 1, 1776]

No Carolina ss. At a Court of Vice Admiralty held at Cape Fear in the said Province before his Honour James Elletson Bowen Esquire Surrogate of the said Court the first day of April 1776.

Francis Parry Esqr. Commander of his Majesty's Sloop *Cruizer* now lying in Cape Fear River in the said Province on behalf of himself and the officers Seamen and others on board the said Sloop *Cruizer* Libells against the Ship *America* being a Vessell of the burthen of One hundred and thirty Tons or thereabouts, and against all the Owners and other parties concerned therein. For that the said Vessell was by the said Francis Parry found out and detected in a breach of the Acts of Trade, having on board three Hhds of foreign Rum as well as Sundry other Goods contrary to Law and also for that the said Ship *America* is become forfeited in Consequence of a late Act of Parliament made in the Second Session of the fourteenth Parliament of Great Britain and was taken since the first day of January last past Whereby the said Vessel or Ship called the *America* with all her Tackle, furniture, Boats and Apparel together with all her Cargo or Lading and every thing on board of her are become forfeited in Law.

Filed upon the Motion of Mr Macknight

W^m Campbell Register

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/3680.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Experiment*, DATED ENGLISH HARBOUR, IN ANTIGUA, APRIL I.” ¹

We arrived here the 17th of January, after a long and tedious Passage. . . . We took three Prizes off the Western Islands, and sent them to England. . . . We took a rich Ship on the Coast of America, called the *Two Brothers*, from Rhode Island, laden with Flour and Spermaceti Candles. We sold her here for 6500 l The *Hawke* and *Viper* are put in here dismasted, being blown off the Coast of America, with twenty four Transports, with Stores and Provisions for the Troops at Boston, all dismasted. We are all now refitted, and shall sail again for Boston in a few Days, and hope to pick up some more Prizes.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, June 7, 1776.

2 Apr.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] Tuesday April 2, 1776

Whereas one John Rich who was Master of the Sloop *Success* and sent to this Court by the Comee of Safety of Majorbagaduce for supplying the Enemy in Boston some time past with Provisions or necessarys for their Subsistance, The facts appearing by the depositions & papers attending said

Rich to be true. Therefore Resolved that the said Rich be committed to some Goal in this Colony which the Council shall direct till the further order of this Court, upon failure of his giving Bond with Sureties agreeable to a former Resolve of this Court.

In Council Read and Concurred & thereupon

Ordered that the said Rich be sent to the Goal at Ipswich

The Committee of both Houses appointed to enquire of Monsieur Le Baron de Woldcke Chavelier del' Order de St Jean de Jerusalem & de Malta – relative to the design the Captain in whose Vessel he came, had of going into Boston &c. Report, that from the Account Le Baron gave of the matter there was reason to suppose the Frenchman designed to go into Boston with his Cargo, but upon his being heard in his own Justification, and evidence given by Capt Folgier who left the West Indies but a few days before him, the Comee were of Opinion that on the whole it was best to give him up his Papers & admit him to sell his Cargo – The Committee are further of Opinion that the Honble James Otis Esqr before whom Le Baron was Examined, and by whom he was forwarded to the Council, had great reason to suppose that the Master had formed a design of going into Boston, that his Honors Conduct herein merits applause, and that the account of the Expences he laid before the Committee of Accots for Examination & allowance [be paid] –

Petition of Caleb Green for and in behalf, of John Akin Joseph Russell, Henry Wait, John Barrow, Willm Taylor and Walter Wood – setting forth that the said John Akin as master of the Sloop *Greyhound*, and the sd Russell, Wait, Barrow, Taylor, & Wood, as mate & Marriners sailed some time in March last in the Colony Service for Philadelphia; that on the Twenty seventh or Twenty Eighth day of March being on their return from Philadelphia they were taken by One of the Tenders, belonging to the King of Great Britain, that One Wallace the Capt of the Tender is ready to Exchange the said Capt & Marriners for as many Prisoners being delivered to him, and he threatens unless a speedy exchange is made to send the said Master & Marriners to Great Britain. Wherefore your Petitioner for and in behalf of the Master & Marriners humbly prays that the Honle Court would order an Exchange of Prisoners, that thereby the said master & Marriners may not be put to any further hardship & damage. –

Resolved that Caleb Green the within Petitioner, be allowed to receive of the Prison Keeper of Taunton, Six persons who have been taken from the Navy under the command of One Capt Wallis ² now in Newport – The said Caleb giving his Bond to the Sheriff of the County of Bristol, to & for the use of this Colony in the Penal Sum of One hundred pounds, Condition'd that in Case he shall not exchange the Prisoners as aforesaid whom he shall receive for the above, John, Joseph, Henry, John, Taylor & Wood, he will return the Prisoners whom he shall receive for the above Persons to the Prison Keeper in sd Taunton within fourteen days from the time he shall receive sd Prisoners, and the keeper of said Prison is hereby directed to con-

form himself according to this Order, provided the said Caleb Green shall give Security as above directed. —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 708, 709, 710–11.

2. Captain James Wallace, H.M.S. *Rose*. The capture of the *Greyhound* is recorded in Shulldham's prize list of April 24, 1776. It was probably made by Wallace's nephew in the tender *Hawke*.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO RICHARD FISHER¹

Memo

In Case of Separation by any unavoidable Accident you are to make the best of your way to Halifax in Nova Scotia
Rose 2d April 1776 [off Newport].

Ja^s Wallace

To Mr Richard Fisher Not to be Open'd But in Case
of Separation from the *Rose* then may be Open'd

[Cargo list]	flour	Beef	Pork	Spirit
	294	— 21	— 42	7.3.1

*Hannah*²

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 299.

2. The sloop *Hannah* had been taken in Narragansett Bay in late March by Wallace's squadron. The above memo was found on board when a dozen men from Mount Desert retook the sloop on its way to Halifax. See under April 15, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Lebanon Tuesday,] April 2d, 1776

Voted, That an order be drawn on the Pay-Table for three hundred and fifty pounds, in favour of Captain Uriah Hayden, to enable him to carry on the building of the Colony ship at Saybrook, and render his account when required. *The order was drawn April 2d, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Ephm Bill for £ 350.*

Voted, That an order be drawn on the Pay-Table for two hundred pounds, in favour of Capt. Ephraim Bill, to enable him to promote the building and rigging the Colony ship at Saybrook, and render his account when required. *The order was drawn April 2d, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Ephm Bill for £ 200.*

Voted, That Capt. Richard Dickinson of Saybrook be ordered to deliver up the several articles in his hands and custody that did belong to the brig *Minerva*, lately commanded by Capt. Giles Hall, to Capt. Ephraim Bill, taking his receipt for the same when delivered. *An order was given accordingly April 2d, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Bill*

Capt. Seth Harding, of the Colony brig *Defence*, was complained of to this Board for being guilty of intemperance, upon which he appeared, and the evidence on both sides were fully heard and considered by his Honor the Governor and this Council, but cannot find cause to remove him.

Voted, That Mr. James Tilly be desired to purchase two tons of flax for the use of the Colony ship, for cordage.

Voted, That Capt. John McCleave is appointed Captain of the row-gal-

ley *Whiting*, building in New Haven, and that he take the charge and command of her accordingly.

Voted, That Israel Bishop is appointed Lieutenant of the row-galley *Whiting*, now building in New Haven.

Voted to draw on the Pay-Table in favour of Mr. Job Winslow, for three hundred pounds, for the purpose of building the row-galley at East Hadam. *An order was drawn April 2d, 1776, and delivered to Mr. Job Winslow for £ 300.*

Voted to draw on the Pay-Table, in favour of Capt. Jonathan Lester, for two hundred pounds for the purpose of building the row-galley at Norwich. *An order was drawn April 2d, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Lester for £ 200.*

Voted, That Capt. Josiah Burnham of Lyme is appointed Master of the brig *Defence*, under command of Capt. Harding.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 257-58.

ORDER ON THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF THE PAY TABLE ¹

Lebanon April 2d 1776

Draw on the Colony Treasurer for the Sum of two Hundred Pounds Lawful Money in Favour of Capt Jonathan Lester to Enable him to Carry on the Building the Row Galley in Norwich, ² and Render his Account when Required

By Order of the Govr & Council of Safety ³

Benj Huntington Clerk P.T.

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, Row Galley Papers, 13a, ConnSL.

2. The galley *Shark*.

3. *Ibid.*, 14a, a similar order for £300 was drawn the same day in favor of Job Winslow, building the galley *Crane* at East Haddon, and another order in favor of Jonathan Lester was drawn April 9th for the *Shark*.

ORDERS ON THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF THE PAY TABLE FOR BUILDING SHIP *Oliver Cromwell* ¹

Lebanon April 2d 1776

Draw on the Colony Treasurer for the Sum of three Hundred and fifty Pounds Lawful Money in favour of Capt Uriah Hayden of Say Brook to Enable him to Carry on the Building of the Colony Ship at Say Brook and Render his Account thereof.

Pr Order the Govr & Council of Safety

Attest Benj Huntington Clerk P.T.

£350

April 2d 1776

Draw on the Colony Treasurer for the Sum of two Hundred Pounds Lawful Money in Favour of Capt Ephraim Bill ² to Enable him to Promote

the Building and Rigging the Colony Ship at Haydens Yard in Say Brook and Render his Account when Required.

Pr Order the Govr & Council of Safety

£ 200

Attest Benj Huntington Clerk P.T.

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 113-16, ConnSL.

2. Captain Bill supplied the rigging for the *Oliver Cromwell*.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Albany April 2d 1776

General [John] Thomas arrived here on Thursday [March 28], and will move in a very few Days – As the Season is so far advanced that it might be possible for the Enemy to reinforce Quebec before he could reach it, unless he goes by Water, we have both concluded that it will be most prudent to take as many Batteaus as may be necessary to convey the Troops, Baggage, Artillery and Stores down the Sorrel and St Lawrence: besides the Dispatch which this will give, it will relieve the Men from the almost insuperable Fatigue of a March of two hundred Miles, in roads that will be extremely deep, and also save the heavy Expence of the Land Transportation, nor can he do without a Number of Batteaus in the St Lawrence to bring provisions from Chamblé – For all this Service about seventy Batteaus may suffice, and we shall then have about an equal Number left in the Lakes: a Number much too small, under the Situation that our Affairs will in all probability soon be in, in Canada – . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 75-78, NA.

COLONEL GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN TO REV. JOSEPH FISK ¹

[New York] April 2d

9 P.M. A Large Ship arrived in the Harbour this Evening what she is I cant yet learn, she appears like a Ship of Warr, the *Asia* is here yet but both of them lay so far below the Town that they are out of Gun Shot and give us no Trouble as yet; the *Phoenix* is still at the Hook. The Town is almost deserted by the Inhabitants so that there is a great Plenty of empty Houses into which the Officers & Soldiers are put; I am myself with my Field Officers, & Billy (for I could not get him back again unless I absolutely commanded it) ² genteely provided for; when I shall be dismist I cant tell but it is generally supposed that it will be within a Week; but this is very uncertain for if the Ministerial Fleet should come this Way I suppose we must be kept here untill a Trial of Strength is made; Two or three Delegates from Congress are here on their Way to Canada together with a Prussian General who is going to serve there; ³ . . .

1. Silliman Papers, YUL. Continuation of letter of the previous day.

2. His son.

3. The Commissioners for Canada, Samuel Chase, Benjamin Franklin and Charles Carroll of Carrollton were accompanied by the Baron Frederick Wilhelm de Woedtke.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Martis, A.M.

April 2d, 1776.

The Honourable Hugh Wallace, being requested by some of the inhabitants to go on board the ships of war in this harbour, to use his influence with the commanders relative to their vessels seized by the ships of war;

Ordered, That the Honourable Hugh Wallace, be and he is hereby permitted to go on board His Majesty's ships of war in this harbour.

Ordered, That the port master be permitted to take with him on board the Governor's ship, for the use of the said ship, one box candles, one spar for a main yard, two galls. lamp oil, 56 lb. rosin, two galls. paint oil, 3 kegs lampblack, 1 cat block, 1 keg sugar, 2 kegs bread, 1 pr. slings, one small case of wine, one small box clothes and 1 box books for Mr. Barrow, six qrs beef for the *Phoenix*, 8 qrs beef and 1 mutton for the *Asia*, 1 qr. veal and 1 of pork for the Governor.

A draft of a letter to the Provincial Congress of New-Jersey requesting them to recommend sending speedy supplies to this market, was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

Sir - As the ships of war in our harbour are daily committing acts of piracy and depredation on vessels and property of the inhabitants of the United Colonies, we apprehend orders will soon issue for stopping all farther supplies to them. As such an event will also stop the intercourse by water between your colony and us, we think it advisable that you immediately recommend to all persons supplying this Colony with any kind of necessaries to be as speedy as possible in sending their articles to this market, especially hay and fuel, as a great number of horses are daily expected from the eastward.

We are, sir, [&c.]

By order.

To Saml. Tucker, Esqr.

President of the Provincial Congress, New Jersey

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and transmitted.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 396, 397.

LETTER OF AGENCY OF OFFICERS AND CREW OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus* ¹

No 43 Know all men by these presents That We who have hereunto Set our hand, and Seals, being the officers, mariners and others or the Major Part of them now belonging to his Majestys Sloop *Nautilus* Have constituted and appointed Alexander Brymer Esqr to be our true and Lawfull attorney and Agent for us and in our Names and room to Solicit, Transact, Sell and take care of all our concern and Interest in the sloop *John* & Cargo, and Cargo Saved from the Schooner *Hannah*, also the sloop *Hampden* and Furniture thereof. Giving and hereby granting to our said attorney and agent our full Power and authority in the Premisses for

Inventorying condemning and Selling the said Prize the Cargos and apparel and Furniture thereof and for receiving the money arising therefrom and any other money whatsoever to which we are or Shall be Intitled as aforesaid and afterwards to make Distribution of the Neet Proceeds thereof to us or to Persons having Lawfull authority from us.

The said Alexander Brymer first to deduct all his expences and Charges in & about the Premisses, and for the care Pains and trouble to be allowed what is Customary to Agents on the like Occassion In Witness whereof we have hereunto Set our hands and seals on Board his Majesty's sloop *Nautilus* off New York the Second day of April one thousand seven hundred and seventy six & in the seventeenth year of our sovereign Lord George the third King of great Britain France and Ireland &c

Jn ^o Collins Captain	H Forbet Surgeon
Jn ^o P. Rackford Leut	Jam ^s Hardy Mate
G Hire Master	Jn ^o McKinley Mids
W Cosway Gunnr	Joseph Taber Qr Master
Jam ^s Johnson Carp ^{tr}	Thomas Red Qr Mastr
[blank] Pilot	Thomas Harris Sail maker
George Keppel Mids	John Young Sur Mate

[Signed by thirty-five other mariners and marines]

[Endorsed]

City of New York ss

Be is remembered that on the seventh day of December 1777, Personally came and appeared before me David Mathews Esqr Major of the City of New York George Hire and Robert Pearson and made Oath on the Holy Evangelist, That they were present & saw the several Persons whose Names are affixed to the foregoing Power of attorney Sign Seal and deliver the same as their Voluntary act and Deed -

D Mathews

[Second endorsement] Received and Registered 19th February 1778.

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

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, April 2, 1776

The committee appointed to prepare the form of a commission, and instructions to commanders of private ships of war, brought in the same, which were read.

The commission, being agreed to, is as follows:

Commission

The delegates of the United Colonies of New Hampshire, &c. to all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting: Know ye, that we have granted, and, by these presents, do grant license and authority to [blank] mariner, commander of the [blank] called [blank] of the burthen of [blank] tons, or thereabouts, belonging to [blank] of [blank] in the colony of [blank] mount-

ing [blank] carriage guns, and navigated by [blank] men, to fit out and set forth the said [blank] in a warlike manner, and by and with the said [blank] and the crew thereof, by force of arms, to attack, seize and take the ships and other vessels belonging to the inhabitants of Great Britain, or any of them, with their tackle, apparel, furniture, and ladings, on the high seas, or between high water and low water marks, and to bring the same to some convenient ports in the said colonies, in order that the courts which are or shall be there appointed to hear and determine causes, civil and maritime, may proceed, in due form, to condemn the said captures, if they be adjudged lawful prize; the said [blank] having given bond, with sufficient sureties, that nothing be done by the said [blank] or any of the officers, mariners, or company thereof, contrary to, or inconsistent with the usages and customs of nations, and the instructions, a copy of which is herewith delivered to him. And we will and require all our officers whatsoever to give succour and assistance to the said [blank] in the premises. This commission shall continue in force until the Congress shall issue orders to the contrary.

By order of the Congress

Attest

President.

The Congress then took into consideration the draught of instructions; and, after some time spent thereon,

Resolved, That it be recommitted, and that it be an instruction to the committee, to fill up the blanks in said instructions as they shall think best.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 247-48.

SILAS DEANE TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

Dr Sir

Philadelphia April 2d 1776

Considering it will soon be if it is not already Necessary to appoint Commanders for the Continental Frigates, and sensible how much depends on having the best in the different Colonies as well on Acct of their Courage & experience, as on their Abilities Skill & Judgment in Maritime Affairs, I take Liberty to Nominate those in Connecticut who I am confident deserve the preference to any in That Colony being well acquainted with the Gentlemen, who have followed the Sea for the last Fifteen years, and I do it the rather as I know that the Gentlemen Delegates from the Colony are not so immediately acquainted with them – as I nominate without any Sollicitation I do it disinterestedly – Captn John Deshon of New London, is an experienced Seaman, a Man of Temper, firmness, who carries good Command and is well beloved by Seamen as well as higher Orders of People in the Colony – Capt Ebr Whiting of Norwich, served if I mistake not, as a Major in the Land Forces of Rhode Island last Warr (then young) since which he has been Master of a Vessel, & much approved of, he is possessed of a Military Genius, I may almost say hereditarily, as Govr Hopkins well knows, his Reputation for Courage, as well as skill & ability in Naval Operations is good, as well as his Family & Connections which might be of service in procuring Seamen &c – Capt Jeremiah Wadsworth of Hartford is a Young Gen-

tleman of abt 28 Yrs of Age, a very able, experienced & judicious Seaman, of good Genius, good Education, & has much resolution, address & at the same Time Oeconomy in dispatching the Business he undertakes, as any Man I was ever acquainted with in my Life, and is as highly esteemed in the Colony as any Man of his Age, in whatever Rank the others May be Capt Wm Griswould of Wethersfield has had long experience at Sea & commanded a Shipp of 20 Gunns In the Turk[e]y or Levant Trade to which Command he raised himself by service, having Neither [Posit]ion or Money to assist him, supposing he had made sufficient to Live on, he returned a few years since to his Native spot in Wethersfd he is abt 40 Years of Age & very Active & I believe from some late unfortunate incidents in Trade would be willing to be employed – Capt Jno Cotton of Middletown has followed the Sea from his infancy (as I may say) has sailed in Mr [John] Alsops employ who knows him well, & I refer to him for his Character, he has served formerly as an inferior Officer in the Navy, & last Warr in a privataer – Captn Saml Chew of N Haven I have heard a good Character of, I know him to be a very active Man, and that he has had a good Opperty for Experience – Capt Seth Hardin[g] & Capt Robert Niles both of Norwich I should have mentioned particularly but I have heard they were in the Colony employ – I have Mentioned those most like to answer the expectations of the public, in that Colony, as Captains or Commanders of any one of the Frigates. I have neither Interest in or Connection with one, more than another, I have a right therefore to say that I am confident, that if either Whiting, or Wadsworth, are appointed they will answer the expectation of the public – give me leave to suggest as No Time ought to be lost it would be well to submit the recommendation of inferior Officers to Gentlemen of Character in the Colony – I directed my Brother, who superintends the Building of the shipp in Connecticut² to submit all his Accts & proceedgs to a Commee at Middletown, these were Messrs Richd Alsop, Philip Mortimer, Titus Hosmer, G. Phillips & Co[mfort] Sage – I can only say, should any such Measure be adopted, you may Rely on the Recommendation of these Gentlemen who are persons of first Character, & who will not disappoint you – whereas attending to Casual Lettrs of Recommendns will I apprehend be liable at least to be very prejudicial to the Cause & perhaps have the disagreeable effect of disgusting the people when the Men are to be raised³ – I trust I shall be excused my Freedom, when you recollect, that a Naval Armament, has from the first been my favorite Object I am Dr Sir [&c.]

Silas Deane

1. FDRL.

2. Barnabas Deane, superintendent for building the Continental frigate in Connecticut, subsequently to be named the *Trumbull*.

3. Robert Morris was a member of the Marine Committee and consequently a logical person to be addressed by Deane on the subject of appointment of naval officers.

MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE MARYLAND
COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Phila 2d April 1776

. . . We shall be obliged to you if you will cause Affidavits to be made and transmitted to us of the Time of the Capture & Recapture of Hudson's Ship that we may get the Salvage, the Quantum of which depends on the Time she was in possession of the Tender, ascertained and paid. we are desired to let the Claim which we made of Salvage rest till the Event of another Effort was known. we hope the Ship is now out of the Bay.

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

My Dear Sir,

Philadelphia 2d April 1776.

Your favor of the 19th March I rec'd yesterday. I heartily rejoice at the arrival of the two powder vessels, but you don't tell me where they are from, what news they bring, what is become of the other vessels &c. What think you of the retreat of the Barbarians from Boston – it will be a pretty story to tell their master. What's the general opinion with you of the notable commissioners that are coming over. I hope either Col. Bartlett, or you will be here to receive their Low Mightnesses. Some people here (I mean out of doors) are for shutting them up the moment they land: however, I hope they will be treated with civility and sent back with a flea in the ear, for I cannot possibly think they are commissioned for any good, nor can I yet realize their coming.

There is a forty gun ship now laying at the Capes: ² the brig *Lexington* went down before we heard of her being there. We have now a ship fitting out that will go down in a few days: ³ these vessels were intended to clear the coast of the tenders that are so troublesome.

Admiral Hopkins was at New Providence the 4th inst where he finds a great number of cannon, say 200 and a large quantity of ball, but they had sent off all their powder except 16 barrels: he'll take all the military Stores.

The North Carolina people have taken 1800 stand of arms from the rebels there and found a chest of money in a stable, said to contain £ 15,000 Sterg. I hope Hopkins will give a good account of Dunmore, [Lord William] Campbell, or [Josiah] Martin, or all of them before he returns.

I hope you'll be able to get your anchors at Boston – don't know where the guns will come from, but suppose from Providence where they are casting cannon with Success – just heard of the arrival of a considerable quantity of duck at Rhode Island: the ships building there, and at Newbury are supplied, so I imagine you may be supplied from thence – there is about 4½ tons powder lately arrived at Rhode Island and about the same quantity in Virginia, – the mills going on briskly so I hope we shall be well supplied with that article – Several large quantities which were expected, it's to be feared have fallen into the enemy's hands.

Tell Dr Brackett to write to me and let me know how the politics of

Portsmouth stand: can they yet reconcile themselves to that illustrious stranger that was so much feared.⁴ *Common Sense* has made all the Southern Colonies his friend, and I hope the Northern Colonies will soon open their arms to receive him. It's my opinion under the rose that the salvation of America depends on him – more of that hereafter

Your assured friend &
W^m Whipple.

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, I, 105–06, LC.
2. The 44 gun ship *Roebuck*.
3. The Continental ship *Reprisal*.
4. Independence.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 2nd April, 1776.

Upon application of John M. Nesbitt, Esq'r, for a sum of Money for the payment of the Wages of the Officers & Men employed in the Naval Armaments of this Province, By order of the Board, an order was drawn on Michael Hillegas, Esq'r, in favour of said Nesbitt, for two thousand pounds.

At a Special Meeting this Evening.

Resolved, That Mr. Nixon, Mr. Mease & Mr. Roberdeau, be desired to look out for a small Vessel, proper to fit out as a cruiser in the Bay of Delaware against the Ministerial armed Tenders now obstructing the Commerce of this Province, and that they make Report of their proceedings as soon as possible to this Board.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 533, 534.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK ¹

Remarks on Tuesday April 2. 1776

at 6 A M Made Sail Sat B T:S:

at 8 saw the Land Baring W.N.W.

- 12 Dist about 4 miles Which is Cape [blurred]² Cloudy Thick Weather
Lattd. Obs 38. 55 No

[P.M.] Thick heazy Weather Came on Bord the pilot got out the gib Boom & Sat the filingen gibb Eag Island Bars N N W Dist 2 miles
at 1 P M ankered aBrest of Reidy island

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.
2. Probably Cape May.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee on Monday [sic]

2 April 1776

Application being made by Mr Hugh Young for Liberty to load his Schooner *Peggy* with the Produce of the Province the same was granted, in consequence of an Order of the Honl Council of Safety –

The Committee having recieved Directions from the Council of Safety to suspend all further Proceedings relative to the Schooner *Resolution*, Orders are given to Messrs Robt Purviance, David Stewart, & George Woolsey, to desist from the same, untill further Orders – ²

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

2. The Council of Safety on March 8, had ordered the *Resolution* to be fitted out as a tender for the Maryland ship *Defence*.

WILLIAM LUX, BALTIMORE COMMITTEE, TO THE MARYLAND
COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen.

Baltimore 2 April 1776.

The Bearer Jno Henderson came from Point Comfort in an Oyster Boat & another Vessell with Corn and having no Permit from any Committee in Virginia we have detained his Boat agreeable to your Order, until he produces one; He thinks it necessary to make application to your Honorable Board for a Release and has desired a line from our Committee to inform you of his situation.

P Order of the Committee I am Gentn [&c.]

Will^m Lux Depy Chm

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

RECEIPT RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

[Baltimore]

Recd Apl 2d 1776 of Capt James Nicholson On Accot Ship *Defence* four pounds ten Shills for one Months Advance to John Cookson as sail-Maker of sd Ship which I promise to refund provided sd Cookson Should leave the Ship before the Expiration One Month

£ 4.10.0

William Jacob

1. Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, MdHS.

JOHN DALTON TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER ¹

[Extract]

Alexandria April 2. 1776

We find it difficult the fitting out the Cruising Vessels here. the scarcity of sail Duck & proper sized Cannon plague us much in getting – indeed am apprehensive we shall not be able, to procure light Duck for the small sails and must endeavour to make up the defeciency from old sails rather than none –

The two Row Gallies goes on very well and will Soon be built, though am Apprehensive of being at a loss for heavy Cannon. Our Choice would be One 18 poundr the other 24. –

Collo [George] Mason and myself in particular and the Community at large, thought ourselves highly Obliged by the kind indulgence of your Committee of Safety, in lending us Ten barrels powder, it happened Just

As we had got it down, One Ton came from Phila for us, that we imediately returned it in the same order. I am with regard Sir [&c.]

John Dalton.

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

GEORGE MASON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Virginia Gunston Hall April 2d 1776. –

... Large Ventures have been lately made for military Stores; for which Purpose we are now loading a Ship for Europe, with Tobo at Alexandria; her Cargoe is all on float, & I hope to have her under sailing orders in a few Days . . . I have in Conjunction with Mr [John] Dalton, the Charge of providing & equipg arm'd Vessels for the Protection of this River. The thing is new to Me but I must endeavour to improve by Experience. I am much obliged to the Board for joining Mr Dalton with Me: He is a steady diligent Man, & without such Assistance I cou'd not have undertaken it. We are building two Row-Gallies, which are in considerable forwardness; & have purchased three Sloops for Cruisers, two of them, being only from forty to fifty Tons Burthen, are to mount 8 Carriage Guns each, 3 & 4 pounders, they are not yet fitted up, & we are exceedingly puzzled to get Cannon for them; the other, the *American Congress*, is a fine stout Vessel, of about 110 Tons Burthen, & has such an easy draught of Water, as will enable her to run into most of the Creeks, or small Harbours, if she meets wth a Vessel of superior Force: She mounts 14 Carriage Guns 6 & 4 pounders; tho' we have thoughts of mounting two 9 Pounders upon her main Beam, if we find her able, as we think She is, to bear them: her Guns are mounted, & are to be tryed to-morrow. We have twenty Bars of Powder, & about a Ton of Shot ready; more is making; Swivels we have not yet been able to procure, but She may make a tollerable Shift without, 'til they can be furnish'd; we have got some small Arms, & are taking every Method to increase them, & hope to be fully supplied in about a week more, her Company of Marines is raised, & have been for some time exercised to the Use of the great Guns; her Compliment of Marines & Sea-men, is to be 96 Men. We are exerting our selves to the utmost, & hope to have her on her Station in less than a Fortnight, & that the other Vessels will quickly follow her, and be able to protect the Inhabitants of this River from the piratical Attempts of all the Enemies Cutters Tendérs & small Craft. –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

No 2

Ship *Dunmore* in Elizabeth River Virginia,

Duplicate

2d April 1776.

My Lord The Packet not yet being Sailed on account of the Wind, and Lieutenant Ordd [John Orde], of his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck*, having brought in two small Vessels, one of which is from St Nicola Mole, bound to Philadelphia, in which were three French Men, two of the three were

Officers in the French Army, one of them Monsieur de la Bussiere, says his only reason for wishing to go to Philadelphia was on Account of his health, which may be true; He had however about him the letters No 1, to Mr Hancock, and his discharge No 2. The other Officer acknowledged to me, his Intention was to go into the Service of the Rebels, of which were it requisite the inclosed (No 3) is a very Sufficient proof as it is wrote by his own hand. The other was Supercargo in the Vessel, and had a large Quantity of Molasses and Coffee on board. I have sent the three by the Packet for your Lordship to dispose of as you shall think proper. I beg leave to inform your Lordship, that either two or three Vessels (one of which was a French one, and navigated by French Men) loaded with Powder had Sailed, a Short time before the Schooner left the Mole; all bound to Philadelphia; but I make no doubt Captain Hamond who is now in the River Delaware, will give a good Account of them; Sure I am he won't fail for want of Zeal. I am [&c.]

Dunmore

[Endorsed] No Inclosures recd with this Duplicate

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353, 769-72.

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

April 1776 Oak Island the Entrance of Cape Fear River NEBE
4 Leags

Monday 1 at 10 AM spoke his Maj's Sloop *Falcon*
Fresh breezes and Clear the first part Latter strong Gales with
thunder & Lightning
at 1 P M fired a gun & md the Signl for a pilot
at 2 Do Came on Bd a pilot at 1/2 past 2 P M Cross'd C Fear
barr in 2 1/2 fm at 3 Do Came too in 5 fm water Fort
Johns[t]on No 1/2 a mile found here his Maj's Ship *Syren*
Mercury & *cruizer* sloop with several mercht men at 5 weigh'd
and came to sail up the River at 6 Came too off brunswick
with the best Br in 4 1/2 fm & Veer'd to 1/4 cable the Church
W B S a mile found Ridding here his Maj Sloop *Scorpion* and
3 transports

Tuesday 2 at 5 AM weigh'd and came to Sail Running down the River at
8 Came too in 5 fm water Fort Johnstone N 1/2 Wt 1/2 mile
Deep water point NE 1/2 N

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Tuesday the 2d Day of April. 1776

A Bill for the more effectual Prevention of the Desertion of the Soldiers
or Sailors in the Service of this Colony and for the Punishment of those
who shall harbour or conceal them was read a First Time

Resolved That the Bill be read a Second Time

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 25, 26.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL OF SAFETY, OF GEORGIA, TO THE COUNCIL OF SAFETY OF THIS COLONY [SOUTH CAROLINA] DATED APRIL 2, 1776.”¹

Finding that the Houses on Great Tybee Island afforded comfortable Shelter for the King's Officers and Tory Refugees, we resolved to send a Detachment of Men there, to destroy them, and to rout the Tories and others who were there, although, from the Situation of the Islands, and the Creek which leads to the Back of it, and others which surround it, the Attempt would be attended with the most imminent Danger. Accordingly, Col. [Archibald] Bullock, with a Party of Men, composed of Detachments from Capt. Baker's Riflemen, Capt. Bryan's Light Infantry, Capt. Martin's Volunteers, Capt. Cuthbert's Fusileers, and a Company of Creek Indians, went down upon the Island, killed two Marines, one Tory who would not surrender, and took one Marine and several Tories Prisoners; burnt all the Houses except one, in which was a sick Woman and several Children, and returned safe. In doing this they were exceedingly exposed on the Beach to the Fire of the *Cherokee* and an armed Sloop, which incessantly fired Ball and Grape Shot during the whole Time of the Attack. Upon this Occasion, our Officers and Men seemed animated with that Zeal and Courage which always appear conspicuous among People contending for their Liberty. We have since learned that a Difference among the Officers of the Ships of War to the Mode of Attack, protracted their Determination till it was too late to attempt it.

1. *South Carolina and American General Gazette*, April 10 to April 17, 1776.

3 Apr.

Nova-Scotia Gazette, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1776

Halifax, April 3

The first division of the Fleet and Transports from Boston (containing chiefly the Inhabitants,&c.) arrived here yesterday, after a passage of only six days, and the second division (containing the Troops) arrived this day, after a passage of only four days. They have little or no provisions, nor can this place supply them with any; neither are there conveniences on shore for this unexpected body of people.

It is fortunate for the King's Troops that the Provincials did not attack this place last summer, which they certainly intended; but General [Jedediah] Preble, who was to have commanded the expedition, and had actually embarked on thousand five hundred New-England Troops in a large number of Marblehead Schooners for that purpose, hearing that the small-pox was very prevalent here at that time, the scheme was laid aside. The New-England people are incredibly afraid of the small-pox.¹

1. A highly exaggerated account of a proposed invasion which Washington refused to approve. There was no embarkation of any troops for Nova Scotia.

PETITION OF CHARLES CHAUNCEY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

To the Honble the Council of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay
the Petition of Chas Chauncey Humbly shews —

That your Petitioner being convinced that the Inhabitants in the County of York, must in a short time be reduced to great difficulty by reason of the scarcity of salt, and having been requested by many of sd Inhabitants to send a Vessel after that Article Your Petitioner prays your Honors to grant Him a Permit for the Brigt called the *Hope* Joseph Adams Master to proceed to Tortuga, or some other Foreign Port with a load of Lumber, or hard money sufficient to procure a load of salt, & return to Piscataway — and Your respectful Petitioner as in duty bound prays &c

Chas Chauncey

Watertown April 3d 1776 —

[Endorsed] In Council April 3d 1776 Read & ordered that the Prayer of the above Petition be granted, & that a Permit be made out accordingly —

Perez Morton D Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 286, NA Photocopy.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday April 3d 1776

The Committee of both Houses appointed to lay before this Court a Sketch of the Harbour of Boston, and examine and report particularly the number of Passages there are for Ships into the same &c. have attended the business assigned them; and report the Sketch of the Harbour of Boston herewith, and the following Answers to the Questions proposed in our Commission. —

“How many Passages are there for Ships into the harbour of Boston, and what distance are they from the Capital.”

Strictly speaking there are but three — The northermost between pulling Point and the North End of Deer Island a narrow and very crooked Channel, running on the back of Apple Island: seldom used, except by Fishing Vessels and light Coasters; this Passage is about Four miles from Boston. The next is the Ship Channel, which leads from the Light House through the Narrows, and enters the harbour between the East head of Long Island and the South point of Deer Island (here the Passage in at Brawd Sound unites with this) and is about five miles from Boston. The other leads from the light House, South of Georges Island thro' Nantasket Road, and runs between Rainsfords Island and Long Island, and enters the Harbour between the West Head of Long Island, and the East Head of the Moon, so called, this is about the same distance from Boston.

“What is the depth of the Water in, and the Width of the Channel at each Passage, the heighth of the Land adjoining, and the distance therefrom to the Opposite side of the Channel. —”

As the Northern Passage is not navigable for the smaller Ships of War, the Committee made no further observations relative to it. — The next is the

Ship Channel, which leads thro' the Narrows (here the Water is about Five Fathoms deep at low Water, width of the channel uncertain, perhaps Fifty Rods, the adjoining lands low) and Enters the Harbour between Long Island, and Deer Island as aforesaid, the width of the Channel at the Entrance about Three quarters of a Mile, the adjoining land on the South Side of the Channel – viz, Long Island, is about Ninety feet high, and little more than three Quarters of a mile to the opposite side of the Channel, depth of Water from Six to Fourteen fathom. The other passage viz – between long Island & the Moon, so called width of the channel about Eighty Rods, depth of the Water Thirteen Feet, the adjoining Land – viz – The Moon ninety four feet high, distance therefrom to the opposite side of the Channel, Three Eighth's of a mile. –

Whether it is necessary to the best good of the Colony & its Capital, that all the Passages to the Town of Boston should be continued open, and what are the advantages and what are the disadvantages which will result from stopping either – and which if any ought to be stopped –

Your Committee are of opinion that it is not necessary to the best good of the Colony or the Capital thereof, that all the Passages thereto should be kept open, for if the Passage at the Narrows only is Stopped, or the depth of Water reduced, there will be sufficient Passages left open for all Merchant Ships – As at it hath been affirmed by Persons skilled in Military and maritime affairs, that a Fleet of Ships with a leading Gale of Wind, and Flood Tide, pass with so great Velocity as to run little or no Hazard in passing by a Strong Fortification, as was experienced at Quebec in the Course of the last war – If so it seems to be as necessary to reduce the depth of Water in the Narrows, as it is to Fortify the Island, or any other Places; because it is there only that Capital Ships of War can pass, and therefore there, above all other places as it is easiest Effected, their Efforts to enter the Harbour should be effectually obstructed. –

“Where can Fortifications be erected most easily to resist the Enemy in their attempts to enter the harbour aforesaid – [”]

On the East Head of Long Island, and on the Island called the Moon, on the east head thereof, and on the East Head of Pettick's Island, with necessary redoubts –

Can a communication be kept up between said Posts and the Main in case of a Seige, and are they commanded by any neighbouring hills – ”

Redoubts & Block Houses on the eminences of Long Island, one of which is the only neighbouring Hill that commands the East Head thereof with proper covered ways from One to the other, will secure a retreat to the moon, which communicates with Squantum Neck at low water almost dry Shod. The Post on the East Head of the Moon, so called, is not commanded by any Neighbouring Hill. Pettick's Island is so near the town of Hull that a safe retreat to it is covered by the Guns of the Proposed Fort thereon; besides they may retreat the Length of the Island to the Town of Braintree, this Point is commanded only by a Hill on the same Island, and a Garrison there may be supplied with Water, and a retreat be secured from it by some redoubts &c. –

“Whether at all times these Posts can be supplied with water –”

No doubt but they may, as there appears to be springs of Fresh Water on all those islands. –

Your Committee beg leave further to suggest, that in case it should be thought proper to reduce the depth of Water in the Channel at the narrows, and Erect a Fortification on the East Head of Long Island, it would be difficult, if not impossible, for the Enemy to remove the Obstruction in the Narrows, as it is open to the Fire from such Fortification – That if the Narrows are stopped the capital Ships can have no safe Harbour above the Light House, below it they can't ride, save that to the Westward of George's Island, called Nantaskett Road, which may at all times be commanded by a Battery on the East Head of Pettick's Island. –

That the passage in by the way of Broad Sound so called is very difficult navigation but that there is, as your Committee are informed, four fathom of Water; it is possible that Vessels between the size of frigates & what are called Capital Ships, altho' they never have attempted; yet in case the Narrows should be stopped, may in future attempt to pass to the Capital that way, therefore as the Channel is very narrow between what is called the middle Ground and Castle Island, whether it would not be best to reduce the depth of Water there also –

That besides those Posts abovementioned, there are many others which may be fortified with small expence, and will promote the General design of securing the Harbour aforesaid, and the Neighbouring Towns.

Benjn Lincoln, per Order

[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives – Read, & Majr [Joseph] Hawley Mr [James] Sullivan, Mr Nichols, Mr [Samuel] Phillips and Colo [Azor] Orne, with such as the Honble Board shall join, be a Committee to consider the same, and the Sketch of the Harbour of Boston accompanying, and report what places they apprehend are proper to fortify without delay –

In Council Read and Concurred and John Whetcomb, Benjamin Lincoln, Joseph Palmer and Moses Gill Esqrs, are joined –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 714–17.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

[Watertown] April 3, 1776.

No news since I wrote the above,² only that the [British] fleet have steered eastward, and one of the Tory sloops is ashore on Cape Cod with a large quantity of English goods, and Black Jolly Allen and some other Tories.³ We have had a false alarm from Newport. I recollect nothing else . . . Your ships I fear will, when done, wait for men. It will take time to enlist them.⁴

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 219–20.

2. This is a postscript to a letter begun March 30, 1776.

3. See petition of Selectmen of Provincetown, April 3, 1776.

4. Warren may have been referring to the whole program for building thirteen frigates, or he may have meant only the two under construction at Newburyport.



General Benjamin Lincoln.

MAJOR JOSEPH WARD TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Boston 3 April 1776 -

Sir As the Ships of War now building in this and the other Colonies for Continental Service will want Commanders, who will I conclude be appointed by Congress, I beg leave to mention to you a Capt [Gustavus] Fellows, late of Boston, who was bred to the Sea and is recommended as a very good Man for a Command[er] and I have been desired to mention him to you. He appears to me to be a Man of activity & Spirit, a clear head & an enterprizing genius; he is about forty years old, has used the London trade, West Indies &c. been many years Master of a Ship and successful in his Business. Perhaps you may know him much better than I do. I have nothing in view but the public Service, and never will recommend a Man from any other motive.

I have just been informed that the Congress have given leave to the American Ships of War to make prizes of all British Vessels. I take this to be a leading step to Independency, anything short of which is trifling (in my humble opinion) and unworthy of America.

I beg leave to propose a Question for your deep consideration, viz, If the Americans unite in an independent Commonwealth, offer a free trade to all Nations except Britain & her dependences, & make an American Law That no Person or Persons belonging to Britain or to her dependences shall be permitted to have any trade or intercourse with America, until Britain has made satisfaction for the injuries & losses sustained by this War - would she not be finally obliged to comply with this just requisition? -

I conceive that Britain cannot support her superiority over her natural Enemies, at Sea, without a large share of the American commerce, which she ever will have so long as a harmony subsists between the two Countries, if we are a separate State - and when Britain is convinced, (and time will do it) that her sovereignty & glory on the Seas greatly depends (if not her very being as a Kingdom) on a friendly intercourse with America, she will she must comply with our righteous demands for reparation. -

As a Soldier, I ought to ask pardon for offering my rude sentiments on politicks to a Senator of America - but you will excuse me for turning my thoughts a few moments from the din of Arms to something more civil. I am Sir [&c.]

Joseph Ward ²

P.S. Five Regiments & one Company of the Train of Artillery are to remain here until further orders to fortify the Town & Harbour; all the other remaining Regiments & Companies are to march tomorrow.

Genl Ward is of the opinion that a larger force ought to have been left here, as so great a part of the Army was raised in this Colony. There are now of the Massachusetts eleven Regiments, near a Regiment of the Train, besides Companies of Artificers, &c &c, on their march to assist the other Colonies, with the best Arms, Field pieces &c that have been collected from the several parts of this Colony since the commencement of the

War – besides four Regts are gone to Canada. however I trust we shall be able, by the Smiles of Heaven upon our Arms, to defend our Colony with what is left; and if we should it will reflect honor upon the Massachusetts her sending so formidable an Army to support the United Colonies – and stretching out a powerful Arm to defend her distant Brethren. It will make us respectable among our Sister Colonies, and through the World; and altho' some are very uneasy on account of so large a part of our force being sent out of the Colony, yet for the sake of the many & great advantages which may result from it, I am willi[n]g to risque defending the Colony with the force we have now.

There are yet remaining in Nantasket Road two of the Enemy's Ships of War, and two or three Transports; we are meditating a plan for their removal.

J W

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.
2. Nephew of and aide-de-camp to Major General Artemas Ward.

PETITION OF THE SELECTMEN OF PROVINCETOWN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL COURT ¹

To the Honorable Counsell & Honorable House of Representatives Now
Sitting at water Town!

the petition of the Select men of province Town in Behalf of Said Town
Humbly Sheweth

That on the 28th of march Last a Sloop appering Near the Shore on the Back of Said Town & To be in Distress on going on Bord found her to Be from Boston with 5 men on bord & 25 women & Children in the most mis-[e]rable Condition: It Seams they ware Bound for halafax But Having Neither Seemen or water on Bord they was unable To proceed Their intended Voige & as we have Reason To Beleve them To Be Some of Those Virmin which has Ben So Dstructive To the peace & good order of the Colony we Commenicate their Names to your Honors, Viz Robard Cambell peter Harris patrick treet Dannil wissel & the same Jolly Allin: Late of Boston.² Said Sloops Cargo Consists of House hold goods wairing apparral & Casks of Delph & Glass ware

And we humbly pray your honors to give Such Directions as you Shall Think proper with the peopel Vesail & goods Now in our hands And in Duty Bound Shall Ever pray

Nehemiah Nickerson Stephen Atwood Solomon Cook

Province Town April 3th 1776

The Names of the persons that Arived at this place on bord the Sloop
Sally 28 March 1776

Robert Campbell Master

Peter Harris

Patrick Crout

Danl Wisel wife & Child

Jolley Allen wife and his Seven Children

Sally Bradford Servt maid
 Lilla Coppenger Beloning to mr allens Family
 Mrs Ellener Barrey & her five Children
 Mrs Nancy Crowfoot & Child
 Mrs Joulana James & her Son Jon
 Mrs Dolle Stone
 Mary Barnet
 Elesebeth Wanslow

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 317, 318.

2. "Watertown, April 8, Last Friday se'nnight Capt. Jolly Allen, late a ship-keeper in Boston (with some other tories besides women and children) in a sloop, ran ashore on the back of Cape Cod; thinking he had got into the Harbour of Halifax. This is a valuable prize, being laden with prize goods and some cash," *Boston Gazette*, April 8, 1776.

BILL OF JAMES RICE FOR SUNDRIES SUPPLIED THE CONNECTICUT BRIG
*Defence*¹

The Colony of Connecticut To James Rice		Dr
1776	To Sundrys Supply'd the Brige. <i>Defence</i> (Viz)	
Febry	To 6 wooden Bowls	£ 0..5..3
	" 3 lb Brimstone a 6d 1/3 & 5 lb Flour 7 1/2d	1..10 1/2
24th	" 1 Load Wood 7/. & 1 side Leather 11/11	18..11
26	" 1 Side Leather	12..10
	" Cowtails for the Stink potts	1..6
28	" 1 Erthen plater 10d 12 lb Brimstone a 6d 5/	5..10
March 1st	" 6 lb Brimstone	2..6
2nd	" 12 Scains Marlin 7d	7..-
	" 1092 foot pine Boards 60/	3..5..6
4th	" 29 1/2 lb Leather	1..13..2
	" James Pecks Journey to Stratford	18..2
	" Cash paid for Cutting a load wood	1..-
7th	" Cash paid freight of riging from Newyork as p bill	5..-
9th	" ditto to Peter Heburn as p bill	6..4..6
13	" 194 foot Boards	11..8
15	" 20 lb Leather 1/3	1..5..-
	" Cash paid George King as p bill	1..3..-
20	" ditto to Peter Bontivore	7..10..-
	" ditto to Asa Fuller for freight from Mid- dletown	2..12..-
	" 393 yds Tom Cloath a 1/6	29..9..6
22nd	" 4 Bar[rels] Tarr 20/	4..-..-
	" 173 foot Barge oars 2 1/2	1..16..1 1/4
	" 41 1/2 lb Oakum 4d	13..10
	" 6 lb Ten penny Nails 10d	5..-
April	" 23 yds Tow Cloath 1/8	1..18..4
	" 6 lb of 10d Nails 5/ 1 lb of 6d ditto	5..11

3rd	" 8 Gimblets 2/ Lengthing the G[i]mblets 2/6	4..6
	" 1 Speaking Trumpet (Bought at New London)	4..6
	" 11½ dozen knives & Forks ditto	7..-
	" Jede[di]ah Cook for Carting	4..6
	" William Peck for filling water	6..-
	To Enos Graves for Carting	5..3
	To Cash paid for making the Colours	1..5..-
	To [9]0 foot Timber a 14/	1..11..6
	To Cash paid Mr Phipps	5..-
	To Cash Supply'd 7 people their Expences from N London	3..2..8
	To 1 Load kness [sic]	2..12..-
	" 1 days Labour	3..-
	Carried over	£77..3..3¾
	Brought over	£77..3..3¾
	To Cash paid a Messenger to Fairfield to Lt [Ebenezer] Bartram	15..-
	To my own Expences 3 times to Lebanon	2..-..-
		£79..18..3¾

[New Haven, April 3, 1776] ²

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX (*Defence*), 59, ConnSL.

2. *Ibid.*, according to the summary of the *Defence* accounts, the bill was rendered "Feb-Apr," which would establish it as the final date shown.

JONATHAN FITCH TO OLIVER ELLSWORTH ¹

Sir The Govr & Council of Safety appointed me to Supply the Brig *Defiance* [sic] with Provision & I have Spent on her about £500 – I Shall be obliged to you if you would Draw an order on the Treasurer for That Sum & give it to Mr Davenport and you will much oblige your Humble Servant

Jonth Fitch ²

[New Haven] April 3d 1776

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX (*Defence*), 60a, ConnSL.

2. *Ibid.*, in the summary of the *Defence* accounts is an item reading: "April Jonathan Fitch has spent about £500 for provisions and wishes an order on the treasury."

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, A.M.

April 3d, 1776.

Ordered, That Mr. Jno Murray be permitted to go on board the ship *Dutchess of Gordon*, (with the port-master) and to return, he having been duly sworn that he will not convey any intelligence relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of this city and Colony.

The Committee were informed the brigantine *Elizabeth*, John Palmer

master, is ready to sail, and that a certificate is requested as protection for her in case she should meet with any of the Colony cruisers. Thereupon a certificate was given in the words following, to wit:

It is hereby certified that the brigantine *Elizabeth*, Capt. John Palmer master, is laden on Continental account, at the port of New-York, by permission and direction of the Continental Congress. The said brigantine and master are hereby recommended to the favour, aid and protection of all friends to American liberty; and all friends to these Colonies are requested to protect her in her voyage or in port.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 397, 398.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

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

April 3d, 1776.

Mr. John Murray attending with a letter from Fen. Heath to this Committee,² wherein he informs the Committee that Mr. Murray had applied to him for his approbation of the permit granted to Mr. Murray this morning, to go on board the Governor's ship; that by the said permit it appears that Mr. Murray is restricted only relative to the fortifications, and that he, the General, cannot consistent with his duty, consent to his going on board, unless under greater restrictions.²

Thereupon a permission was given to Mr. Murray, in the words following, to wit:

John Murray, of this city, merchant, attending, requested permission to go on board the ship *Dutchess of Gordon*, wherein Govr. Tryon resides, (with the port master,) and to return.

Thereupon the said Jno Murray was solemnly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that he will not communicate any information or intelligence whatever, to any person or persons on board any of the ships of war, the ship *Dutchess of Gordon*, the packet, or any other vessel in this Colony under the care or direction of, or in connection with, any person on board either of the vessels above mentioned, relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of this city and Colony, nor carry on board or deliver to any person belonging to any of the said ships or vessels any papers or writings relative thereto; and that he will not communicate any intelligence of any kind, or enter into any conversation on any subject whatever, with any person on board of either of the said vessels, but what relates to his own private business.

Ordered, That the said John Murray be, and he is hereby permitted to go on board the ship *Dutchess of Gordon*, (with the port-master) and to return.

Michael Conner of the city of Philadelphia, merchant, agent for the owners of the brigantine *Mary*, bound from St. Christopher's to Cork, in Ireland, laden with rum, lately seized and now detained by Captain Parker

of His Majesty's ship *Phoenix*,³ applied to the Committee for a permission to go on board of the said ship *Phoenix*, to demand the said brigantine and cargo.

Thereupon the said Michael Conner was duly and solemnly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that he will not communicate any information or intelligence whatever to any person or persons on board of any of the ships of war, the ship *Dutchess of Gordon*, the packet, or any other vessel in this Colony, relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of this city and Colony, nor carry on board or deliver to any person belonging to any of said ships or vessels any papers or writings relative thereto; and that he will not communicate any intelligence of any kind or enter into any conversation on any subject whatever, with any person on board of either of said vessels but what relates to his own private business.

Ordered, That the said Michael Conner be permitted and he is hereby permitted to go on board of the ship *Phoenix*, (with the port master,) and to return.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 398.

2. See Heath Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

3. The *Mary* was seized March 20, 1776, and had on board a cargo of 172 hogsheads of rum, Shulldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

City of New York 3rd April 1776

Colo Mifflin arrived in this City on yesterday with his Lady, The Delegates from Con[gress] going for Canada Sailed in the afternoon with a fair Wind — I have in this City by the Return of Yesterday 5210 Men, Exclusive of the City Militia we are Fortifying the City as fast as Possible — Gover Tryon having Begun to Throw up a work on a Small Island in the Harbour about a half m[ile] from the *Asia* man of war, I Determined to Drive him from Every part of Terre Firma Major Dettart [*sic* William De Hart] of the New Jersey Battalions offerd with Two Hundred men of that Regt to Dislodge them, Accordingly about Twelve o'Clock last Night they Embarked on Board Several Boats and a little after One Landed on the Island, the Men were all on Board the Ships, but near forty Women & Children were in an House on the Island they fired all the Buildings saving a Cottage in which they left the Destressed women & Children, They defac'd the works, and brought off the Intrenching Tool it is said near One Hundred Recruits from long Island have Joyned Tryon, But whether this [be] Certain or not I cannot tell, my best [regards to] my worthy Friends Messr [John and Samuel] Adams, [Robert Treat] Paine & [Elbridge] Gerry, and Believe me with the greatest respect to be [&c.]

W Heath

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 157, 5, NA.

Constitutional Gazette, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1776

New York, April 3.

Yesterday afternoon five battalions of the Continental troops were reviewed by his Excellency General Heath, on the Green near the Liberty Pole; they made a very martial appearance, being excellently well armed, and all of them young healthy men. They went thro' their exercise with surprising activity.

Last night a number of our troops went and set fire to all the buildings on Bedlow's Island, where the men of war was intrenching and fortifying it for an asylum for the Tory refugees, burnt and brought off all their intrenching tools with a large number of white shirts and great coats, &c. likewise an abundance of poultry of all sorts; The *Asia* fired on our people, but not one man either killed or wounded.

Last night a barge full of men, supposed to be from the man of war, landed to endeavour to set fire to the Air Furnace, but they were timely discovered before much damage was done. (Keep a good look out for the rogues.)

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT ¹

April 1776

Moor'd off Bedlows Island

Wednesdy 3 A M at 1 the Rebels set on Fire the Hospitals on Bedlows Island, Fir'd at them one 9 & one 18 pdr ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

2. "April 2d. - Major D'Hart [William De Hart], of the Jersey troops, with 200 men, about midnight, made a descent on a small island in the harbour, which the British had begun to fortify; burnt a building or two, took two muskets, some entrenching tools, and came off. The *Asia* fired several cannon, but did no harm." Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 37.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 3rd April, 1776.

Resolved, That the Letter receiv'd from Henry Fisher of Lewes, be immediately sent to the Delegates of this Province, to be laid before the Congress, and the said Delegates be requested to represent it as the sense of this Committee, that if two or more fast sailing vessels of small draft of Water were properly equipt, they might protect the Trade of this & the Neighboring colonies in the Bay of Delaware, now infested with Tenders and small armed Vessels of the Enemy, and secure the supplies of Military stores expected from abroad; to apply to the Congress to take speedy measures for that purpose, and also to suggest the propriety of ordering back to this Port the several outward bound Vessels now lying in the River, and employing the Seamen in this service, until the Trade of the Bay is more secure.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 534.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, April 3, 1776

A petition from P. Moore, in behalf of the owners of the sloops *Congress* and *Chance*, privateers, for 400 lb. of powder was presented and read:

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be empowered to sell them the quantity.²

A letter from H[enry] Fisher, of Lewistown; to the committee of safety of Pennsylvania, together with a resolve of said committee, being laid before Congress was read:³

Resolved, That the commander of the batallion raised in Delaware government, be directed to send two companies of said batallion to Lewistown, there to remain in the service of the continent till farther orders.

Resolved, That the Marine Committee be directed and empowered to fit out, with all expedition, two armed cutters, for the service of the continent.

Resolved, That Blank commissions for private ships of war and letters of marque and reprisal, signed by the president, be sent to the general assemblies, conventions, and councils or committees of safety of the United Colonies, to be by them filled up and delivered to the persons intending to fit out such private ships of war, for making captures of British vessels and cargoes, who shall apply for the same, and execute the bonds which shall be sent with the said commissions, which bonds shall be returned to the Congress.

Resolved, That every person intending to set forth and fit out a private ship or vessel of war, and applying for a commission or letters of marque and reprisal for that purpose, shall produce a writing subscribed by him, containing the name and tonnage or burthen of the ship or vessel, the number of her guns, with their weight of metal, the name and place of residence of the owner or owners, the names of the commander and other officers, the number of the crew, and the quantity of provisions and warlike stores; which writing shall be delivered to the secretary of Congress, or to the clerk of the house of representatives, convention, or council, or committee of safety of the colony in which the ship or vessel shall be, to be transmitted to the said secretary, and shall be registered by him; and that the commander of the ship or vessel, before the commission or letters of marque and reprisal may be granted, shall, together with sufficient sureties, seal and deliver a bond, in the penalty of five thousand dollars, if the vessel be of one hundred tons or under, or ten thousand dollars, if of a greater burthen, payable to the president of the Congress, in trust for the use of the United Colonies, with condition in the form following, to wit:

The condition of this obligation is such, That if the above-bounden [blank] who is Commander of the [blank], called [blank], belonging to [blank], of [blank], in the colony of [blank], mounting [blank] carriage Guns, and navigated by [blank] Men, and who

IN CONGRESS,

APRIL 3, 1776.

RESOLVED, That blank Commissions for private Ships of War, and Letters of Marque and Reprisal, signed by the President, be sent to the General Assemblies, Conventions, and Councils or Committees of Safety of the United Colonies, to be by them filled up and delivered to the Persons intending to fit out such private Ships of War for making Captures of British Vessels and Cargoes, who shall apply for the same, and execute the Bonds which shall be sent with the said Commissions, which Bonds shall be returned to the Congress.

By Order of Congress,

 PRESIDENT.

hath applied for a Commission, or Letters of Marque and Reprisal, to arm, equip, and set forth to Sea, the said [blank] as a private Ship of War, and to make Captures of British Vessels and Cargoes, shall not exceed or transgress the Powers and Authorities which shall be contained in the said Commission, but shall, in all Things, observe and conduct himself, and govern his Crew, by and according to the same, and certain Instructions therewith to be delivered, and such other Instructions as may hereafter be given to him; and shall make Reparation for all Damages sustained by any Misconduct or unwarrantable Proceedings of Himself, or the Officers or Crew of the said [blank], then this Obligation shall be void, or else remain in Force;

Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of

Which bond shall be lodged with the said secretary of Congress.

The committee to whom the instructions to the commanders of private ships or vessels of war, were recommitted, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration, and debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows:

Instructions to the commanders of private ships or vessels of war, which shall have commissions or letters of marque and reprisal, authorizing them to make captures of British vessels and cargoes.

1. You may, by force of arms, attack, subdue, and take all ships and other vessels belonging to the inhabitants of Great Britain, on the high seas, or between high water and low water mark, except ships and vessels bringing persons who intend to settle and reside in the United Colonies; or bringing arms, ammunition, or war-like stores, to the said colonies, for the use of such inhabitants thereof as are friends to the American cause, which you shall suffer to pass unmolested, the commanders thereof permitting a peaceable search, and giving satisfactory information of the contents of the ladings, and destinations of the voyages.

2. You may, by force of arms, attack, subdue, and take all ships and other vessels whatsoever, carrying soldiers, arms, gunpowder, ammunition, provisions, or any other contraband goods, to any of the British armies or ships of war employed against these colonies.

3. You shall bring such ships and vessels, as you shall take, with their guns, rigging, tackle, apparel, furniture, and ladings, to some convenient port or ports of the United Colonies, that proceedings may thereupon be had, in due form, before the courts, which are or shall be there appointed to hear and determine causes civil and maritime.

4. You, or one of your chief officers, shall bring or send the master and pilot; and one or more principal person or persons of the company of every ship or vessel by you taken, as soon after the capture as may be, to the judge or judges of such court as aforesaid, to be

examined upon oath, and make answer to the interrogatories which may be propounded, touching the interest or property of the ship or vessel, and her lading; and, at the same time, you shall deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the judge or judges, all passes, sea-briefs, charter-parties, bills of lading, cockets, letters, and other documents and writings found on board, proving the said papers, by the affidavit of yourself, or of some other person present at the capture, to be produced as they were received, without fraud, addition, subduction or embezzlement.

5. You shall keep and preserve every ship or vessel, and cargo, by you taken, until they shall, by a sentence of a court properly authorized, be adjudged lawful prizes; not selling, spoiling, wasting, or diminishing the same, or breaking the bulk thereof, nor suffering any such thing to be done.

6. If you, or any of your officers or crew, shall, in cold blood, kill or maim, or by torture or otherwise, cruelly, inhumanly, and, contrary to common usage, and the practice of civilized nations in war, treat any person or persons surprized in the ship or vessel you shall take, the offender shall be severely punished.

7. You shall by all convenient opportunities, send to Congress written accounts of the captures you shall make, with the number and names of the captives, copies of your journal from time to time, and intelligence of what may occur or be discovered concerning the designs of the enemy, and the destination, motions, and operations of their fleets and armies.

8. One-third, at least, of your whole company shall be landsmen.

9. You shall not ransom any prisoners or captives, but shall dispose of them in such manner, as the Congress, or, if that be not sitting, in the colony whither they shall be brought, as the general assembly, convention, or council, or committee of safety, of such colony shall direct.

10. You shall observe all such further instructions as Congress shall hereafter give in the premises, when you shall have notice thereof.

11. If you shall do any thing contrary to these instructions, or to others hereafter to be given, or willingly suffer such thing to be done, you shall not only forfeit your commission, and be liable to an action for breach of the condition of your bond, but be responsible to the party grieved for damages sustained by such malversation.⁴

1. Ford., ed., *JCC*, IV, 250-54.

2. Commissions for the *Congress* and the *Chance* were issued April 11, 1776. The owners were Joseph Dean and Philip Moore & Company. Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal, 1776-1783), 196, III, 40, and II, 92, NA. They were the earliest vessels commissioned under the instructions of April 3, 1776.

3. Henry Fisher's letter of April 1, 1776.

4. The instructions were printed in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 11, 1776. They were printed in quantities, signed, "By Order of Congress, John Hancock President," and distributed along with the bond form, similarly signed; Emmet Autograph Collection, 1240

and 517, NYPL. Another copy, found on board a prize by Vice Admiral Clark Gayton, at Jamaica, is in PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

JOHN HANCOCK TO ANY OFFICER COMMANDING TROOPS ¹

Sir,

Philadelphia April 3d. 1776

I have it in Command from Congress to direct that you, upon the Application of Silas Deane, Esqr you furnish him with a Guard of twenty Men under a proper officer to proceed with him to the Capes, from thence to be returned. — You will therefore comply with this Requisition, immediately on his Application.² I am, Sir, [&c.]

J.H. Prt.

To the officer commanding the Continental Troops or the officer commanding where this Letter shall be produced. —

1. Papers CC (Letter Books of the President of Congress), 12A, II, 94.

2. Guard was provided by Lieutenant James R. Reid of Captain Thomas Church's company, Colonel Anthony Wayne's Fourth Pennsylvania Battalion.

ROBERT MORRIS TO NICHOLAS AND JOHN BROWN ¹

Philada April 3d. 1776

Gentn. We have received your letter of the 20th Ulto. directed to the late Chairman of this Committee & are well pleased to learn thereby, that the Sloop you first dispatched to the West Indias in Consequence of your Contract with the Continent, was returned and has brought in 193 Bolts of Russia Duck, 43 ps Russian Sheeting, one pair of Swivell Guns, 14 Small Arms, 12 Cwt of Powder & 30 lb Ball, all which we hope you have long since got Safe Landed, and you will please to keep the Same in your Possession untill, the Marine Committee shall determine how the same are to be disposed of, when You will receive directions from them or us. We desire you will furnish us with Invoices & bills of Loading for the Cargoes you export on Account of the Continent, Acct Sales when you receive them, also Invoices of the return Cargoes & the Acct Current with those that transact the bussiness aboard that we may in due time have the whole transactions regularly before us. We have not yet heard of the arrival of the Rich Jews Brig. which you mention, but if Such a one Sailed we hope She may Soon appear. We thank you for the Account of the arrival of Arms & Ammunition which we Suppose is on Private Account as you do not say they are for the Public.

Linens have been ordered from different parts in Virtue of other Contracts & we have no orders from Congress to Import Hemp therefore you had best Confine your Importations to the Articles you Contracted for, unless you find a surplus of Money arise abroad on the Sale of Your Cargoes & in that case you may encrease the quantity of Goods or order such Supplies in Arms & Ammunition. We are Sirs [&c.]

By order of the Secret Committee

Rob^t Morris, Chair Man

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Gentlemen

Baltimore 3 April 1776

We duly received your favor of the 26 Ulto As the Schooner *Resolution* is now ready and has 20 Men Shipt Capt Nicolson thinks it expedient to carry her down with him as far as Annapolis as he will then be able to Judge of her Sailing, and will inform you and you can then determine whether to continue her, or order her back. We have stopt all further Ex-pence on her, until your further determination.

The Schooner *Ninety two* was stopt in consequence of Mr Carrolls order to Capt Nicolson to sink such Vessells as was necessary to obstruct the Passage to Balto Town, every Vessell in the Harbor was taken and so many sunk as nearly to Compleat it, there now only wants 3 to finish it, of which this Schooner is allotted to be one because the Water being 26 feet deep it requires large Vessells, and if she is taken away all that is yet done will be of no avail in case of an Attack, We therefore leave it to you to determine; And your Orders shall be instantly obeyed. The Boom is beginning to be fixt, and we expect in 8 days may be compleated, when she may be discharged. As to the Schooner *Peggy* this Committee were not informd of any Order from you to load her, neither did they ever employ her or know of her going for Plank, and consequently disclaim the Transaction altogether. We never did presume to Counteract any order of yours, and hope the above will Satisfy you that we have acted right

1. Executive Papers, Box 2, Md.Arch.

RECEIPTS RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

[Baltimore]

Recd Apl 3d 1776 of Capt James Nicholson on Accot Ship *Defence* - Forty shills advance Money to Robert McDonald as a Marine Which I promise to refund provided the sd McDonald Shou'd leave the Ship before the expiration of one Month from the date hereof

£2.0.0

James Phillips

1. Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, MdHS.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday, 3rd April, 1776.

The Comm'ee being informed by Capt. Arthur Smith, on oath, that William Goodrich has lately attempted, with the assistance of 2 armed cutters from Lord Dunmore's Fleet, to take the Slaves and Stock off his father's (John Goodrich) plantation in the County of Isle of Wight, and has actually taken two negroes -

Ordered, that the Comm'ees of the counties of Isle Wight and Nansemond do severally cause the slaves on the said plantations of the s'd Goodrich, in their respective counties, to be secured, and the stock of all

kinds to be sold at public auction, and an inventory thereof ret'd to this comm'ee.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 151.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Wednesday the 3d Day of April.

Colonel Pinckney according to Order presented a Bill to empower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in all Cases of Capture of Ships or Vessels of the Inhabitants of Great Britain Ireland and the British West Indies and to establish the Trial by Jury in such Cases And the same was received and read a First Time

Resolved That the Bill be read a Second Time

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 31, 33-34.

South Carolina and American General Gazette, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1776

Charlestown, April 3.

On Friday the 22d ult. Capt. [Joseph] Turpin, in the Provincial armed Brigantine *Comet*, of 16 Guns, retook the Sloop *Hetty*, of this Port, which Capt. Tollemache seized off this Bar in December last. Her Name was changed to the *General Clinton*; she had some Cohorns and Swivels, with twelve Men on board, and served as a Tender to the *Falcon* Man of War. A hard Gale separated Capt. Turpin from his Prize; the former arrived here on Sunday se'nnight, and the latter with Capt. [Simon] Tufts, on Saturday last.

We hear that the Brigantine *Georgia Packet*, Captain [George] Bunner, from Philadelphia for Savannah, with a Cargo of Flour, &c. has been taken by the Men of War at Cockspur; ¹ and a Sloop from this Port for New-York, ² and another from Georgetown for Salem has been taken by those on the North Carolina Station. ³

We hear from Savannah, that a party, in which were some Indians, lately went to Tybee Island, where they took thirteen Negroes and some other Prisoners, and killed three or four Marines.

1. The *Georgia Packet*, laden with flour, bread, beer and rum, was taken by H.M.S. *Raven*, off Savannah bar, on March 12, 1776, Shuldhams's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. *Ibid.*, the sloop *Hope*, Andrew Brown, master, with rice and indigo, taken March 10, 1776, by H.M.S. *Mercury*.

3. *Ibid.*, May 23, 1776, the sloop *Adventure*, Francis Boardman, master, with rice, indigo and skins, taken March 8, 1776, by H.M.S. *Falcon*.

JOURNAL of H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

April 1776

Tybee S55° Wt dist 126 Leags

Wednesdy 3d at 3 A M made the signal & Tkd at 5 saw a sail to the Noward let all the reefs out, Got Top Gallt yards up & set the sails, set the driver & gave Chace to a Sloop, at 10 fir'd

2 Guns shotted & brot her too, lay'd the Mizn TS to the Mast and hoisted the Cutter out, sent a petty officer & 5 men on board to take charge of her, she came from Turks Island loaded with salt;² the Convoy in Co³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.
2. The sloop *Speedwell*. See following entry.
3. The convoy consisted of H.M. Sloop *Tamar*, H.M. Schooner *St. Lawrence*, two transports, three prizes and several merchant vessels, bound from the Savannah river for Rhode Island.

ORDER OF CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., TO
CAPTAIN JOHN LIGHTENSTONE ¹

By Captain Andrew Barkley of
His Majesty's Ship *Scarboro*:

You are hereby required & directed to take upon you the Charge and Command of the *Speedwell* Sloop, loaded with Salt, taken by His Majys Ship under my command. You are to secure the hold and prevent Embezzlement as much as possible — You are to sail in Company with His Majesty's Ship under my Command to Boston, if you shou'd by any accident whatever part Company with me and the other Kings Ships I wou'd recommend for you to push for Rhode Island & put yourself under the direction of the Senior Officer of His Majys: Ships that may be there. — You will obey the printed Instructions you will herewith receive & in Sailing keep as near the *Scarborough* as possibly you can.— Given under my hand on board the *Scarborough* at sea this 3d April 1776

And^w Barkley

[In the margin] When I want to speak with you I will hoist a White pendant at the Starboard Mizen Topsail Yard Arm. —

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

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Chatham*, CAPTAIN JOHN RAYNOR ¹

April
Tuesday 2 Cape Sambro No37° Et Dce 19 leags
at 4 AM made the Signal & Wore at 6 set the fore & Mizen topsails Sounded 66 fms Sand & Shells, out all reefs the Topsails & got Top Gallant Yards out. Calm The *Argo* transport fell on Board of us & carried away our Driver Boom —
Little Wind & fair Wr at 1 PM Saw the Land from the Mast Head bearing North at 3 Made the Signal for all Cruizers to Join the Fleet Halifax light House NBW dce 3 leagues at 5 [P.]M HM Ship *Cerberus* Joined the fleet & saluted with 13 Guns ret'd 11. at 7 Came too . . . with the Best Br in 10 fm water — found riding here HM Ships *Orpheus* (with Commodore Arbuthnots broad Pendt on board) *Fowey*, *Kingsfisher*, *Adventure* Store Ship *Diligent* Brig & *Halifax* Schooner with a number of transports

Wednesday 3 AM at 6 the Garrison Saluted us with 17 Guns, ret'd 15 as did the *Orpheus* with 15 ret'd 13. Came in and Anchored here HM Ship *Centurion* *Lively* & *Tryal* Schooner with the remainder of the fleet.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

(No 4)

English Harbour Antigua 3d April 1776

Sir The inclosed Papers marked No 1, 2, 3 are Copies of some intercepted Letters, and Intelligence brought me; which I requested may be Communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, as also those marked No 4 and 5, being Copy of a Letter, I thought necessary to write to the Compt De Nosier, Governor of Martinique, in consequence of the aforesaid Intelligence, and his answer thereto – I sent Captain Robert Keeler in the *Lynx* Sloop with my Dispatch to Martinique on the above occasion, that he might be enabled at his arrival in England, to give their Lordships a more particular and circumstantial Account of the manner in which the Americans carry on their Trade, at the French Islands; – to Him I therefore refer, and am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

4 Apr.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Magdalen*, LIEUTENANT JOSEPH NUNN¹

April 1776

In the *Culdisac* [Quebec]

Thursday 4 AM sent the People of the Schooner off Guard to Clear the Schooners Decks from Snow &ca and allso to repair the Rigging being damaged by the Rebels Shot from their Battery &c.
P M all the People off Garrison duty employ abt the Rigging &c²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4252.

2. This is the resumption of the journal which was discontinued December 8, 1775, when the *Magdalen* was laid up and the crew sent ashore in the defense of Quebec.

COST OF POWDER VOYAGE OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOONER *Success*¹

Dr	The Schooner <i>Success</i> and Cargo –	Cr
1776	To Cash, paid off Portledge bill	£37..15...0
March	To Cash paid John Seawar[d] for going round to return Schooner at Newbury Port p receipt	4..16...3
	To Cash paid Natha Tracey Esqr for hire of Schooner three Months and a half as p Charter party Agreement 255½ dollars a 6/	76..13...0

April	To Cash paid Jeremiah Libbey for guarding Powder to Camb[r]idge and Horse hire as p Bill and rec[t]	}	7...6...0	
	To Cash paid Major Gains as Express to Cambridge to give Information of the arrival of Powder as p rec[t]		4...4...0	
	To Cash paid Samuel Hall for trucking Powder to Magazine p rec[t]		12...-	
	To Cash paid Benjamin Bigelow for Transporting powder to Cambr[i]dge		16...9...6	
	To Cash paid Wm McIntyre for one of the Gunns		10...-	
	To Cash paid Jos. Ayres for transporting powder to Cambr[i]dge		8..10...6	
	To Cash paid Capt Kinsman Peverly acct Current		51..15..16	
	To Cash paid Thos Thompson & Supply Clap for a Negro sold at St Lucia		56...0...0	
	To 6,250 weight of Powder sent to the Camp by Order of General Washington a 3/6		}	1093..15...0
	To Cash paid Tobias Walther for one of the Guards p rec[t]			
	To Cash paid Christopher Goodwin for going round to return Schooner		}	8...9
	To Cash paid James Hunt for ditto			
			<u>£1212..12...3</u>	
	Commis for receiving delivg & husbanding the Vessell a 2½ p rec[t]		68...0...9	
			<u>£1280..13...0</u>	
		Money	<u>£1428.18...9</u>	

1776 By 6,250 Weight of Powder being received }
 April from St Lucia for her Cargo - a 3/6 } £1093.15..0
 [Portsmouth, April 4, 1776] ²

1. John Langdon Papers, HSP.

2. The date is approximated. One of the items indicates that Washington ordered the powder sent to Cambridge, and that the commander in chief was still in Cambridge on April 4, 1776.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford* ¹

- April 1776 Cape Ann NNE 6 or 7 Leagus
 Wednesday 3 Light Airs with Rain, gave Chace fir'd 8 Shot at the Chace proved to be a pirate Schooner from Cape Ann Harbr, where she got in, Haul'd our Wind in 1st & 2d Reef T Sails. First part Fresh Breezs & foggy with Rain latter hard Gales and Clouds at 6 PM Close Reeft Topsails
 Thursday 4 5 am Saw a Sail in the S W gave Chace at 7 Carried away the Mizn Topsl Yard in the Slings got up the Spritsl Yard in lieu at 9 the Starbd Topsl Sheet broke, knotted him again fir'd a Shot at the Chace proved to be the *Crawford* Brig from St Christophers

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

CAPTAIN ALLEN HALLET'S ACCOUNT WITH ELIAS HASKET DERBY FOR VOYAGE OF SCHOONER *Nancy* TO THE MOLE ¹

Dr	Elias Hasket Derby Esqr in an account	
1776	To 126 HHd Molasses Contg 13662	
April	Galls a 10s P Gall & Cask 21/ Liv	9477
4	To 8 HHd & 9 Barl Sugar Contg 12569	
	Nt a 36/Liv Pr C. as Pr Invoice	4524..16
	To 4 HHd Do Contg 6418 lb Nt	
	a 33/Liv Pr C. as Pr Invoice	2117..12
	To 3 Casks Coffee Contg 1877 lb Nt a 9 Sous	844..13
	To 3 Casks for Do a 16/10	49..10
	To Sundry Dry Goods Amout as Pr Invoice	2343..15
	french Livres	19357...6
	To Commissions a 21½ Pr Ct	483...9
	To the Loss of Light money 85/	85...-
	To my Bill of Disbursements	664...9
	To 2 lb Grean Tea a 30/	60...-
	french Livres	20650...4
	Errors Exceptd Pr Allen Hallett	
	Current With Allen Hallett ²	Cr
1776	By Cash Brought from Salem 50	
April	Joannases a 66/ Livres	Livers 3300...-
4	By Cash Recd of Mr John Dupey at the mole By order of Capt Silsbee	17487...1

By 9 molasses Cask Brought from Salem
a 9/ Livers

	189
french, Livers	20970 . . . 1
	20650 . . . 4
	325 . . 17

1. Derby Family Manuscripts, Commercial Papers 1737-1783, EI.
2. See Derby to Hallet, February 23, 1776, for Hallets sailing orders.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD ¹

[Extract] [Cambridge, April 4, 1776]

The Work upon Beacon hill should be repaired, and in my opinion be made strong, as it commands Fort hill; & all lower Works and would endanger the loss of them if it should be possessed by the [Ene]my - No time sho[u]ld be lost in fixing with the General Court, or Council upon proper Signals for alarming the Country upon the appearance of a Fleet. - for the purpose of ga[in]ing [as] much time as possible I think the alarm ought to be given from Cape Ann, or Marblehead & forwarded by (agreed) Signals to Bos[to]n & thence [i]nto the Country - this Matter sho[uld not be] delayed. -

All Captures made by the Continental Armed Vessels are to be immediately libelled [against] in the Court of Admiralty of the district where carried to [all officers, soldie]rs & M[e]n of Wars Men are considered as Prisoners.-The Former to be sent & confined [to some] Town upon their Paroles-the others sent to [such Goals] as the [General] Ct shall direct-No Condemn'd property to be sold till the day of Sale is three times Advertised in the Papers with an enumeratn of the Ca[r]go of] Boston [or] Cambridge Watertown or Worcester & a speciall report thereof [made] to you that if any thing is wanted [by the Commiss]ary or Qr Masters department [they may be notified thereof. -

The Vessels which were left in Boston by the Enemy, some with, & some without Cargos, & which I am told various claims are laid to must not be delivered up unless the Person claiming will give some surety to abide the determination of Congress respecting them. - In that case, an [ex]act Inventory to be taken in order to ascertain the value. - The Wheat left by the King's Troops is to be attended to that no hurt comes to it - it ought either to be sold, or converted into Flour for the use of the Army - the Qr Master & Comy may be consulted on this head.

The Flat bottomd Boats, Whale Boats and floating Batteries are to be continued in the Care of Capt Sylvanus Drew. They must be hawl'd into a convenient place of Safety, and proper Care taken to prevent their being destroy'd, or suffering damage from the Heat [of] the Weather - Their oars, paddles &c. are to be put in[to] some safe Store -

All Officers and Seamen taken in Transport Vessells employ[ed] in the Enemy's Service, are to be released on Condition they give a very Strict parole, not to act against the American Colonies during the present Contest -

I. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge, April 4, 1776.

I thank you for your friendly congratulations on the retreat of the king's troops from Boston. It was really a flight; their embarkation was so precipitate; their loading so confused, (after making greater havoc of the king's stores than Dunbar did upon Braddock's defeat, which made so much noise,) ² that it took them eleven days to fit their transports, adjust the loads of them, and take in water from the islands in Nantasket Road after they had fallen down there. The coast is now clear of them, except the *Renown*, (a 50 gun ship,) and one or two frigates, which remain here for the protection of such transports as shall be bound to this port.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 474-75.

2. Colonel Thomas Dunbar succeeded to the command after Braddock's death and destroyed great quantities of stores before retreating towards the east.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Hope* ¹

Aprile 1776

Remark's &c in Nantasket Road

Thursdy 4th

AM Let go the Best Br Anchor, Struck yards & Topmast got the Topsl. yards fore and aft in the Tops got the Spreet sail yard in & got Down the T Gallt Mast, our Prize Schooner Drove on Shore ² as Did a Prize Sloop hoisted the Boats out to give Assistance and Sent a Hawsor on Board the Schooner.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1823.

2. The schooner *Betsey*, for Salem with Indian corn from Virginia, taken March 30, 1776.

OWNERS' BOND OF THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Hannah* ¹

Know all Men by these Presents That we Charles Wolfe Stephen Smith, Frank Anthony DeWolfe, Josiah Finney and Isaac Gorham all of Bristol in the County of Bristol and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchants are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esquire General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony To which Payment well and truly to be made we bind Ourselves Our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with Our Seals. Dated the Fourth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas the said Charles De Wolfe Stephen Smith, Frank Anthony De Wolfe, Josiah Finney and Isaac Gorham have equipped the Sloop *Hannah* burthened about Thirty Tons whereof Timothy Ingraham is Master and have obtained Permission of the Honorable Nicholas Cooke Esquire Governor of the said Colony for him the said Timothy Ingraham to proceed with the said Sloop and her Cargo to the Island of Santa Croix to purchase Powder and other Military Stores &c. Now therefore the Condition of this Obligation is such That if the said Timothy Ingraham shall well and truly lay out the whole Proceeds of the Cargo on board the said Sloop in Gun

Powder, Salt Petre, Sulphur, Duck, or Arms, and shall import the same into this or any other of the United Colonies in America, the Danger of the Sea and of the Enemy only excepted and also further excepting that in Case the said Timothy Ingraham shall not be able to invest the whole Proceeds of his Cargo in the Articles above mentioned that then he shall be permitted to lay out and bring back the remainder in Paper Ozenbriggs, Tincklenburgh, Lead, Flints, Twine, German Steele, Cotton Linnen or Woolen Cloths, Jesuits Bark or Rhubarb and shall also lodge a true Account or Manifest of his Cargo in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of said Sloop: and further shall not during said Voyage proceed or go to any of the English Islands in the West Indies, or to any Port or Place contrary to the Continental Association (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

Charles D'Wolfe

Sealed and Delivered } William Corlis
in the Presence of } William Mumford

1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.
2. "April 4th. In the Sloop *Hannah* Timothy Ingraham Master for Santa Croix 24 Casks Rice, 30 bbls Flour and 3 M Hoops. Owned by Charles De Wolfe, Stephen Smith, Mark Anthony De Wolfe, Josiah Finney and Isaac Gorham all of Bristol." Nicholas Brown Papers, BUL.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL ¹

Sir -

Lebanon 4th April 1776 - 2 o'Clo PM

I have your favour of the Morning before me - Your Company to be Augmented to ninty men, was intended had no misinformation been received - the Addition of One Company from your Regiment, and another from Colo [Samuel] Coit's for the Service at Mamacock and Winthrop's point will not forward those works with more expedition than is desirable - The failure of the plan for Minute Men renders the detachment now ordered necessary for the Security of the Harbour and Defence of the Town of New London - I have not Authority to counteract the Order of the Governor and Council, and think it not best to call them together On the Occasion - Although I approve of your Zeal for the Colony's Interest, and of your useful hints for avoiding Expences - You will please to go on to execute the Orders you have received - How soon the Enemy may enter that harbour, make An Attack, & Attempt to Land or burn the Town is uncertain - Readiness to receive them is the best preventive remedy - I hope the Works will be forwarded with prudence, diligence and Attention - and that We shall Obtain a Loan of Cannon from New York to be planted on them -

I have desired Gov [Matthew] Griswold to come through New London on Monday next, that he may be able to inform of every circumstance needful to be attended to - The Council meet next Tuesday - I Received from

Govr Cooke a Letter of the 2nd instant at evening informing of the Mistake concerning the Fleet – I have nothing material that is news.

I have enclosed the two Maps you left on my Table.

I am, with great Truth and Regard Sir [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

1. Conn. Arch., Trumbull Papers, V, 23b. ConnSL.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL¹

[Extract]

New London April 4, 1776
eight o'clock A.M.

The various Accots from Newport since tuesday noon, made it probable the Accot of a Fleets being arrived there was premature, and last evening the Post came in from thence, & confirmed the matter that no Fleet had been there, as your Honor was informed by Express from Govr Cooke. the Post tells me two men made Oath before Colo [Henry] Babcock they saw a Fleet, which I conclude was the Foundation of Govr Cookes Inteligence. enclosed you have the Newport Paper, by which youl see that no Ship but the *Nautilus* (of 16 Guns) had arrived there, and the Accot of the Fleet was only Report.

Matters relative to sd Fleet being thus situated, thought it my duty to send this express to your Honor for further Orders.

1. Conn. Arch., Trumbull Papers, V, 23a, ConnSL.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE¹

Thursday April 4 [1776] Latitude In 40. .26 Longitude In 71. .56

at 9 AM, made Long Iland Bear NNW, about 6, Leagues At Meridian made Montock Point Bearing N B W, and Block Iland ENE 4 Leagues, the Sloop In Company

Fresh Breezes & Clear Weather, At 2 PM, Wore Ship, and Stood off to Southd At 3 Do Came up with the Fleet & Spoke the Comodore & *Columbus*, who had taken, a Schooner, tender,² belonging to Capt Wallace's Fleet

At 4 Do Stood in to the North'd, we being order'd to look after the tenders,

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. The schooner *Hawke*, tender to H.M.S. *Rose*.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[New York] Die Jovis, 10 HO A.M.

April 4th, 1776.

Ordered, That the port master be, and he is hereby permitted to take with him on board the *Asia* and *Phoenix* ships of war, the Governor's ship and the packet, the following articles, vizt: 1,300 lb beef, for the *Asia*. 1,000 lb beef for the *Phoenix*; with 18s. worth vegetables. Two qrs beef 1 doz. dishes; 2 doz. plates; 1 doz. spoons; 2 mugs; 2 barls. ale, for the

packet. One tierce of peas; 6 barls beer; 2 qrs; beef, for the Governor's ship.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 399, 400.

JOSEPH THROCKMORTON TO AZARIAH DUNHAM, NEW BRUNSWICK¹

Mr. Dunham Sr.

Shrewsbury April the 4th. 1776

I Understand You are one of the Delegates for this Province and one of the Committee of Safety – and Your being acquainted with our Scituation of Inlets, Bays, and Rivers Runing Up In our County occasions Us to be a frontier and In Continual Danger – as to the Bay Between Middletown and New York if a fleet Comes in and finding New York So Strongly fortified and Garrison'd. It must be more than Probable that Such a Body of Troops will not ly in Sight of Such an Inhabited Defenceless Country and want the Necessary Refreshments and Supplies they may so Easily obtain – and as to our Strength to Defend Ourselves it is Much Weaken'd by Listing of Men for the Continental Service, and this Last Supply of Men and arms if not Soon Recall'd or other ways Supplied May Render Us Incapable of Defending our Selves from becoming an Easy prey to any Invaders which at this time Very much Dispirits the Inhabitants of this County to be Left In So Defenceless a Condition – as to arms we were very Indifferently provided before any went out, but the sending of fifty Jersey Muskets to supply part of Colnl [William] Maxwell's Battalion and the Late Draft has Took a Considerable part of our best Arms – and as there Are Gentlemen In Your House of Committe of Safety who I hope are Not Unacquainted with our Scituation; what I have wrote is only by way of Reminding You – that as You have Granted the Supplies they have Required, You will Request as Speedy a Return of our Troops as possible, but Submit to your wisdom and Likewise of that body which You are a part – Dr Sr our former friendship I hope will not be forgot In the worst of Times, and beg you will Excuse the Incorrectness In the above – from Your Humble Servt

Jos: Throckmorton

1. Lloyd W. Smith Collection, MNHP.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, April 4, 1776

The committee, to whom the memorial from James M'Knight . . . were referred brought in their report, which was read: And thereupon,

Resolved, That the committee of inspection and observation of the county of Burlington, be requested to make sale of the sloop *Sally*, whereof the said James M'Knight was prize master, and which was lately run ashore by him, within the said county, together with her tackle, apparel, and furniture, and the cargo on board, at public auction; and after deducting the charges of securing and selling the same, to divide the surplus into two parts,

and pay one moiety thereof to the said James M'Knight for salvage, and retain the other moiety thereof for the owner or owners.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 255, 256.

ROBERT MORRIS TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

Philada April 4th 1776

Sir Your letters of the 14th Ulto directed to the late Saml Ward Esqr are now before me & have been read to the Secret Committee by whose order I now Answer them. We are sorry for the loss of the Brig Cap [Josiah] Shackford, but as things now stand we must expect many More losses of the same kind & think ourselves happy if a sufficient number does but return to keep the Continent supplied with Arms, Ammunition & necessary Cloathing.

We rejoice however to find by your Second letter that Cap Peverly was returned with 6 to 7000 lb of Powder, Which you were lodging in the Magazine. Shou'd the General give any orders for this Powder or any part of it, you will transmit us A Copy of his order & the receipt of those you deliver it to, in Virtue of such orders and observe the same Method with any other parcels you may receive on Continental Account. Shou'd the Genl not give any orders the Powder must remain for the future orders of this Committee. We also desire to be furnished in due time with the Invoices of the outward & homeward Cargoes and with all the Accounts & Documents relative to the Contracts. this is mention'd at present only to remind you that such will be wanted when the transactions are wound up.

You will find before this gets to hand, that the Congress have met your Wishes and granted Licenses for Privateering on our Enemy's but they have stopped rather short of the Mark, by not including West India Property. We shall be glad to hear of the Success of the other Vessells you have dispatched & are to dispatch to fulfill the Contract & thanking you for the other intelligence contained in Your letters I remain Sir [&c.]

By order of the Committee. Rob^t Morris, Chair Man

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

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 4th A'l, 1776.

Upon application of Capt: [Nathaniel] Falconer for some arms & ammunition for the use of the pilot Boat station'd at Bombay Hook, By order of the Board, Robert Towers, Commissary, was directed to deliver 5 Muskets, 10 Rounds of Powder & Ball, & 8 Swivel shot.

Resolved, That the officers of the armed Boats be instructed not to suffer any Pilot Boat or Pilot (except those employed by this Committee, to navigate from Chester to this City) to pass down the River, below the Chevaux de Frize, without producing a permit in writing from this Board or the Commodore.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 535.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED APRIL 4, 1776.”¹

Yesterday arrived a schooner from Guadaloup, with about 7 tons of powder.

We have also two pilot boats from St. Eustatia, with goods. – This day came up the *Wasp* schooner, Captain Hallock, one of our fleet, who had been at [New] Providence, and taken off all the King's stores there, and will be very soon among us. – Capt. Barry in an armed schooner² from this port, has sent in a sloop from St. Croix.³

1. *New York Journal*, April 11, 1776.

2. The Continental brig *Lexington*.

3. The St. Croix sloop was released upon order of the Marine Committee as not a good prize.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK¹

Remarks On Thursday the 4 of April 1776

at 6AM Wade & Sailed from Chastear to philp hill at 10 am Came two Brast of the Town clear Wathear. a frash Brezes at W N W at 2 pm Hald to the Whorf & cleard the Vasal for Heving Down Sant 14 Sick peopel On Shoar:–

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

SILAS DEANE TO ROBERT MORRIS¹

[Extract]

Gloucester Pt. Thursday [April 4]
10 O'clock A.M.

We got as far as here last evening just as the Tide was spent and this morning made an attempt to proceed but the Wind blew so heavy, direct against Us, that we were obliged to return. This moment a Schooner of Eight Gunns, which I take to be one of the Continental Fleet fitted from Maryland, pass'd Us,² on which I have sent my Servant with this to learn what intelligence she brings . . . We shall go from hence, the next Tide, if the Wind Moderates, & must expect some delay, at least for some Hours in procuring our Guard, & their provisions, which after all will not be so effectual as this Schooner, for I conceive that as Capt. [John] Barry has got out & will Cruize from Sandy Hook to the Capes of Virginia, No small Vessels of war, will keep the Coast, and if you prevent their lying in the Eastern or Cape May Channel, your Navigation will be in a great Measure Free.

1. *The Confidential Correspondence of Robert Morris*, Stan V. Henkel Catalogue, No. 1183 (Philadelphia, 1917).

2. The Continental schooner *Wasp*.

ROBERT MORRIS TO SILAS DEANE¹

Dr Sir, –

Phila 4 April 1776.

I recd your note at the State House, and on coming down here find your Conjecture about the Schooner is right; she is one that Colo [Benjamin] Harrison fitted out in Maryland² but I cannot find the Captain; other People tell me she is leaky & sickly; however I will have her fitted quick as

possible and sent down with particular orders to attend you if she gets down in time.

This however is uncertain, and you must determine for yourself whether to wait for her or proceed without. You know how hard it will be to get the People on bd again, but all the dispatch that is possible shall be made. I am [&c.]

Rob^t Morris.

1. "The Deane Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1886*, 1, 131-32.
2. The Continental schooner *Wasp*.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday, 4th April, 1776.

Resolved, That the Comm'ee of Northampton county be empowered to build or purchase and fit out for the protection of their Coast two such small-armed vessels as they have recommended.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 152.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Thursday the 4th Day of April 1776

Ordered That Captain Roger Smith do wait on Hugh Rutledge and Joshua Ward Esquires to acquaint the former of his having been elected Judge of the Admiralty and the latter of his being chosen an Assistant Judge and to inquire of them respectively if they are willing to qualify for those Offices

Captain Roger Smith reported That he had according to Order waited on Mr Hugh Rutledge and Mr Joshua Ward with the Message he had in Charge And that Mr Rutledge declared his Willingness to qualify for the Office to which he had been chosen but Mr Ward said it would be inconvenient for him to accept the Place for an Assistant Judge and therefore he declined that Honour

Ordered That the Bill for the more effectual Prevention of the Desertion of the Soldiers or Sailors in the Service of this Colony and for the Punishment of those who shall harbour or conceal them be carried to the Legislative Council by Mr William Skirving and Mr [Isaac] MacPherson

Mr Skirving reported That he and Mr MacPherson had according to Order delivered the Bill they had in Charge to the Legislative Council

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 34, 36-37.

5 Apr.

PETITION OF JOHN MOODIE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

To the Honorable Councill & to the Honorable House of Represent[ta]tives in Generall Court Assembled At Wattertown the 5d day of April Anno Domini 1776

The Pettition of John Moodie of Boston Mariner Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner sailed From Boston in August Last for Anoplas Royal In Novescotia and Sould his Cargo Their For Cattel Hay Wood Butter and Fish and Sundries – And Was tacken By Capt Masirey² of Sealem and Carried In their.³

Your Pettitioner is Now hear in Destress with a Wife and Two Children Just out of the Small pox and Nothing to Support them Prayes Your Honors Would please to order that He may Have His own Wages and Adventure allowed to Him For His Familes Support and that your Honors would Take His Destressed Condition into your searios Consideration And order that Something may Be allowed For the mentaining of Him and his much Destresed Famelie and Your Pettitioner as in alw[ays] Duty Bound Shall Ever Pray &c

John Moodie

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 393.

2. *Ibid.*, vol. 5, 108, Richard Masury, commanding the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Dolphin*.

3. The schooner *Fisher*, fifty tons burden, libeled in Admiralty Court for trial at Ipswich, March 21, 1776.

JAMES OTIS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

Message from the Board proposing to raise 1000 Men to fortify Boston Harbour.

Gentn of the House of Representatives –

As a considerable number of our Enemies Ships continue to parade in Boston Harbour and the Bay so as to obstruct all such assistance in Wood Fish & other provisions as the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston might otherwise receive by Water; which also prevents such a survey of such Harbour as the Court Intended previous to their taking any determinate measures relative to their erecting the most effectual Fortifications for its defence; it is therefore earnestly recommended to your immediate consideration whr 1000 men might not be employed to the best advantage, (provided on the partial survey already made) by taking Post at the same Instant, at Long Island, Petticks Island, & at Nantaskett they being furnished with suitable cannon, ammunion, Tents or Barracks, Provisions, Boats &c; such men (if not to be spared from the Continental Troops now under the direction of the General Court) to be raised and embodied immediatly, upon the same pay as those raised for the defence of the Sea Coasts, with such further encouragement as may be tho't proper, for every armed Vessel of our Enemies taken or destroyed by them –

In the name & by Order of the Council

James Otis President

Council Chamber [Watertown] April 5th 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 232, 632–33.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT¹

[Watertown] Friday April 5th 1776

The Committee of both Houses, to whom the foregoing Petition² was

Committed; have considered the same, and are of Opinion that William Sever & Thomas Durfee Esqrs Two of the Committee – “for Building & Equipping sundry Armed Vessels” have leave to rig the Two Vessels they are now building into Brigantines, instead of Sloops as was first intended. Brigantines being of more General Service, and best answering their intended Use – your Committee are also of an opinion that it will be expedient for William Sever and Thomas Durfee Esqrs part of the Committee aforesaid, to receive from Richard Devens Esqr the Commissary General of this Colony, Thirty Six Bolts of Duck which will be necessary for the furnishing said Brigantines with Sails –

Moses Gill pr Order

Read and accepted and thereupon

Resolved. That the said William Sever and Thomas Durfee Esqrs accordingly rig the Two Vessels they are now building into Brigantines instead of Sloops – and that they receive from Richard Devens Esqr the Commissary General of this Colony Thirty Six Bolts of Duck wherewith to furnish sd Brigantines with Sails.

The Committee appointed to consider what is proper to be done relative to a Sloop having on board Jolly Allen & Others, said to be cast ashore at Province Town on Cape Cod: take leave to report as their opinion. That a Committee be appointed to repair to said Province Town forthwith, and there take such measures as may be needful to prevent the Persons who were on board said Sloop from making their Escape or from communicating the infection of the Small Pox, to any of the Inhabitants – The said Committee likewise to take the most effectual measures for the securing the said Sloop with all the Cargo & Effects on board, and in case any part thereof has been taken out & distributed: that they collect the whole thereof and cause the same to be deposited in such manner as that it may be forthcoming at the Order of this Court, takg as particular an Inventory thereof as they conveniently can – The said Committee to be authorized to require the Aid of the Sea Coast Men stationed there, or of any Others as they may think proper for the fully accomplishing this business. –

Benjn Greenleaf pr Order

In Council Read & accepted and Ordered that Joseph Pearce Palmer Esqr with such as the Honbl House shall join, be a Committee for the purpose mentioned in the above report –

In the House of Representatives Read & Concurred & Major [Joseph] Demick and Colo [Elisha] Cobb are joined. –

Resolved that the Commisary General, be & he is hereby directed to deliver to the Honble Richard Derby junr Esq and Mr Josiah Batcheldor junr or either of their Orders, Thirty Two Bolts of Duck, to be applied for the Use of Two Armed Vessels wch they are to Build & Equip for the Service of this Colony.

1. Mass. Arch., vol 34, 721, 722, 723, 727.

2. The subject of the petition was that which the General Court agreed to in this resolution.

ROBERT T. CAMPBELL, MASTER OF THE SLOOP *Sally*, TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL COURT ¹

Trucke the 5th April 1776

May it Please The Honorable Court

I beg Leave to inform your Honours I have a Sloop on Shore at Cape Cod Put there in distress having 30 Souls on board and not one Drop of Water –

it was with the utmost Dificulty I got Clear of the fleet without the Los of the Sloop as my intention was to Part them & to put into some Port to Repair and to Proceed to the Province of New York

I beg Such directions as may inable me to dispose of the Passingers and Sécure my Property – Should it be Suggested that I may be a Enemy to my Country I Can Produce Proper Testimonies if Required I have Not acted any Part in favour of the ministerial Troops but my intention is by the means of the Sloop to be usefull to my Country and Provide for my family

I Should have been glad to had it in my Power to make my self beter Known but Cant at Present as I am illy able to hold a Pen having frooze my fingers for want of help on board

I beg Leave to Subscribe my Self a friend

Rob^t Campbell

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 319. See Provincetown Selectmen to the General Court, April 3, 1776.

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

[April 1776] At 6 AM Spoke the Comodore who had Just, taken a brig
Friday 5 tender belonging to Capt Wallises [James Wallace] Fleet ²
Latter part Moderate & Clear
Moderate Breezes & Clear Weather, At 5 PM, the *Providence*
Join'd the fleet At 6 Do Saw a Brig & Sloop to the North'd
who, we gave chace too, The *Columbus* Brought the Brig &
the *Cabot*, the Sloop both from New York, put Men on
board, and Detain'd them, they being Bound to London,

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. H.M. Bomb Brig *Bolton*, Lieutenant Edward Sneyd, commanding. An account of the *Bolton's* capture was given later by a boatswain's mate, who, in turn imparted it to Sneyd's servant. It reads: "On the 5th day of April the *Bolton* Brigg commanded by Lieut. Edward Sneyd was taken by a rebel Fleet consisting of nine sail under the command of one Hopkins. . . . Mr Sneyd fought them with undaunted bravery and great conduct, and even after he was surrounded by their whole Fleet, he gave them two broadsides and two shells before he struck;" Sneyd Papers, Keele Hall, University College of North Staffordshire, *Mariner's Mirror*, vol. 44, 1956. Hereafter cited as "Sneyd Papers," *Mariner's Mirror*.

PRISONERS TAKEN IN H.M. BOMB BRIG *Bolton* ¹

April 5th 1776

Cuffe a Negroe Man belongg to Mr Belcher
Pompey ditto belongg to Mr Crook
Sharper ditto belongg to Mr Clark

Dick	ditto	belongg to Mr Brindley
Dragoon	ditto	
Surrinam	ditto	belongg to Mr Wanton ²
Newport	ditto	

1. Hopkins Papers, No. 20, RIHS.

2. Wanton's three slaves and the one belonging to Mr. Brindley (or Brickly) were carried on the muster roll of the *Andrew Doria*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

April [17]76 Block Island N 31° East distce 70 Leags.
 Friday 5th at 5 AM Got up Top Gallt yards & set the sails, gave Chace to a Sloop in the Et Qr . at 11 fired two 9 Pounders shotted & brot her too; hoisted the Cutter out & sent a petty officer & men on board to take Charge of her.² double reef'd the TPs hoisted the Boat in & made sail down to the Convoy

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. The sloop *Greyhound*, Increase Pote, master and owner, from Virginia for Casco Bay, with Indian corn and tobacco. She was ordered for Halifax, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

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

April 1776 Moor'd in Graves End Bay.
 Friday 5th Modt and fair PM . . . sent in by our Tender the Sloop *Betsy* from Dominique.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

2. Sloop *Betsy*, Christopher Bradley, master, Richard Westcott owner, laden with molasses and sugar and sunk by the captors, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

[Extract] Philadelphia 5th April 1776

We have at last heard of Admiral ² Hopkins. The *Wasp* arrived here the day before yesterday leaky. She parted from him about a fortnight ago off Bermuda where he had been cruising some time, to intercept the transports from the West Indies. He has been at New Providence and taken from thence between 90 and 100 cannon, from 18 to 42 pounders, a large quantity of shot and one ton powder. It's supposed he is gone to Rhode Island – if so you'll hear of him before I shall . . . The Marine Committee begin to talk of the officers for the new frigates; those for the ship you are building must be taken from there; send me a list of those you think of – will [Thomas] Thompson take the command. I think Follet would make a good officer – there are many good men that I cannot recollect. I hope we shall have such as will do honor to the Service; there must be three Lieutenants – I have mentioned Agents in the Committee; They agree its necessary there should be one in every seaport – I expect to advise you by

the next post of their appointment. Hopkins has brought off the Govr and Lt Govr of Providence and an officer belonging to Pensacola.³

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, 1, 107, LC.
2. Whipple gives him a courtesy title; he was never appointed admiral, but commander in chief of the fleet.
3. A Mr. Cabbage.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Lewisto[w]n [Lewes] April the 5 1776

Gentlemen Last night at 10 O Clock I recd your Letter Dated April 3. Pst Express with a Letter from Capt Faulker [Nathaniel Falconer] with a Signal for Capt [John] Barry – which I shall take great Care shall be Answd – We have a Guard of 30 men at the Lighthouse to. Protect the Signal – Capt Matken has been this Morning sent on shore in a Small boat with four other men by whom I Learn that they have got a Pilot James Jones and from all that I Can Collect As soon as there fleet Arrives they Design up your River – we have this Morning sent of[f] Lieutenant [George] Ball to Dover – and I Desire that you would send Down for him and have him Secur'd as he is Very Active on board and his being here so Long has got more intilgence than I could wish. – the Ship now comeing to sail and from all appearance is going out on a Cruise as she has Done several times – Pray send me Some Powder for signals guns at the false Cape to Alarm your Vessels standing in, as we keep up a Guard there night and Day of 24 men – some of whom are Pilots – I am with Due Respect [&c.]

Henry Fisher

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, IX, 5, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Friday 5th April 1776.

Commissions issued to John Nicholson appointed first Lieutenant of the Ship *Defence* in the Room of John Thomas Boucher who resigned; Also to Aquila Johns appointed second Lieutenant and to John Bonnell Master of said Ship.

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch. Minutes this date also include a pay table for naval officers. Ranks are given, but the column for the pay rate is blank.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

No. 109

[Annapolis] April 5 1776

To the Deputies of Maryland in Congress

We shall . . . have the affidavits made out you desire for ascertaining the Time Hudsons Ship was in Possession of the Tenders. She left Patapsco River ten or twelve Days ago, and as we have heard Nothing of her since, we hope she is out of the Bay by this Time –

PS Saturday Mornng April 6 We are Sorry to Inform you that We have this Instant Received Intelligence that Hudsons Ship was Taken Last Wednesday morning [April 3] by two Tenders belonging to the *Otter*. We are apprehensive that we have Likewise Lost one of our Provincial Vessels –

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY PERMIT TO WILLIAM LOGAN ¹

[Annapolis] April 5, 1776 –

permit the Bearer hereof William Logan to pass with his Vessell and a Cargoe of Goods to Hobb's Hole in the Colony of Virginia – he having taken the Customary Oath that he will not carry any Letters or Communicate Intelligence directly or indirectly to any person or persons Inimical to America.

1. Naval & Maritime Papers, Md. Arch.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Williamsburg, April 5, 1776.

. . . If you could be spared from the Congress, your presence might inspire vigour and wisdom. Their economy is of a piece with their wisdom and valour; to save money, we have no carriages to our guns; to save money, we have no blankets for our men, who are, from want of this essential, dying by dozens at Suffolk. Had I gun carriages, I could flatter myself with almost a certainty of driving the pirates, and shutting them out for ever from the harbour of Norfolk. I have, however, ordered them to be made with all possible expedition, and then shall attempt this capital stroke. My command from the circumstances of the country being intersected by navigable waters, and the enemy being supplied with canvass to fly to any spot they choose, is disagreeable. I may make a very shabby figure, without any real demerits of my own. I know not where to turn, or where to fix myself. . . . I can only act from surmises, and I may surmise wrong; but I must venture, and take my measures accordingly. I am apt to think that Williamsburg and York will be their object; the possession of the first is not only most temptingly advantageous, from its command of the two rivers and a most abundant country, but its being a capital, the possession would give an air of dignity and decided superiority to their arms, which, in a slave country, is of the utmost importance. Your dominion over the blacks is founded on opinion; if this opinion fails, your authority is lost. On this principle I am drawing down some battalions, and shall, when I can provide intrenching tools, work for the security of these places.

1. Lee, *Lee Memoir*, II, 215–16.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Friday, 5th April, 1776.

[A warrant] to Capt. Lilly for £30 upon acc't for defraying expenses of fitting Brig *Liberty*.



CHARLES LEE, Esq.

Major General of the CONTINENTAL ARMY in AMERICA.

Painted by Sir J. B. H. Smeaton, R.S.A. Engraved by J. G. Kneller.

It appearing from the Report of Capt. Co[c]ke and other Information that Hutching's Packett is not sufficient for an armed cutter for James River, this Comm'ee decline taking her, and it is Ordered that 2 vessels be provided for the s'd River – one to carry 2 six-pounders and 6 four-pounders and the other 6 four-pounders, and that Max. Calvert's Schooner be one of them if the comm'ee approve her after the appraisement, provided if she can, in the opinion of Capt. Richard Barron, be conveyed up James River with safety; that both these vessels be fitted out at the most convenient and safe place up James or Appomattox River under the direction of Capt. James Cocke and Isaac Younghusband, who are respectively to command the same, and are empowered to purchase every article necessary for such vessels, to recommend proper officers to this board, and engage proper seamen.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 153.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1776

Williamsburg, April 5.

Since the defeat of major Grant and commodore Barclay, they have begun to plunder the gentlemens plantations in their neighbourhood; and from Arthur Middleton Esqr's on the [South] Carolina shore, they had carried off 65 slaves.

Sir James Wright, their governor, with his two daughters, has retired on board the *Scarborough*, thereby abdicating his government, and leaving behind him an estate valued to at least 80,000 l. sterling.

Charlestown, in South Carolina, is defended by upwards of 130 pieces of cannon, from 26 to 9 pounders, mounted on 13 forts, batteries and bastions, at the entrance into the harbour, and round the bay; with five continental battalions, and 13 complete uniforme[d] minute companies belonging to the town. They have likewise fitted out three armed vessels; one of them a ship mounting 24 guns, called the *Prosper*, the Hon. William Henry Drayton, esq; commander; the brig *Comet*, of 16 guns, capt. [Joseph] Turpin; and the schooner *Defence*, captain Tufts, of 12 guns. The two latter, well manned and fitted, were lying ready to join the continental fleet, off Sullivan's island. – Their Provincial Congress, at their last meeting, have prepared such a form of government as they judge will best conduce to the happiness of the people, and effectually secure good order in the province; and the estate and effects of John Stuart, esq; superintendent of Indian affairs, has been secured by their order, he having been found guilty of spiriting up the Indians against us, with other high crimes and misdemeanors.

On the 23d of last month, there were lying off Fort Johnston, and Brunswick, in Cape Fear river, the *Scorpion* of 24 guns, with governour Martin on board, the *Raven* of eighteen guns, the *Cruiser* sloop of 10 guns, three or four small armed vessels, a few transports with 400 land forces, and some prizes, making in the whole 20 odd sail of vessels; and more troops were hourly expected, with general Clinton, who it was said was then on the coast. The ships of war and transports, now in the river, have on board a

vast quantity of warlike stores and military apparatus, which were to have been put into the hands of the insurgents. – Capt. Collett, in the *General Gage* armed vessel (some time commander of fort Johnston, and well known to be a pert audacious little scoundrel) has lately committed divers acts of piracy and robbery. Amongst others, he set fire to the elegant house of col. Dry, formerly one of his majesty's council, and collector of the customs for the port of Brunswick, for no other crime than his being a friend to his country; destroying therein all the valuable furniture, liquors, &c. The house of William Hooper, esq; one of the continental delegates, about three miles below Wilmington, likewise shared the same fate, with two pilot houses near Fort Johnston. – The town of Brunswick is totally deserted, and the enemy frequently land in small parties, to pillage and carry off negroes; but had the misfortune, in one of their excursions to lose eight of their gang. Mr. Quince had 18 slaves lately stolen from him. – The principal inhabitants have left Wilmington, and retired into the country; and it is now occupied by the provincial troops, who are making the necessary dispositions to defend it, by throwing up intrenchments along the river, both in and below the town. The brave col. [Richard] Caswell was on his march there, with his victorious little army; and troops were coming in daily from all quarters, so that it was expected at least 5000 men would rendezvous there in a very short time.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Friday the 5th day of April 1776

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House a Bill for the more effectual Prevention of the Desertion of the Soldiers and Sailors in the Service of this Colony and for the Punishment of those who shall harbour or conceal them or who shall purchase receive or conceal the Arms Cloaths or Accoutrements of Deserters

Resolved That the Bill do pass and that the Title be an Act for the more effectual Prevention of the Desertion of the Soldiers and Sailors in the Service of this Colony and for the Punishment of those who shall harbour or conceal them or who shall purchase receive or conceal the Arms Cloaths or Accoutrements of Deserters

Ordered That the Bill be sent to the Legislative Council for their Concurrence And that Captain [Isaac] Harlston and Mr [Aaron] Loocock do carry the same.

A Bill to empower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in all Cases of Capture of Ships or Vessels of the Inhabitants of Great Britain Ireland and the British West Indies and to establish the Trial by Jury in such Cases was read a Second Time

Ordered That the Bill be sent to the Legislative Council

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 38, 40–42.

6 Apr.

ISAAC SMITH, SR. TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

Mr. Adams

Salem Aprill the 6 1776

I wrote you a post or two Ago, of being informd Mr. Gearey [Elbridge Gerry] had wrote his brother to procure a Cargo or two of fish, to ship to Europe and had Applied to me for some I have by me, but as I have sundry Vessells of my Own lying by should be glad to have them imployed, and iff the Congress wants to purchase I would let them have mine and would see to the loading of her and to follow there directions. Suppose I may have from 10 to 1200 Q[uintals] of good fish and a friend of mine 6 or 700 more, probable Enough to make up two fishing schooner Cargo's. I should be Oblidged to you to write me Answer by the return of this post iff you may not have done itt. Your Compliance will Oblidge Your fre. and hume. servt.,

Isaac Smith

Ps Commodore Manleys fleet has taken a brigantine bound to Halifax on board of which is Bill Jackson and all his Effects and itt's said she has a large quantity of the Stolen goods ²—and there is on board likewise One Greenbrush [Crean Brush], receiver general of the stolen goods and has distinguisht himself in that way by demanding People's propaty from them. Itts said he came from [New] Y[ork] and itt's said those Carpenters and runagarders from that way has behaved worse than any Others. A sloop in on shore at the Cape, beleive nothing very Valuable on board but itt Appears they (the inhabitants) went away in a most dismal Cituation, not having even Water sufficient and crowded and some sick with the small pox.³

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 372-73.

2. The brig *Elizabeth*, Peter Ramsey, master, taken April 2, 1776, and carried into Portsmouth.

3. A group of Tories, headed by Jolly Allen, who intended for New York but went ashore on Cape Cod and were captured.

JOSEPH WILLIAMS TO WILLIAM COIT, NORWICH MERCHANT ¹

Sr

Camb[ridg]e Apr. 6th 1776

Since I wrote, We have Certain intelligence of Capt Manly's taking a Prize worth about £ 25000 Sterling belonging to a number of tories which were taken Allso Among which is Wm Jackson the grand tory of all — it was Supposed they were bound to Halifax ² — in haste yr &c

Jos Williams

1. Trumbull Papers, YUL.

2. The brig *Elizabeth*.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, April 6, 1776

a Bill for amending an Act pas't in November last, intituled an Act for

Encouraging the fixing out of Armed Vessels, &c. having passed the House of Representatives to be Engrossed

In Council. Read a Second time and passed a Concurrence to be Engrossed. —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34.

DIARY OF JOHN ROWE ¹

[Boston] Apr. 6. —

Capt. Manly is come to town, and brings the account of his taking Crean Brush, Wm. Jackson, and seventy other passengers in a brig bound with the fleet. This vessell, tis said, has twenty five thousand pound sterling on board in English goods and other merchandise; among the prisoners is a serjeant and 12 men of the King's troops.

1. *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 2nd series, X, 98.

NATHANIEL FREEMAN TO JOSEPH OTIS ¹

Hond Sir

Barnstable April 6. 1776

having an opportunity to Let you know we are well as usual embrace same — as to news Prince Gorham is arrived from St Eustatia in Solomon Davis's Vessel with dry Goods, Geneva, & india [tea] Our Committee take no Notice of it altho she saild in Jany, if no notice is taken by the Court Quere whether one man has not as good [a] right as another to break through the resolves of Congress, that I leave for others to determine — hope the Court will consider of it and put a stop to the disorderly Spirit prevailing or there will be no end to the growing strength of the Tories in this County — The passengers in Gorham say that their is a number of Transports coming from the West indies blown off last fall bound to Boston hope Manly & his fleet may come across them this please to communicate — have seen Esqr Greenough who tells me that Hutchinson told him that the Commissioners coming here to treat was with a design to divide us not with any view to settle matters, as the Ministry had no other tho[ugh]t but to Divide & conquer, he supposed Greenough a suitable person to trust with this secret — hope if they Come they will have no Countenance from the Congress.

A vessel from Holland to Statia says 8000 Scotch, 8000 Irish, 9000 english Troops are destind to do the mighty Deeds in america next Campaign — that English goods are plenty in St Eustatia — May we be kept from the machinations of Lord North &c is the prayers of &c

Copy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 208, 376.

ACCOUNT BOOK OF WILLIAM SEVER ¹

Kingston 6th April 1776

Colony Dr. for Brig. *Independence*

1 . . 1 . . 18	Refin'd Iron d[elivere]d Job Drew of mines ²	3 . . 7 . . . 8
11 1/4 lb	Twine Col Waters a 2/8	1 . . 10 . . . -
1 . . 0 . . 25	Bar Iron a 40/ Lazz. Goodwin	20 . . . 8 . . 11
12 bbs	lampblack a 2 Do	1 . . . 4 . . -
		21 . . 12 . . 11

1. Sever Account Book, 262. Courtesy of Captain and Mrs. Noel Sever O'Reilly, Glenview, Illinois.

2. Meaning from his own foundry.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD ¹

Mr Ward Sr

Providence April 6th 1776

Their being a number of Masters Mates & Seamen belonging to this Coloney who are now Detained prisoners onbord Wallaces Fleet having Lately bin tacon with Severil of our Vess[e]lls & Cargoes as they was Coming in to this Coloney, I now Inclose you Genl Washingtons order for Twelve of the prisoners Now in Boston Jail which You'l please to Send me by the Barrer Majer [Edward] Spaulding, If You think more Aid is Necessary then he has with him in order to bring them Safe to this place You'l please to Advise Accordingly & he will procure them.

I am Sr [&c.]

Nich^s Cooke

[P.S.] As the within Majr Spaulding Can Not go Immediately, the Barrer Capt [William] Barton goes in his Roomè, therefore You'l please to Dd the prisoners within Mentioned to him -

1. Greene Papers, MassHS.

COLONEL HENRY BABCOCK TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Rhode Island Head Quarters 6th April 1776

Sir There are now Seven Square Rigid Vessels Standing in for Newport must beg you would immediately order one thousand men to our assistance [&c.]

Henry Babcock

P.S. we have a little Sport with Capn Wallace this morning & have fired thro & thro him

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 316.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO CAPTAIN SETH HARDING ¹

Lebanon 6th April 1776

Sir Yours p Lt Smedley is before me - My Council of Safety will be with me next Tuesday - at which Time shall lay your Letter before them - and the Necessary Orders concerning Powder other things shall be given the inlistment of Men from the Continental Army doth not lye with me -

General Washington is coming forward – his Orders may be necessary – Your orders to go to Convey the Soldiers &c must be deferred to Meeting of Govr & Council.– You'l use all possible dispatch to fit the Brig *Defence* for Sea –

I am Sir &c.

Jonth Trumbull

1. Seth Harding Papers, MHA.

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

[April 1776]

Saturday 6th At 1 AM Saw two Sail, to the ESE, we made the Signal for the Comodore to Bear, down with the rest of the Fleet, At 2 Do the *Cabot*, came a long side of the Chace she prov'd to be the *Glasgow* Capt Howe, upon which the *Cabot* gave her a Broad side, and she return'd two, fold, which oblig'd the *Cabot* to sheer off and had like to have been foul of us, which oblig'd us to tack, to get Clear, the Comodore came up next, and Discharg'd several Broad side and received as many which did Considerable Damage in his hull & Riggen, which obilg'd him to sheer off, The *Glasgow*, then made all the sail she possible could, for Newport, & made a running fight for 7 Glases we receiv'd several shott in the hull & riggen, one upon the Quarter, through the Netting and stove the arm Chest, upon the Quarter Deck and wounded our Drumer in the Legg At 6 Do the Comodore made the Signal for giveing over Chase, she being two nigh Wallace to follow her, At 7 Tack'd to the Southward, At Meridian was Join'd by the Fleet, the Schooner we had taken, had taken the tender, belonging to the *Glasgow* ²
Light Breezes & Clear Weather, At 2 PM Tkd to Southd & Westward At 6 PM Block Iland Bore E 3/4 S Distance 3 Leagues and Montock Point S W B W, 4 or 5 Leagues, the Middle & latter foggy Weather with rain.

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. It is interesting to note the comments of John Trevett, lieutenant of Marines on board the *Columbus*, and Charles Bulkeley, a midshipman on board the *Alfred*, about this engagement. Trevett wrote: "Nothing material happened until we made Long Island, when we took what was called a 'Bum Brig' and an armed schooner, and let the ship *Glasgow* run away from us," Trevett's Journal, NHS. Charles Bulkeley in his narrative stated: "off Block Island took a tender belonging to the Ship *Rose* and a Bomb Brig and towards morning fell in with the *Glasco* Man of War and engaged her and recd a shott through the Main Mast and one of our tiller blocks being shott away we came into the wind and the enemy then stood to the eastward," NLCHS.

JOURNAL OF JOHN PAUL JONES ¹

In the night of the 9th [*sic* 1 A.M. of the 6th] of April, on the return of the squadron from the Providence expedition, the American arms by sea were first tried in an action with the *Glasgow*, a British frigate of 24 guns, off Block Island. Both the *Alfred* and *Columbus* mounted two batteries.

The *Alfred* mounted 30, the *Columbus* 28 guns. The first battery was so near the water as to be fit for nothing except in a harbour or a very smooth sea. The sea was at the time perfectly smooth. Mr. Jones was stationed between decks to command the *Alfred's* first battery, which was well served whenever the guns could be brought to bear on the enemy, as appears by the official letter of the commander in chief giving an account of that action. Mr. Jones therefore did his duty; and as he had no direction whatever, either of the general disposition of the squadron, or the sails and helm of the *Alfred*, he can stand charged with no part of the disgrace of that night*

*[Marginal note] It is for the commander in chief and the captains, to answer for the escape of the *Glasgow*.

1. Sands, *Life and Correspondence of John Paul Jones*, 36, 37.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Glasgow*; CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE¹

April 1776 Standing out of the Harbour [of Newport]
 Friday 5 AM got up topmts & Yards at noon weigh'd & came to sail
 in Compy the *Rose* & Squadron—
 Light Airs & fair at 3 the light house WNW ½ a mile at 5
 the squadron bore away into the harbour
 Saturday 6 at 3 AM saw 8 strange sail to windward Do TKd, stood for
 them & prepar'd for action they prov'd to be the Rebell fleet
 consisting of 2 Ships, 2 Briggs & a sloop, at ½ past 3 one of
 the Briggs attempted to lay us on board the two ships one
 a head & the other a stern began the action by Raking us, we
 immediatly fired & Continued a very hot action till ½ past
 4 when we bore away & made Sail & continued a very hot
 running fire, but the Enemy's Ships frequently Yaw'd & rak'd
 us at 6 they hal'd Close by the Wind at ½ pt 7 they TKd
 & stood to the L SW Do fired several Guns to alarm the
 fleet at Rhode Island we had one marine kill'd & one
 wounded all the lower masts disabled & most of the standing
 & runng rigging shot away at 11 Came too in Rhode Island
 spoke the *Rose* & Squadron working out in pursuit of the
 Rebels, the Rebels fleet consisted of one ship of 30 Guns one
 of 22 one brigg of 16, one of 14 & a Sloop of 10 Guns the
 Adml hoisted Dutch Colours & the other Strip'd.
 Fresh breezes & hazey with Rain PM the People Empd re-
 pairing the Rigging & bending new Sails

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

“REMARKS ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow* SATURDAY
 THE 6TH DAY OF APRIL 1776.”¹

Copy

At two A M. Block Island then bearing N.W. about eight Leagues, discovered a Fleet on the Weather beam, consisting of seven or eight Sail;

tacked and stood towards them, and soon perceived them to be, two, or three large Ships, and other Square Rigged Vessels; Turned all hands to Quarters, and hauled up the Mainsail, and kept standing on to the N.W. with a light breeze, and smooth Water. The Fleet then coming down before it. At half past two a Brig much like the *Bolton*, but larger, came within hail, and seemed to hesitate about giving any answers, but still kept standing towards us, And on being asked what other Ships were in Company with her, they answered "the *Columbus* and *Alfred*, a two and twenty Gun frigate." And almost immediately, a hand Granadoe was thrown out of her top. We exchanged our Broadships, she then shot ahead, and lay on our bow, to make room for a large Ship, with a top light, to come on our Broadside, and another Ship ran under our Stern, Raked us as she passed, and then luft up, on our Lee beam, whilst a Brig took her Station, on our Larboard Quarter, and a Sloop kept altering her Station occasionally. At this time the Clerk having the care of the dispatches for the So Ward to destroy, if the Ship should be boarded, or in danger of being taken, hove the bag overboard with a Shot in it. At four the Station of every Vessel was altered, as the two Ships had dropt on each quarter, and a Brig kept a Stern, giving a continual fire. Bore away, and made Sail for Rhode Island, with the whole fleet within Musket shot, on our Quarters and Stern. Got two Stern chase Guns out of the Cabin, and kept giving, and receiving a very warm fire. At day light perceived the Rebel fleet to consist of two Ships, two Brigs, and a Sloop, and a large Ship, and Snow, that kept to Windward, as soon as the Action began. At half past six, the Fleet hauled their Wind, and at Seven tacked, and stood to the S.S.W. — Employed, reeving, knotting, and Splicing, and the Carpenters making fishes for the Masts. At half past seven, made a Signal, and fired several Guns occasionally to alarm the Fleet at Rhode Island Harbour. The *Rose*, *Swan*, and *Nautilus*, then being working out. N.B. We had one Man killed, and three Wounded by the Musketry from the Enemy.

Signed Tyring^m Howe ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. This seems to have been a special report prepared by Howe for Vice Admiral Molyneux Shuldham who enclosed it in his letter of April 19 to the Admiralty.

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

April 1776

At Single Anch[or] in Rhode Islan[d] Harbour

Friday 5

AM Sway'd up Yds & T.Masts at ½ past 11 Weigh'd and came to Sail as did the Squadn Steering out of the Harbour. First and latter part fresh Breezes and Clear Mid little Wind PM at 3 bore away for the Harbour Parted Company H M Ship *Glascow* at 5 came too Off the So End of Gold Island 17 fm as did the Squadn Recd fresh Beef.

Saturdy 6

AM at ½ past 5 the Rebels fird a Number of 18 pound shot at us, & Struck the Hull, one stove the Cutter, & 1 through the foremast—Fir'd 26—9 prs at them Weigh'd and came to Sail, at 8 Anchd off the No end of Gold Isld, at 10 Weigh'd

and came to Sail as did the Squadn Turning down the River at 11 came in HM Ship *Glascow*, at 1/2 past 3 she fell in with the Rebel Squadn of 5 Sail and Engag'd for Some Hours, left in the Harbour Do

Fresh Gales and Cloudy turning out of the Harbour bore in [*sic*] the Transport and 3 prize Sloops saw 2 Sail in SW, at 4 PM the Light House NBE 3 Leagues & Point Juda [Judith] WBN2N at 8 Point Juda SWBW 2 Miles lost sight of the *Fortune* T[ende]r and 4 prizes In 2d Reefs at 12 Tac'd 3 Sail in Sight.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Swan*, CAPTAIN JAMES AYSCOUGH ¹

April 1776

At Single Anchor off Gold Island

Saty 6

AM light Winds and Clear at 7 Weigh & run up of[f] the No end of the Island it Bearing SWBS Came too in 11 fms with the Small Bower Dist of[f] Shore 1 Mile at 9 Weighd and came to sail in Company ² as before and turnd down the River

PM fresh Breezes and Clear turning out of Rhode Island Harbour saild in to the Harbour H M S *Glascow* much Shatterd in [h]er Riggin & Sails & her Mast Much Damaged, 5 sail of the Rebbels armed Vessels Engaged her 7 Glasses & Beat them off at 6 in Compny with H M S *Rose Nautilus* 3 tenders & 4 Prizes R.I. WSW 5 Leags tkd Ship.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

2. H.M.S. *Rose* and H.M. Sloop *Nautilus* and several tenders.

PURCHASES BY CAPTAIN WILLIAM MERCIER FOR THE NEW YORK ARMED VESSELS ¹

Capt Willm. Merceir

Bot. of Sharpe Curtenius

2 pr Swivels

a £6

£ 12...0...0

6 Cwt Langrage

a 10/

3...0...0

1 Caboos

14...0...0

2 Potts

a 8/

16...0

1 Spitt & Racks

10...0

£ 30..14...0

1776 Ditto

Bot of Peter T. Curtenius

April 6 6 Blunderbusses

a 40/

£ 12...0...0

3 Muskets

a 50/

7..10...0

£ 19..10...0

1. NYSL.

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

April 1776

Moor'd in Graves End Bay.

Saturday 6th at 4 AM the *Hannah* Sloop from St Lucia ² [was sent in]
 PM Ancor'd here in his Majesty's Sloop *Savage*

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

2. The sloop *Hannah*, Isaac Buck, master, James Howell, owner, with a cargo of molasses and brandy. She was sent to Halifax, Shuldhams's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, April 6, 1776

~~Resolved, That the resolution respecting the sloop *Sally*, passed on Thursday last, be reconsidered, and that it be recommitted to the same committee.~~

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report from the committee of the whole; and the same being twice read, and debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That any goods, wares, and merchandise, except staves and empty casks, other than shaken or knocked down casks for molasses, may be exported from the thirteen United Colonies, by the inhabitants thereof, and by the people of all such countries as are not subject to the King of Great Britain, to any parts of the world which are not under the dominion of the said King; provided, that no vessel be permitted to export any greater number of shaken or knocked down molasses casks, than the same vessel is capable of carrying when they shall be filled with Molasses.

Resolved, That any goods, wares, and merchandise, except such as are of the growth, production, or manufacture of, or brought from any country under the dominion of the King of Great Britain, and except East India Tea, may be imported from any other parts of the world to the thirteen United Colonies, by the inhabitants thereof, and by the people of all such countries as are not subject to the said King; liable, however, to all such duties and impositions as now are, or may hereafter be laid by any of the said colonies.

Resolved, That nothing herein contained shall be understood to prevent such future commercial regulations as shall be thought just and necessary by these United Colonies, or their respective legislatures.

Resolved, That no slaves be imported into any of the thirteen United Colonies.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the assemblies and conventions in the several colonies, to appoint proper officers, at convenient places in their respective colonies, to take bonds, in adequate penalties, for observing the regulations made by the Congress, or assemblies, or conventions, concerning trade, and for securing the observation of such parts of the association as are not inconsistent therewith; and that the obligor shall, within eighteen months after the departure of the vessel, produce to such officers a certificate, under the hands and seals of three or more reputable merchants, residing at the port or place where the cargo shall be delivered, that the

same was there unladed, and take manifests upon oath, of the cargoes exported and imported, and keep fair accounts and entries thereof, give bills of health when desired, grant registers shewing the property of the vessels cleared out, and sign certificates that the requisites for qualifying vessels to trade have been complied with: And that the fees of the said officers be stated by the respective assemblies or conventions: Provided always, that no prosecution upon any of the said bonds shall be commenced but within three years after the date thereof.

Resolved, That all goods, wares and merchandise, except such as are made prize of, which shall be imported directly or indirectly from Great Britain or Ireland, into any of these United Colonies, contrary to the regulations established by Congress, shall be forfeited and disposed of, agreeable to such rules as shall be made by the several assemblies or conventions, and shall be liable to prosecution and condemnation in any court erected, or to be erected, for the determination of maritime affairs, in the colony where the seizure shall be made.

Ordered, That the above resolutions be published.²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 257-61.

2. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, April 10, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 6th A'l, 1776.

Resolved, That Capt. [John] Rice & Mr. A. Donaldson, be desired immediately to construct two Chevaux de Frize, for the purpose of stopping the passage between the Chevaux de Frize now sunk, and that they be made in such form that they may float, when proper loaded for sinking.

Resolved, That Capt. Jno Hazlewood be empowered to nominate some discreet and judicious person to assist some other person to be appointed by the Capt. of Mr. Vernon's Brig't, to appraise & Value the said Brig, & the Committee of Fire Rafts are hereby authorized to take the said Vessel at the Valuation of the said appraisers, & to fit her for a fire Vessel, for the defence of our River.

Upon application of Colo. Roberdeau, for a quantity of shot for the use of two privateers fitting out of this Port, By order of the Board, Robert Towers, Commiss'y, was directed to deliver Mr. Philip Moore three hundred pounds of different sized shot, taking a Receipt for the same.

Resolved; That Charles Lawrence be appointed Captain to one tier of Fire Rafts.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 535, 536.

GEORGE CLYMER TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] 6 April 1776

Sir The committee [of Safety] requests you would solicit the honble. Congress to spare to this Province Ten or fifteen of the largest Cannon that

have been taken at the Island of [New] Providence As we apprehend they will be wanted for the protection of this City before a Supply can be otherwise obtain'd ² . . .

We also send a Letter received by Express from Henry Fisher that the Congress may take such order for bringing up Lt.[George] Ball as they shall judge fit.³

1. *Rare American Historical Autographs. The Collection of Frederick S. Peck* (Philadelphia, 1947), No. 8.
2. News of the cannon taken at New Providence had been brought by the Continental schooner *Wasp* arriving April 4, 1776.
3. See Henry Fisher's letter of April 5, 1776.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1776

Philadelphia, April 6.

Tomorrow, at twelve o'clock in the forenoon, the experiment will be tried upon the Alarm Guns, which are placed upon the Delaware, betwixt this city and the capes, of which the Committee of Safety thinks proper to inform the public, to prevent any confusion.

We hear that on Monday last [April 1], the sloop *Endeavor*, Job Trip master, being on her passage from Dartmouth to this place, to the northward of Egg Harbour, was chased and come up with by a tender carrying four carriage guns, ten swivels, and thirty-five men, fitting out by the *Phoenix*, and commanded by one Butler, a midshipman. The tender was not content with firing a broadside at Capt. Trip's vessel, after she had hauled down her sails, but went along side, after using much scurrilous language, ordered another broadside to be fired, by which Captain Trip received a ball in the thigh, which broke and much shattered it; the mate also had a ball went through one thigh, and lodged in the other. An officer afterwards came on board, and told Capt. Trip, that Butler (the Captain of the tender) out of his clemency, had consented to give him his boat, on condition he would make the best of his way on shore, which Capt. Trip represented as impossible, for himself and his mate both being wounded, they could neither stand nor sit. They then gave them the three hands belonging to the sloop, who, after much difficulty, reached the shore. The Captain and Mate were both dangerously ill, having been thirty-six hours without any dressing to their wounds. The tenders's people, after plundering the sloop, scuttled, and set her on fire.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] April 6th

. . . near 2, Set out for Kinsington, in order to assist with a Number of fellow citizens in geting the lower deck beams on board the frigate building by messrs Eyers ² I persum there came not short of 100. who Stayed till they were all put on board (in which was included 3 parts of the Light Infantry of 1st Batalion who came in warlike array). came away Just at dark.

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.
2. The frigate later to be named *Washington*.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED APRIL 6." ¹

Four new privateers, from 16 to 28 guns each, are just fitted out here; they are compleatly manned, and will in a few days sail on a cruize to intercept the transports expected to arrive in America from England. Yesterday two sloops from Curacoa, laden with powder and warlike stores, arrived safe in this port, and proceeded immediately to land their cargoes. They were chased on their passage by an English frigate, which was once so near one of them, that she fired a bow-chace gun at her, and killed a negroe man who was at the helm, but the wind dying away, and dark night coming on, the sloops altered their course, when the King's ship lost sight of them.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 8 to June 11, 1776.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*] Cruising at the mouth of the Delaware
[Saturday] April 6

Saw several small Vessels and a Brig under Cape May shore, but on Account of the Shoals could not get near them.

Took a small Sloop from North Carolina laden with Pitch Tar & Turpentine, which the Rebels are in great want of. The Tenders took out the Turpentine and destroyed the Vessel.²

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

2. "By The *Roebuck* and Ships under Captain Hamond's command . . . *Sally*, Seymour Hood, Master, E. Batcheler, Owner; from Ocnisock [Ocracoke] North Carolina, to Philadelphia; with Tar and Turpentine, destroyed off Cape Hinlopen," *London Gazette*, May 10 to May 13, 1777.

BENJAMIN RUMSEY TO WILLIAM LUX ¹

Sir I have communicated your Letter to the eighth Battallion who are much pleased that there Conduct on the late Alarm occasioned by the *Otter* has met with the Approbation of so truly respectable a Body as the Committee of Baltimore County.

That Battallion Sir esteem it but their Duty to march to the Assistance of any part of this Province when attacked or in Danger of it – But they march with greater Alacrity to your Assistance from the pleasing Memory of former Connections and a Sense of the Value and Importance of Baltimore Town to the Province in General.

You may from the known and firm Attachment of the Battallion to the Cause of Liberty rest assured that You will most certainly receive their Succour to repel all hostile Attempts on it I am Sir [&c.]

Joppa April 6th 1776 –

Benjamin Rumsey

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.

MONEY RECEIVED BY CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON FOR OUTFITTING THE
MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

1775		[Baltimore, April 6, 1776]	
Decr 22d	By Cash recd from Mr John Smith on Acct Lux & Bowly ²	£ 100...0...0	
30th	By do from Messrs Lux & Bowley	175...0...0	
Jany 6. 1776	By do from do by Capt Boucher ³	101...0...0	
13th	By do from pr Capt. [Aquila] Johns ⁴	200...0...0	
17th	By do from Do	161...0...0	
18th	By do from Do	46...0...0	
20th	By do from do pr Capt Jno T. Boucher	200...0...0	
22d	By do from do pr Capt Johns	70...0...0	
27th	By do from do pr Capt Bocher	20...0...0	
29th	By do from pr Do	80...10...0	
Feby 3d	By do of do pr Lieut John Nicholson ⁵	140...0...0	
	By do of do pr Lieut Boucher	60...0...0	
12th	By do from do pr Jams R. Morris ⁶	115...0...0	
13th	By Cash of Do pr Do	103...10...0	
15th	By Do of Do pr Mr [George] Turnbull ⁷	50...0...0	
16th	By Do of Do By Jams R. Morris	100...0...0	
20th	By Do of Do pr Mr. Turnbull	50...0...0	
23d	By Do of Do pr Jas R. Morris	52...10...0	
26th	By Do of do pr do	104...15...0	
March 2d	By do of do pr Mr Jas Smith	100...0...0	
5th	By do of do pr Jams R Morris	54...0...0	
7th	By do of do pr Do	51...0...0	
11th	By do of do pr Do	153...16...3	
13th	By do of Do Do.	117...10...0	
18	By do of do pr Capt Johns	80...10...0	
22d	By do of do pr do	20...-...-	
23d	By do of do pr Jas R. Morris	30...-...-	
30th	By do of do pr Mr Turnbull	50...0...0	
Apl 1st	By do of do pr Mr Jas Smith	30...0...0	
2d	By do of do pr Mr Turnbull	20...0...0	
		<hr/>	
		£ 2816...1...3	

1776		[Page 2]	
Feby 27	By Cash recd of Messrs Lux & Bowly	£ 85...12...0	
March 20	By do do do	210...-...-	
22	By do do do	38...8...9	
April 3	By do do do	40...-...-	
	By do in Specie do do	28...5...-	
Charged to Mr J.R. Morris on the Books but must be Chargd to Capt Nicholson	By do recd of Treasury by Ordn Convention By Cash pd Thos Elliott by Messrs Lux & Bowley	50...-...- 97...2...4	

	By Garrett Brown to Credit Messrs Lux & Bowly	76...3...9
[April] 6	By Cash recd of Messrs Lux & Bowly by G. Turnbull	23...-...- 2816...1...3
		<hr/> £ 3464..13...1

1. Account Book, Ship *Defence*, Clerk's copy, MdHS.
2. Agents for the *Defence*.
3. First Lieutenant of the *Defence*.
4. Second Lieutenant.
5. Third Lieutenant.
6. Purser.
7. Captain's Clerk.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR.¹

Williams burg, April the 6th 1776

Dr Sir I know not to whom I can address this most important Note with so much Propriety and assurance of Success as to yourself – the Crisis will not admit of Ceremony and Procrastination, I shall therefore irregularly address you in the Language and with the Spirit of one bold determined free Citizen to another, and conjure you as you value the Liberties and Rights of the Community, of which you are a Member, not to lose a Moment, and in my Name (if my Name is of Consequence enough) to direct the commanding Officer of your Troops at Annapolis immediately to Seize the Person of Governor Eden – the Sin and Blame be on my Head – I will answer for all to the Congress – the justice & Necessity of the measure will be best explained by the Pacquet transmitted to you by the Committee of Safety from this Place God Almighty give us Wisdom and vigor in this Hour of Tryal – adieu
Dr Sir [&c.]

Charles Lee

1. Hollyday Papers, MdHS.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday, 6th April, 1776.

The Committee being informed that a vessel formerly allowed to be purchased by Robert Donald, for the purpose of conveying passengers to Great Britain, is about to proceed on her voyage, the s'd Donald declaring upon oath that the said vessel is two thirds his property, the other third the property of a Gent. in Glasgow. This Comm'ee are of opinion, that since the passing of the Act of Parliament for Confiscating American property, and the order of Congress relating thereto, the said vessel ought not to depart this Colony, and it is ordered that Theo. Bland, John Banister and Arch'd Cary or any 2, make enquiry what British property either in Bullion or otherwise may be on board the s'd vessel, and make report to this Board.

[A warrant] to Bartholomew Gall for £12 for use of himself and 4

sailors, also for 1 soldier escaped from the Navy, to support them on their way to Philadelphia.

Mr. Robert Donald having offered his vessel, the Brig. *Hope*, to this Comm'ee for £650, the price she cost and the Expenses he has been at in refitting her, The Comm'ee agree to take her to be employed as a Cruizer for James River, provided Capt. James Cocke shall approve her and she can be delivered to him in some safe place up Appomattox River and a proportion of her value for such part thereof as shall appear to be British property, to be deducted out of the above-stated value 'til the further order of this Comm'ee. And it is ordered that Capt. James Cocke be empowered to examine such prov's on board the said vessel and take such part thereof for the use of the Navy in that River as may suit their purpose at a reasonable price.

The Comm'ee having rec'd Information that vessels loaded with prov's frequently pass down the Rivers – Resolved, that no vessels be permitted to pass without a permit from the Commanding Officer of the forces or a County Comm'ee, and the officers at the different stations upon the Rivers are required to enforce this Resolution.

The comm'ee approve of taking Mr. Archer's vessel to be employed as a cruizer in York River at a reasonable price, to be apprazed by Edw'd Champion Travis, Esq're, the elder, who is to examine her state and condition and make report.

In the Evening – 6 o'clock.

Capt. James Barron appeared and laid before the Comm'ee a packette which he had intercepted, from his Majesty's Secretary of State to Governor Eden of Maryland, containing Letters of Instruction and Advice, which were read and considered. Whereupon this Comm'ee are of opinion that copies thereof be immediately forwarded with all possible dispatch to the District Comm'ee of Newbern, North Carolina, and the Council of Safety of Baltimore and Annapolis.

Ordered, a Letter to be written to the Council of Safety for Edenton District, inclosing the above copies, intimating the situation and strength of Lord Dunmore's Fleet, now here, and the advantage and conveniency of erecting a Battery at the mouth of Norfolk River to keep off ships of war and render a secure harbour for the Continental Fleet, should they incline to come here.

Ord., a Letter to be written to the Council of Safety of Maryland and Baltimore, inclosing copies of the s'd Dispatches, requesting they would forward copies to Congress, and intimating that a certain Alexander Ross was the person charged with those Dispatches, who went to s'd Dunmore after being denied a permit by this Comm'ee without our knowledge, and recommending the seizure of him as a suspicious person and unfriendly to the American cause.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 154-57.

W. CABELL TO EDMUND WILCOX ¹

Dear Sir,

Wmsburg April 6th 1776.

I recd your's of Yesterday, & herewith Inclose you a Certificate from the Committee of safety that your having attended Colo [Richard] Corbin on board Lord Dunmores ship was by their permission.² I should have sent you a [copy] of their Letter to Colo [William] Grayson had th[ere been] an Entry made of it, tho' expect the [Certifi]cate will answer the same end. I re[turned] home the seventh day of March at which time I had not heard a Syllable of your having been on board the *Dunmore* [torn] untill I saw Wm Penn at this place some short time ago, who Informed me of it, & also that the people in Amherst were much displeas'd - I shall set off on my way home on saturday next & will do you the Justice to inform the people the truth of the Case which I expect will remove their prejudices if any such there be. I do not know that there has been any business in the County which did particularly require your presence, & had that been the Case your Indisposition is a very sufficient excuse. We have Certain Intelligence that the Ministerial Troops have evacuated Boston without having destroyed any part thereof, & that General Washington is Now in possession of it. The Congress have taken all our Battalions on the Continental Establishment. I wish you better health & am Dear Sir [&c.]

W: Cabell

1. Hubard Papers, UNCL.

2. *Ibid.*, "I do hereby certifie that Mr Edmund Wilcox went on Board Ld Dunmores Ship as a Companion to Col. Corbin by the Permission of the Committee of Safety - John Page V.P. Wmsburg April the 6th 1776."DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1776

Williamsburg, April 6.

The *Duke of Cumberland* Packet arrived a few days ago, from Fal-mouth, with government despatches for Lord Dunmore. It is said she left England the 23d of January, and bring advice, that Lord Cornwallis sailed about the same time, with a number of transports, under convoy of twelve frigates, the place of their destination uncertain. The packet was at South Carolina, but found that Lord William Campbell had left the province, and joined Governor Martin at Cape Fear. Some Gentlemen from below say, that soon after the arrival of this vessel they published a paper which was called a declaration of war against the colonies, and received it with loud acclamations.

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

April 1776

At an Anchor in Norfolk Road Virginia

Friday 5

Little wind & fair. At 1/2 past 6 AM saw a party of Rebels firing on a Canoe from Portsmouth. Carried out a Warp to the *Hinchinbrook*, & brought our Guns to bear. Fired 4 six Pounders at them.

Came in the *Samuel & Lilley* Tenders with a Ship Prize.² Employed on the Rigging. Recd a Jack from the *Liverpool*.
 Saturday 6 Do W^r employed as before. At 4 A.M. sailed the *Hinchinbrook* Tender. At 10 came in the *Batchelor* Sloop a Prize (taken by the *Fincastle*)³ from Martinico with Powder & Arms. Sailed his Majesty's Ship *Liverpool* from Hampton Road.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

2. This was Hudson's ship. See postscript this date of letter from Maryland Council of Safety to Maryland delegates in Congress.

3. The *Fincastle* was the *Otter's* tender, but no mention is made of the prize in Howe's Prize List of March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW¹

April 1776 In Hampton Road, Virginia.
 Friday 5 AM clear'd Hawse arrd a large Ship taken by the Two Governmt Tendrs
 modr and cloudy
 PM sent the marines on shore and a party of seamen under the Command of the 1st Lieut there being an alarm given that the Intrenchments were attack'd by the Rebels Do they returned the alarm being false –
 Saturday 6 Sail'd our Tender the *Liverpool* – arm'd schooner with the 1st Lieut and 20 men onbd weigh'd and came to sail and run down the River—at noon, abreast of sowel's Point.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN¹

On board the *Palliser* Transport
 Cape Fear River
 the 6th April 1776

Govr Martin

In answer to Your Excellency's Letter of the 2d instant desiring "my advice and opinion on the expediency of hiring into His Majestys service a Ship for the accomodation of such People as are obliged to forsake the shore for the safety of their persons: And also of your hiring a Vessel for your own accomodation at the charge of Government if you should continue much longer afloat" – I can only say that as far as my opinion & advice may be concerned those measures seem to me to be necessary for the good of His Majestys Service, and I make no doubt but upon Your Excellencys representation to the Kings Ministers in the proper departments of Government that it will appear so to them and consequently meet with their approbation. I am &c.

H C.

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

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO THOMAS PARKIN¹Cape Fear River
6th April 1776Thos Parkin Esqr
Dy Commissary Genl

If the Vessel which brought the Cargo of Rum & osnabrugs should return to Virginia you may take that opportunity of informing the Merchants from whom that Cargo was purchased that if they are disposed to send another Cargo on their own account I will engage to take the Rum at 3 Shillings a Gallon, and the Osnabr[i]gs at one Shilling a Yard, paying the freight to this place – and you may at the same time give orders for a Quantity of Claret & Madeira, which I find is much wanted by the Officers.

I am &c
H Clinton M:G:

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Miscellaneous Letter Books, CL.
2. *Ibid.*, this date Clinton also requested Parkin to purchase the flour "Cargo on board the *General Gage's* prize," and on April 15, to secure a "Quantity of Cyder" from the prize.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY¹

[Charleston] Saturday the 6th of April 1776 PM

Upon Motion

Ordered That a Message be sent to the President requesting that His Excellency will give Orders that proper Measures may be taken by sinking Cheveaux de Frize and other ways to obstruct the Bar of the Inlet to Stono.

Resolved That this House will make Provision for the Expence attending the sinking such Cheveaux de Frize and making such other Obstructions on the Bar of the Inlet to Stono as His Excellency the President shall order to be made

Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Honourable the Legislative Council for their Concurrence and to His Excellency for his Assent

Ordered That Mr Speaker do sign the same

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 42, 48, 49.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Experiment*, CAPTAIN ALEXANDER SCOTT¹April 1776
Saturday 6

Basse Herre [Terre] Road, St Christophers
at 3 AM Clear'd her at 5 made the signal wth One 12 Pr
Unmoor'd & hove into ½ a Cable on the Bt Bower ¼ past
8 fir'd One 12 Pr as a Signal & weigh'd at 9 came to sail, at
Noon in Sight 21 sail. Read the Articles of War &c. to the
Ships Compy. The 1st & middle parts Modte & fair, latter
Fresh Gales & squally wth rain. PM at 4 pass'd by Eustatia,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/331.

"LIST OF TRANSPORT AND VICTUALING VESSELS BOUND TO BOSTON IN AMERICA WHICH WERE BY STRESS OF WEATHER FORCED TO THE ISLAND OF ANTIGUA BEING NOW REFITTED AND READY TO PROCEED ON THEIR VOYAGE ARE ORDERED UNDER THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Experiment* CAPTAIN ALEXR SCOTT WHO CONVOYS THEM TO THE PLACE OF THEIR DESTINATION."¹

Vessels Name	Masters Name	Lading
<i>Argo.</i>	Thomas Grieve	Three Companies of the 46 Regiment
<i>Brownshall.</i>	John Austin	Naval Stores
<i>Killingsworth.</i>	Thos Powditch	Bread, Flour, Butter, Beef, Pease, Oil, Oatmeal, Raisins and Vinegar
<i>Resolution</i>	John Sime	Bread, Flour, Butter, Beef, Pease, Pork, Oatmeal, Oil Raisins and Vinegar
<i>Manner's</i>	John Parkin	Bread, Flour, Butter, Beef, Pease, Oil, Oatmeal, Raisins and Vinegar
<i>Felicity</i>	John Breen	Porter Coals, Sour Krout
<i>Patty</i>	Fras Stanfell	Flour, Pease, and Oats
<i>Generous Friend</i>	Thomas Williams	Porter, Coal, Beans and a few Hogs
<i>Prince Rupert</i>	George Dear.	Porter, Coal, Beans and a few Hogs
<i>Britannia</i>	Wm Butterwick	Porter, Coals, Beans and a few Hogs
<i>Winford</i>	Laz: James.	Coals
<i>Liberty.</i>	Thomas Lowden	Porter, Coals, Sout Krout, Beans and a few Hogs
<i>Nanny.</i>	Saml Mayne.	Coals
		Jam ^s Young. ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. The list is undated, but the journal of the *Experiment* for April 6, 1776 refers to "21 sail" under convoy at St. Christophers, so the thirteen listed above were probably joined at that port by seven more vessels requiring convoy. PRO, Admiralty 51/331.

7 Apr. (Sunday)

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA¹

Sunday, April 7th, -

The schooner *Dragon* arrives from Barrington, etc., with about 6 tons of hay, and a few potatoes. John Coffin, the master, reports that he saw 4 privateers there, Manley, commander of one of them. They left Barrington last Thursday, and stood out to sea, the wind to the N.N.E.

1. Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary*, I, 117.

WINTHROP SARGENT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Glouster Apr 7 1776

Sir The Bayer of this has under his Gard a Number of Prisoners & Toreys taken by Comodor Manley & Capt Wartors [Daniel Waters] the Prise is Sent to Portsmouth ² I mack know dout you have had Acount of before this Reaches your Excellence thar nams you have Below thare is two Women & Sum Children Left hear which is not Abel to Travel Should be glad your Excellence would Send me Answer to what I Roat you Last about Capt Wattss Goods ³ and what I am to dow whith the Prisoners for I have Thirtey hear now upon Expences

I Remm [&c.]

Winthrop Sargent, Agent

P S Sence I rote the above Capt [Samuel] Tucker heve Carr[ied] the Prisoners to Marvelhead ware they well be sent to head Quartr will not Carrey the women & Children for fear of the Small Pox so I am forc to porvide for them hear Should be glad of your Order in Regard to the above - Yr &ca
W S -

Kalep Whitten Bad Man

John H[i]ll

Arther Spencer

Calep Whitten ju

Joseph [Whit?]ten

John Whitten

William King

Dueke Barters

John Burre

Wm McKensey

James Youling

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The brig *Elizabeth*, Peter Ramsey, master.3. Master of the ship *Stakesby*."EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAMBRIDGE, DATED APRIL 7, 1776." ¹

I can't omit informing you, that the Captains Manly and Waters have lately take a brig, 15 leagues off Cape Ann eastward, richly loaded with English goods and other merchandize.² - On board were one [Crean] Brush, formerly of New-York, but lately a most bitter refugee in Boston, and William Jackson, the noted importer, who had of his own property in said brig to the value of £24,000 sterling. - A serjeant and 12 soldiers were likewise in her. - She made resistance, but being the least able to defend herself of any that went off with the fleet, she was obliged to yield, tho' in sight of two of the King's ships.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, April 17, 1776.2. The brig *Elizabeth*.JOSEPH WARD TO COLONEL JOHN GLOVER ¹

Head Quarters Boston 7 April 1776

Sir In consequence of the information General Ward has received from you respecting the Continental Privateers, you are directed to furnish those Privateers as many men out of your Regiment as may be necessary to man



B. Gen Glover
marblehead 1794
nov 13

John Glover.

them for a Cruise of a month (if you can do it and have men left sufficient to guard the Stores & Vessels at Beverly) unless General Washington should order otherwise before the month is out. The Captains of the Privateers are to follow such instructions as they have heretofore received from General Washington.

By order of General Ward I am Sir [&c.]

Joseph Ward A.D.C.

1. General Ward's Orderly Book, ChHS. Typescript.

CALEB GREENE TO BENJAMIN LINCOLN ¹

B. Lincoln Esqr

Dartmouth, 4 mo 7. 1776.

I (or rather we Friends to the unhappy) must still interrupt thee with our importunities for further assistance – for One of our men yet remains a Prisoner on board Wallace's ship that is one of the Six which I petition'd for Last week, as I could not get but five prisoners at Taunton, and could not have more than Man for man, therefore I must beg thy assistance in dispatching the business the bearer Charles Arnold is upon, which is to get an order of Council on the nearest prison where there are Prisoners for One to exchange for the aforesaid person (the bearer's Brother) Wallace is going for Halifax or is certainly going to leave Newport these Two or three days when the Unhappy man will be sent away I say he is unhappy as he fares very hard, for as our Capt Akin says, he is not allow'd any more than ¼ pt Pork & 1 pt Flour per diem, and as he was the Mate to Capt Akin he did not expect to Cast Lott with the hands. By forwarding the bearer in this will oblige him, as well as thy Obliged Friend

Caleb Greene

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 208, 351.

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

Remark's &c Sunday [April] 7

latter foggy Weather with rain none of the Fleet in sight, but the *Cabot*

Thick foggy Weather, at 1 PM, came to In 6 fathom water a Breast of New London Light house, In Company with several of the Fleet At 4 P M the fogg Began to Clear then hove up & run in for the Harbour At 6 Came to within the Light house, The Comodore *Columbus* & *Providence* not in sight, At 10 A.M. [*sic* P.M.] the Comodore & *Columbus*, came to off the Light house.

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL ¹

New London April 7th 1776

Sunday Evening

Dear Sir This moment Arived in this Port a Small Sloop wich Admiral

Hopkins dispatch'd from Block Island, with Orders to have Lights putt in the Lt House, as he Intends to come into this Port with his whole Fleet. their is three Sail now in Sight — the Capt of the Sloop Informs us that the Continental Fleet saild from Phila for New Providence and arived their Safe, Landed, and took all the Cannon shott & Shells out of the fort Amo to Sixty 24 pounders & about two Thousand wt of Powder, also the Governour and a Number of the Greatest Torys, and then Saild for N Port and on Fry-day last they [f]ell in with the *Glassgow* Ship a Bomb Brigg & three small Tenders. the Brigg & Tenders we have taken, the *Glassgow* after Receiving a Broadside from Admiral Hopkins & from one of our Briggs, thought best to make a Run of it and push't off[f] for N Port, and their was only one of our Briggs that Could keep up with her, who suffer'd much & was oblig'd to leave her, and this Moment by a Gentleman by Land fron N Port says, that as soon as the Inhabitants att New Port was Inform'd of the Engagement, they brot down Severall Eighteen pounders, to the Shore and fir'd on Wallis & Ascough, who were Lying att Anchor, in N Port, att the same time the *Glasgow* appeard in Sight firing Signal Guns, when Wallis & Ascough Joind the *Glasgow* and all Stood out to Sea, & I hope they will not fall in with our transports, who are now Just on Sailing for N York — and when Admiral Hopkins comes on Shore, will write you what further shall transpire — the barer is Skipper on Board the *Macaroni*, and if he has not a Long Passage will deliver you a Salmon, wich Imagine will not come amiss to New England Men, Notwithstanding the Almighty Denies them to Dutchmen — if Convenient you'l Oblige me with the Needfull by the barer — I am Dr Sir [&c.]

Nath^l Shaw Jun^r

To Joseph Trumbull Esqr Commissary General att New York

I. Joseph Trumbull Papers, ConnHS.

BURNETT MILLER TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Easthampton, April 7th, 1776.

Gent. — An opportunity presenting, we embrace it to acquaint you that our guard at Montauk, about sunset yesterday, saw a number of vessels to the southward of Block island, and this morning being foggy, saw nothing of them until about nine o'clock. The fog cleared off in part, when they saw thirteen vessels between Fisher's island and Gardiner's island, but could not tell what sort of vessels they were, by reason of thick air. We saw this afternoon about eight or nine vessels all together, off against this town, standing to the eastward, but the fog came on, and saw no more of them. They have fired single cannon by spells all this afternoon from both quarters, and suppose they fired in order to keep the vessels together, the fog being very thick. We are gent. [&c.]

By order of the Committee of Easthampton.

Burnet Miller, Chairman.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 173.

MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir

Head-Quarters New York April 7th. 1776

I arrived here on Wednesday Evening last, haveing his Excellency General Washington's Orders to take the Command of the Forces in this City, and to Erect such Works as I should think Necessary for its defence – in which we are now busily employed, after geting the Works in such forwardness as [torn] be prudent to leave, I propose immediately to take possession of Govenors Island which I think a very Important Post, should the Enemy arrive here and get Post there it will not be possible to save the City, nor could we dislodge them without great loss.

The inclosed Letter I Recd by Express from Fort Constitution last Evening, which I should have immediately forwarded on to You had the Contents been such as requir'd it, but as the Fleet have not arrived, (which was the Supposition of the Gentleman who wrote it) I tho't it needless to forward it on by express ²

Fryday Arrived at the Narrows a small Ship of 18 or 20 Guns,³ sent her Boat immediately on Board the *Dutchess of Gordon*, soon after which the Govr in the *Dutchess* sail'd, where bound we know not.

This morning she sent her Boat to the watering place, for Water, the day before I had Detach'd three Companies of the Rifle Battalion to Staten-Island with orders to Scour the Shores, a Midshipman and ten Sailors were in her she was fired upon and lost two Men, the Rifle Men took the rest Prisoners and hall'd up the Boat, the Ship immediately began a heavy fire, & slightly Wounded one Man, since which the Ship has fell down below the narrows. As Hostilities are now Commenced In this Province I have tho't fit to order no more Provision to be sent the Men of War.

Inclosed is an Extract of a letter Recd by the Post, the contents of which I thought necessary to acquaint You with ⁴ I am Sir [&c.]

Israel Putnam

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 159, I, 3, NA.

2. *Ibid.*, 5–7, Commissioners for Canada to Putnam, April 5, 1776.

3. H.M. Sloop *Savage*.

4. Extract of Edmund Quincy's letter to Thomas Mifflin, April 1, 1776.

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

April 1776

Moor'd in Graves End Bay.

Sunday 7th

A M the *Savage* Sloop Weigh'd & Run up to the Watering Place at Straten Island, & Sent our Boats Watering under cover of her Guns, at 10 a Body of Rebels suddenly came down [and] Fired upon the People empd filling water, which obliged them to desist, their approach was so Sudden, that three of our People, could not make their Escape; or was there possibility of getting off 27 Water Casks, which were ashore. Joseph Mitchell Seaman of the *Phoenix* & a Man belonging to the *Savage* were wounded in coming off, our Longboat being at a Grapnel, near

the Shore; we were obliged to cut, which occasion'd the Loss of a Grapnel and Rope. Anchor'd here the *Dutchess of Gordon*.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.
2. The *Dutchess of Gordon* was the floating home of Governor William Tryon of New York. General William Heath records: "7th. - A barge from one of the ships going near Staten Island, was fired upon by the Americans: two men were killed, the barge and 8 men taken. The British cannonaded the shore for some time, and one American was wounded." Abbott, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 37.

PETITION OF JOHN McFATRICH TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

To The Honourable Committee of Safety of the Province of Pennsylvania

The Petition of John McFatrigh, A

Mariner humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner having served A Regular Apprenticeship at Sea out of this port in the Employ of Messrs Carsan Barclay & Mitchell and for some time since has been Commander of A Ship in the same Employ Likewise in the Employ of Mr David Beveridge, in which last service he had the misfortune of Loosing the greatest part of his property by the unskillfullness of the Pilots Sinking his Vessell on the Chevaux de frize in this river.²

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays your Board to appoint him Lewtenant of the Floating Battery now Building, in which station he hopes to acquit himself with Integrity, and, merit the approbation of this Country. And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

[Philadelphia, April 7, 1776]³

[Endorsed] We the Subscribers from many years Experience know the Petitioner to be an Honnest, Sober, Carefull man, and well Qualified for A Marine Employment

Sam^l Carsan
Tho^s Barclay
Da Beveridge

Paul Cox
William Davis

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.
2. Caesar Rodney to Thomas Rodney, November 27, 1775: "While poor David Beverige was at Lewis his Brigg came in loaded with Sugars, Molasses and Coffee. She has since run upon the Chevaux De Frise and immediately sunk in five-fathom-water, - no part insured . . ." See Volume 2, 1163.
3. Date suggested by the fact that the following day the Committee of Safety appointed McFatrigh Second Lieutenant of the *Arnold* Battery.

JOHN JAY TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Philadelphia, April 7, 1776.

Gentlemen — The Congress having been informed of a very extraordinary oath, ordered by Gov. Tryon to be administered to passengers in the late packet, whereby they bound themselves not disclose any thing relative to American affairs except to the Ministry have appointed a committee, (of which I am one) to ascertain this fact.

I must therefore request of you, gentlemen, to appoint proper persons to examine into this matter, and if possible ascertain the truth of the report, by affidavits taken before the mayor or one of the judges of the supreme court. I have the honour to be, gentlemen, [&c.]

John Jay.

To the Honble. the Committee of Safety for the Colony of New York

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 115.

JOSHUA HUMPHREYS' BILL FOR REPAIRS TO THE CONTINENTAL SCHOONER
*Wasp*¹

April [1776]

7	Stephen Hopkins Esqr	for the Schooner <i>Wasp</i>	
To	Thomas Thompson	1 day @ 9/	9..-
	Wm Woodcock	1 do do	9..-
	John Marshall	2 do do	18..-
	James McNeil	2½ do do	1..2..6
	Nicholas Brahs	1½ do do	13..6
	John Cotton	1 do do	9..-
	Henry Rhile	1 do do	9..-
	Reynolds Wharton	½ do do	4..6
	Rodger Herald	½ do 8/	4..-
	1 Stage 3 day	@ 2/6	7..6
	2 Potts 1 day	3/6	3..6
	Joshua Humphreys Attendance		1.10..-
	2 5/8 Augres		4..-
	Nathan Terry	1 day 7/6	7..6
	bill deliver'd		£ 7.11..0

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

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK¹

Remarks on Sunday the 7 April 1776 [Philadelphia]

Thick hazy Weather with rain moved the Vessel for the *Hornet* to come in to heav down -²

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

2. "A double share of labor of course fell upon our high-spirited and active friend, but he was able to sustain it all, and at length brought the *Hornet* safely to Philadelphia. Her captain abandoned her immediately, and never afterwards ventured on board an armed vessel." Barney, ed., *Life of Joshua Barney*, 33.

COLONEL JOHN HASLET TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

[Extract]

[Dover, April 7, 1776]²

Sir I am honoured with your Letter of 3d Apr. and beg Leave to inform you, that being well acquainted with the Defenceless Situation of the County of Sussex, on the first Intelligence of the *Roebuck's* being in the Road of

Lewes, two Companies of the Battalion under my Command were directed to do Duty there, where they still continue.

The Commanding Officer at Lewes has sent up to Head-Quarters the third Lieut^s of the Man of War & three Sailors, who were put on Board the Alarm Pilot there, by them taken, & fitted put for a Tender. On Wednesday 27th Ult. Cruising to the Southward of the Cape, they sent all their Men on Board a Plymouth Sloop they had made Prize of except the Lt. and three others. about four o'Clock next morning the Helmsman falling Asleep, Providence steerd the Boat ashore, and they were soon after taken. The Lt. inform us that the *Roebuck* left England last September bound to Halifax where she wintered Commanded by Captain Hammond, she carries 44 18 & 9 Pounds mounted & can mount ten More. I propose to keep them officer and Men here under Guard till the Congress is pleased to direct in what Manner they shall be disposed of. I am sir [&c.]

John Haslet Col.

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XI, 29, NA.
2. As this letter was read in Congress on April 9, 1776, it is likely that it was written two days before.
3. Lieutenant George Ball.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND¹

[*Roebuck* Delaware Bay, Sunday 7 April]

Saw a small Schooner vessel at day break that came as far as the Light House and upon discovering the Ship, immediately made off to the Southwd. I sent the Tender & two Armd Boats after her, who drove her ashore about a league from Cape Henlopen where a large Party of Men immediately assembled and kept a constant Fire upon the Tender & Boats, so that they were not able to bring her off.²

Sent the Barge after a schooner under Cape May, which on account of a strong breeze of wind springing up they could not overtake.

Saw a sail at 1 P M in the offing which I immediately gave chase to, which proved to be our Tender the *Lord Howe* from Virginia who brought me intelligence of the Philadelphia Squadron having been at [New] Providence & St Augustine and that they were certainly on their return to Philadelphia. Lieut [William] Grant of the *St John* Schooner¹ who escaped from them at Providence, and brought off all the Powder gives the follg acct of their Force

2 Ships of 32 Guns
 2 Brigs of 16 Guns
 & 3 Sloops of 10 Guns

Upon receipt of this Intelligence I took care to place my Ship in the best Manner I could to intercept them, by cruizing all day within sight of the Light House, and lying close to it in the Night.

1. Hamond, No. 4, VHS.
2. The schooner *Farmer*, Nehemiah Field, master, which had been dispatched to St. Eustatius by

the Sussex County, Delaware, Council of Safety. In the *Delaware Archives* (Wilmington, 1912), II, 944, is Field's account with the Council:

To making a voyage from Port Lewis to St. Eustatia in the Schooner <i>Farmer</i> for arms, etc. (if to be had) pr agreement	
£120:0:0. [The other items are:]	
To 36 dutch Wt of Powder a $\frac{3}{4}$ per	8: 0: 0
To cash paid for sundries in St. Eustatia, pr bills amtg to 1416:1:1 dutch money, equal to	425:16:10
To $\frac{2}{3}$ of a bbl Pork 66/8 - 1 bbl bread 35/2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cases Gin used on the beach when the schooner ran on shore	7:17:11
To cash paid Peter Marsh, David Hazard, & Wm. Bignall for crating, storage, etc. of the cargo	7:10: 0
To cash paid John Maul for work & provisions launching the schooner	3: 9: 6
	<hr/>
	£570:14: 3 $\frac{1}{2}$

CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY TO THE CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE ¹

In sight of the Capes of Virginia, April 7, 1776.

Gentlemen, I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that at one P.M. this day I fell in with the sloop *Edward*, belonging to the *Liverpool* frigate. She engaged us near two glasses. They killed two of our men, and wounded two more. We shattered her in a terrible manner, as you will see. We killed and wounded several of her crew. I shall give you a particular account of the powder and arms taken out of her, as well as my proceedings in general. I have the pleasure to acquaint you that all our people behaved with much courage. I am gentlemen [&c.]

John Barry.

To the Honorable John Hancock Esq; or any of the Marine Committee.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 11, 1776. "A letter from General Putnam, at New York, of the 7, with sundry papers enclosed, ~~also a letter from Captain Barry~~ was presented to Congress, and read," Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 270. The deletion was made by the Secretary of Congress in editing the Journal for publication.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. John*, LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT ¹

April 76 Moord in St Augustine harbour East Florida
 Monday 1 Moderate and Fair Wr At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 [A.M.] arrived an Express in Town from St Maries with an Information that a Rebel Armament had come there from Savannah with an intention to take by force of arms a Schooner Laden for the West Indies - Recd at 11 (AM) a letter from Governor Tonyn, Requesting me to go in pursuit of them Fired 1 Gun pr Signal for a pilot Employed getting ready for Sea Recd 1 Hogshd Rum -
 Fresh Breezes and clear Wr At 5 PM Weighed and came to Sail Received on board 1 Captain 1 Lieut & 50 soldiers belonging to the 14 & 16 Regiments to go to Saint Maries River to intercept the Rebels -

- Tuesday 2 Fresh gales and Fair Wr Hoisted the boats in At 1/2 past 7 Weighed and came to sail – Read the Articles of War &c – Punishd Saml O Kiff with 12 lashes for drunkness and disobedient to Command Set the Studding sail
- Wednesday 3 At 10 (AM) Lookout house S W B S distance 3 Leagues – In St Maries River
Fresh breezes and cloudy Wr Orderd the Master on board Wrights Sloop to go up the River to bring down some Rice Sent the Cutter Mannd and armd in pursuite of a Small Sloop full of men Supposd from Georgia Fired 2 3 pounders as pr Signal to Our boat to return
- Thursday 4 Came down the River Captain Mowbrays Sloop Loaded Recd from Mr John Jollie 2 Hhdds of Rice –
Do Weather with Thunder and Lightning the people Employed making Musket Cartridges Fired 1 Gun as p Signal for our boats to Come on board – Sent a Reinforcement of Men and Amunition to the Snow at St Simonds River with 1 more Swivel –
- Friday 5 Keep the Schooners Company under Arms all Night
Fresh Gales and Squally Wr with Thunder Lightning and rain Came down the River with the before mentioned Sloop the Master with 43 Barrels Rice taken from the Rebels halld the prize Sloop alongside of the other and took on board the Rice ²
- Saturday 6 Arrived here the pilot boat from the Snow who informd us they had taken the Snow by force of Arms ³ –
Fresh breezes and Squally Wr The people Employed filling Water Received on board some Wood Loosed Sails to dry Cleared hause ordered the soldiers with an officer and some seamen in the pilot boat up the So River to secure a quantity of Rice the property of one Miller a Notorious Rebel
- Sunday 7 saw a Schooner coming Inland Sent the Cutter mann'd and armd to Speak her Cutter returnd with the Master Fired a way to make a Signal for our boat People Employed making musket and pistol Cartridges Received on board a prisoner

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4830.

2. The sloop *Betsey* identified in subsequent journal entries.

3. The snow *Christy* also identified in the same manner.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

(No 5)

English harbour, Antigua 7th April 1776.

Sir, I must again beg leave to renew my Application to their Lordships to send out some Ships to reinforce the Squadron under my Command, as with the few now here, it is impossible for me to carry on the Kings Service in the manner I could wish, or effectually to put a stop to the Trade which the

Americans carry on to the French, Dutch and Danish Islands; and prevent the returns being made to them in Warlike Stores, for notwithstanding the Assurances given me by the French Governors to the contrary, I am well convinced by other authentic Information, it is done openly. – The Powder goes by small Quantities at a time, in such like Vessels as Virginia Pilot Boats, that steal out in the night, and by fast Sailing escape our Cruizers. I have caused different Ports at the French and Dutch Islands to be as strictly Watched as the small number of Ships I have can do it, but there are so many places they can go to, and from, that it is impossible for me to Guard them all: The Squadron is now reduced to four Ships, one of which is the *Hawke* Sloop, which I mean to detain in the room of the *Lynx*, whose Guns I have given her for that purpose, 'tho am sorry to find She is in very little better Condition than the *Lynx*: She came out of England (exclusive of her accident) very badly repaired, and will take some time before she will be fit for Sea. The *Hind* is gone to St Augustine, with the three Companies of the 60th Regiment, and I do not expect her back these Two Months at soonest. The *Portland* (which I have sent to Cruize at Sea, as much as the others), the *Argo* and the *Pomona*, are now fourteen Months foul; as soon as the *Hawk* is ready for Sea, I purpose trying to heave down the *Argo*, but am told by the Master Shipwright, and his Assistant, that it is very doubtful whether she will bear it; She came out of England so badly repaired, that at times her Deck has been almost shifted, and a Number of her Knees are broke. The other two Ships must clean when they can be spared.

The Prizes taken by the King's Ships under my Command, have been of great Service to these Islands by bringing in Supplies of Provisions to them, that were destined to other places (none can now be Shipped from America, to the English Islands, the Runners must therefore all be intended for the French, Dutch and Danish Islands), and had the Squadron employed in these Seas, consisted of a sufficient number of Ships, they would certainly have taken much greater number of American Vessels and thereby have prevented considerable Supply of Gunpowder being sent to the Rebels; which Article they pay for in Provisions &c at the enormous price of a Dollar pr pound. – The French Governors complain about our Ships Cruizing off their Ports, and taking Supplies of Provisions &c coming to them; however I flatter myself, their Lordships will be of opinion that the strong necessity of the present times, makes this step absolutely necessary: The French have at present three Frigates of Thirty six Guns in these Seas, and between four & five Thousand Troops at the Islands Guadalupe, and Martinica.

I must also observe to their Lordships that there are great numbers of the disaffected Americans, in all the French, Dutch and Danish Islands, and even in our own Islands, from whence they can easily get away to the others; and it is believed here, they have on foot a design to Arm and fitt out Vessels from the Foreign Islands, (where they can readily be supplied with what Stores are wanting for that purpose,) and Cruize for our Trade in these Seas; which were they to do, would greatly distress the English Islands: The Planters and Traders here, are very apprehensive of this, and talk of ap-

plying to me for Convoy to their homeward bound Ships: this I am sure at present I cannot comply with, 'tho they assert they have intelligence from America, that Ships of Force are arming there, which are said to be intended to intercept the homeward bound West-India Ships both from these Islands and Jamaica (an account of this Intelligence I intend sending Rear Admiral Gayton by the first Packet that goes from hence to Jamaica,) as there may be some cause for their Fears. I hope their Lordships will take the matter into Consideration; and should they not from better Intelligence discover their apprehensions to be wholly groundless; I flatter myself they will think it proper and necessary to send me out a strong reinforcement. There are at present no Vessels to be got here, that I could Arm so as to make them of any considerable Force, or otherwise would do it as I am confident the advantage would be very great to His Majesty's Service. The *Sandwich* a small Brigantine Tender I purchased some time ago for the use of the Squadron (of which I acquainted their Lordships pr Letter the 9th Decemr 1775) I have put four small Guns and some Swivells with about Twenty five Men into her; as she goes sometimes amongst the Islands, and She has taken three Prizes.

Zeal for His Majesty's Service, and an earnest desire to execute the trust reposed in me with Credit and Reputation, induces me to be so very pressing for a Reinforcement of Ships, and I have no doubt their Lordships will receive this dispatch with indulgence and approbation. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young

[Endorsed] Rd 30 May

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

"DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS UNDER THE COMMAND OF VICE ADMIRAL [JAMES] YOUNG AT BARBADOES AND THE LEEWARD ISLANDS THE 7TH APRIL 1776." ¹

Ships.	Commanders.	Where Stationed &c.
<i>Portland</i>	Capt. T. Dumaresq.	In English Harbour Antigua, victualing for Sea.
<i>Argo.</i>	Wm Garnier	On a Cruize, Her Orders as p last Account.
<i>Hind.</i>	Heny Bryne.	Saild 22d March 1776 from St Vincents, to St Augustine with three Companies of the 60 Regiment. Her Orders as pr last Account
<i>Lynx.</i>	Robert Keeler.	Ready to Sail for England Express.
<i>Pomona.</i>	Wm Young.	In English Harbour Antigua return'd from a Cruise the 6th April 1776.
<i>Experiment.</i>	Alexr Scott.	Sailed the 31st March 1776 from St Johns-road Antigua for Boston in

America to Convoy the Navy and
Victualing Transports
English Harbour fitting for Sea.
Jam^s Young.

Hawke. Robert P. Cooper.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

8 Apr.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM GOFORTH TO JOHN JAY ¹

[Extract] Three Rivers in Canada April the 8th 1776

Upon a Supposition that Quebec Should not be taken before the arrival of the Ships of War I should on that Score be much concernd for our little Army and for the Poor Canadians who have taken part with the United Colonies for in my Opinion there would be great Danger of the Communication being Cut off[f] between the Southern Colonies and this in Consequence of which our little neglected Army must fall in to the hands of our inveterate Enemies and the poor Canadians and if So the Poor Canadians must by a Natural Consequence fall a Victim to Ministerial Vengeance of which they are greatly affraid. But upon the Supposition that Quebec Should be taken (which I would rather Choose to beleive) I hope you will not then Conclude that all is over and that this Country is then fully Secured. I well know that Quebec is Generally looked upon to be a place of Such Strength as to make it a Barrier Sufficient to prevent any Vessells passing by it but it Should be rememberd that it has been passed by Vessells of war and may be again. And Should one Single twenty-Gun Ship Get up the River it would be in the power of the Commander to destroy the Towns of three Rivers and Montreal together with most of the vilages on both sides the River Saint Laurance for one hundred and Eighty miles. On the one hand the Towns and Vilages must be destroyed or on the other the People must [be] Subject to any Contributions Either of men or Money that might be Calld for not a Single Battery being Erected for the defence of any [of] the Towns or Vilages. At Montreal a Battery might in my Opinion be Constructed for its own defence The Channel Before the Town of three Rivers puts down on both Sides of the River but at Cape Magdline about one League and a half below this the[y] Unite and Channel Sets Close in with the North Shore where a Battery might be So Constructed as to prevent any thing perhaps from Passing. But the best place in the River is at Richleiu Rappids about 45 miles below this place there the Tide never Sets up at most only Swells the Channel is narrow and near the Shore and is so difficult that they must have a good Pilot and day light or a very Clear night to pass it and what would make that place more advantegeous is that the Rapids Sets down So Strong that it requires a Breese from 6 to 8 Knotts to Stem the Current if a Battery was well Constructed at this place of about 20 peices of heavy Cannon and put under the Command of a good Officer and men Sufficient to defend the works I allow it would answer Every

purpose for all places above it and my opinion be a greater Security to the upper parts of the Country than Quebec. . . . I am [&c.]

William Goforth Capt'n in the first Batalion
of the New York Force ²

1. Jay Papers, CUL.

2. *Ibid.*, Goforth had been given command of the post at Three Rivers on February 2, 1776, by General David Wooster.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] Monday April 8th 1776

Whereas an order passed this Court that Caleb Green have liberty to receive Six persons out of Taunton Goal taken from the Navy under the command of Capt Wallace at Newport, in order to redeem the same number of Men, lately taken by him on their passage from Philadelphia to Dartmouth, and as there was but five in said Goal, for which five he hath received five men taken on their Passage aforesaid. One yet remains on board Wallace – it is therefore

Resolved that Charles Arnold be allowed to receive of the Prison keeper in Concord one man (a Sailor if may be) giving his Bond to the Sheriff of the County of Middlesex or the keeper of said Goal for the Use of this Colony in the penal Sum of Fifty pounds, conditioned that in case he shall not Exchange the Prisoner whom he shall receive from Concord Goal for One Joseph Russell now on board the said Wallace, he will return the Prisoner to the said Prison keeper in Concord within fourteen days from the time he shall receive him the said Prisoner, & the keeper of said Prison is hereby directed to conform himself accordingly to this Order provided the said Arnold shall give security as above directed –

Resolved that the Committee of Truro be directed to pay John Kenny so much of his Account Petitioned for, as shall be thought just by said Committee, out of the money found on Board the *Friendship*, ² and Lodge there Account with the Judge of Admiralty of Plymouth for allowance –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 733, 735, 736–37.

2. The *Friendship*, British transport, was cast away to the southward of Cape Cod on March 1, 1776.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1776

Newport, April 8.

Last Tuesday as two freight boats were coming from Updike's Newtown, in this colony, to this town, with wood, cider, butter, eggs and towcloth, the ships of war stopped them, and took out 17 barrels of cider, and all the butter and eggs, and some potatoes, which tis said they paid for, and detained two passengers (who were bringing some of those articles to market) several hours, on board the ships. The Tories here, ever ready at inventing excuses for every piece of treachery, or breach of faith our enemies are guilty of, say the ships did not break the truce with this town, because the two passengers belonged to Connecticut!!

Last Wednesday night 3 Negroes, from this town, went on board the men of war lying in our road. 'Tis supposed that all the Negroes fled on board those ships will be sold in the West Indies in a very short time.

Last Friday the ministerial fleet went a little without the mouth of our harbour, and in the evening they all returned and anchored between Gould-Island and Coddington's Point, except the *Glasgow* of 24 guns, a small tender, which kept out all night. — As soon as it was light the next morning, a party of the troops stationed on this island got two of their 18 pounders upon the point, and played so well upon those worse than Algerine rovers, that they hulled the *Rose* 2 or 3 times, the *Nautilus* once or twice, and sent one shot through and through one of the armed tenders, upon which Capt. Wallace, of the *Rose*, sent off a boat to cut away the bouy of his anchor, then slipped his cable, and made off as fast as possible, and the rest of his fleet followed in the utmost hurry and confusion, having fired about 15 cannon upon our people without the least effect, though they stood in considerable numbers as open as they could well be, without the least breast-work or other shelter. —

For several hours before, and during the above engagement, a vast number of cannon were heard from the S.E. and about sunrise, 8 or 10 sail of ships, brigs, &c. were seen a little to the eastward of Block-Island, and indeed the flashes of the cannon were seen by some people about day break. These things caused much speculation; but in a few hours the mystery was somewhat cleared up, for away came the poor *Glasgow*, under all the sail she could set, yelping from the mouths of her cannon (like a broken leg'd dog) in token of her being sadly wounded: — And tho' she settled away, and handed the most of her sails, just before she came into the harbour, it was plainly perceived by the holes in those she had standing, and by the hanging of her yards, that she had been treated in a very rough manner. — The other vessels, seen off, stood up the western sound; and by very authentic intelligence, received on Saturday evening, we are fully convinced they were 12 sail of the Continental Navy, very deeply laden with cannon, mortars, cannon-shot, bombs, and other warlike stores, from the West-Indies; so that it is probable their precious cargoes were the sole cause of Mrs. *Glasgow's* making her escape; her tender 'tis supposed was taken; as also the bomb brig, and a schooner¹ which had been out near a week in search of prey.

As soon as the *Glasgow* got in, the *Rose*, Capt. Wallace, the *Nautilus*, Capt. [John] Collins, the *Swan*, Capt. [James] Ayscough, with several tenders and pirated prizes, stood out to sea, leaving the *Glasgow*, a large snow, and two small sloops, at anchor about three-quarters of a mile from Brenton's Point. — The ensuing night, a party of troops carried one 18 pounder, one 9, one 6, and two 4 pounders on said point; and early yesterday morning saluted the *Glasgow* with such warmth that she slipped her cable, and pushed up the river without firing a gun, under all the sail she could make, and the others followed with great precipitation. By the terrible cracking on board the *Glasgow*, the noise and confusion among her men, 'tis thought the cannon did good execution. — The wind shifted to the northward about noon,

those vessels run down the back of Conanicut, and stood out to sea, supposed to have gone in quest of Capt. Wallace, to make a woeful complaint of the incivility of the Yankies!

Yesterday in the forenoon, as a company of American regulars were getting up the cables and anchor which the *Glasgow* had a little before left in her great fright, a large prize sloop came in, which Wallace had carried out with him the day before; and it being a very thick air, and she expecting to find the *Glasgow* lying where she was let, got close in with the boat before they discovered her, when the boat immediately laid her aboard, and brought her in here. She had on board 7 men and one woman. This sloop was loaded with flour, &c. and was, when taken by the pirates, bound from Virginia to Providence.

Last week 9 men deserted from the ministerial navy, on this station, and brought off 3 boats.

1. H.M. Bomb Brig *Bolton* and schooner *Hawke*.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS ¹

- April 1776 Fort Island EbN Rose Island No and the Light House
WSW $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile off Shore
- Friday 5. A M up yds & Topmt Recd Onboard some Water Weighd the small Br Loosd Sails to Air Mod. and Fair Wr at 1 P M Wd and Came to Sail in Coy with the *Rose*, *Glasgow* & *Swan*, Several Tenders &c at 4 Bore away at 5 Came too wt the B.B. in 17 fm Water Veerd $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable, also anchn [as did] all the Convoy and *Rose* & *Swan*.
- Saturday 6 at 3 A.M. heard the report of a number of Guns in the Offing. A Number of the Rebels assembled and got some Cannon & began to fire on the Ships at 7 Wr and ran off [f] Prudence Island came too again & veerd $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable at 10 W[ore] & came to Sail At Noon Passd by the *Glasgow* at an Anchor who had ran thro the fleet Employd turning out of the Harbor the Convoy in Company
Fresh breezes with thick hazey Wr P M Employd Turning out of Rhode Island Harbor In 2d Rf Ms Sail Kd Ship Occasionally
- Sunday 7 A M Read the Articles of War &c—
Mod & hazey with much fogg at 1 P M Wore ship and made Sail
- Monday 8. At 5 A M saw a large Ship to Leeward Sounded Occasionally A M Several sail in Sight bore away after them Brot Too & Joyned the *Glasgow* also the *Rose* made the Signal for all Captains Wore and made sail Recd fresh beef the above in Company
Fresh breezes w[ith] thick foggy Wr at 4 P M close Rft the TSails parted Coy with the Above.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Glasgow*, CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE ¹

- April 1776 At a single Anchor off Rhode Island
 Sunday 7 at 5 AM the Rebels open'd a battery on Brentons Point & finding that every shot struck the Ship Cut the best br Cable & made sail up Cananicutt Passage at 8 Came too off Hopes Isld at noon weigh'd & came to Sail in Compy the Tender & 2 Sloops down the Naraganset Passage --
 Modt & hazey at 4 Point Judith W b N & Block Island S W ½ S 6 Lgs
 Monday 8 at 8 AM join'd Compy with the *Rose* & Squadron at 11 bore away
 Fresh breezes & hazey working to windward under Block Island. at 6 PM Block Island N E 2 Leags at 8 Close Reef'd the topsls ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

2. *Ibid.*, the *Glasgow*, in company with the *Rose*, *Swan*, transports, and tenders were en route to Halifax, where they arrived the afternoon of April 18. On the afternoon of May 13 the *Glasgow* sailed for England.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH ¹

- April 1776 Montack Point No 54° Et 30 Leagues
 [Monday] 8 A M the *Scarbourough* fired a Gun which we repeated . . . lost sight of the *writtenhouse* Ship, the *Ravens* prize one Schooner & one Sloop.
 P.M. Lost sight of the *Scarbourough*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

GURDON SALTONSTALL TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

N London April 8. 1776

P.M. 2 Clock.

May it please Your Excelency

Comodore Hopkins with the Fleet & Prizes, came this morning into this Harbour, and waiting on him, aboard the *Alfred*, he desired me to write Your Excelency, & ask the favour that he might enlist out of Your Troops, 150 or 200 Seamen, and if not that number of Seamen to be had, compleat the number with Landsmen, To Man The Fleet; as he is badly Maned, and more than 50 Invalids --

As to the Number of Ships in the Fleet, & Prizes, & the late Engagement, I must beg leave to refer Your Excellency to the bearer Mr James Price, who has been on board the Comodore & can Viva Voce, give you a fuller Accot than I can now write --

The Comodore has brought his Excellency Montford Browne Esqr Govr of New Providence, Thomas Erwin Esqr a Gentleman of the Council for South Carolina, & Receiver of the Kings quit Rents [James] Bavage Esqr

Secretary of New Providence & 1/2 pay Officer, who are on their Parole of Honour on Shore & about 70 Prisoners – I am Yr Excellencys [&c.]

G Saltonstall

[E]nclosed You have Inventory of Stores taken at New Providence ²

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. A list will be found as an enclosure to Hopkins' letter of the same date to Trumbull.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Ship *Alfred* [at New London] April 8th 1776

Honoured Sir Inclosed you have an Inventory of Stores taken out of two Forts at New Providence – have also the Governor, a Counsellor who is a half pay Officer & the Surveyor General of the Customs for North America onboard – I shall be glad of your directions how to dispose of them as they are Gentlemen that I think ought to be well treated as Prisoners – I have likewise Seventy odd Prisoners taken out of the Bomb Brig, the Schooner & the *Glasgows* Tenders which shall be glad of your directions respecting them –

If you should see Genll Washington shall be glad to get Permission to Enlist some of his Soldiers as I am very short handed – I have a number of heavy Cannon taken out of the Forts if you should have Occasion for any of them you will please to give directions accordingly – I am with great Respect Sir [&c.]

E. H.

[Enclosure]

Inventory of Stores &c taken at Fort Nassau – March 3 1776

71 Cannon from 9 to 32 Pounders

15 Mortars from 4 to 11 Inches – diamr & Beds for do

5337 Shells

9831 Round Shott & 165 Chain & dbleheadd ditto

140 hand Grenadoes

816 Fuzees or false Fires

99 Spunges Rammers & Worms

46 Copper Ladles

407 Copper Hoops & 5 Copper Powder Measures

220 Iron Trucks for Carriages

3 Bells

24 Casks Powder

A Quantity of Match Rope not Weigh'd

2 Old dble Blocks with brass Sheafs

1 Old Scale Beam – 1 old Hammer & a [illegible] Trumpet

3 Tann'd Hides

2 Boxes Tallow Candles

4 Barrels Flour, 4 ditto Bread 4 ditto Beef

Part of a Cask Spirit

1 Sun Dial & 1 English Flag

Stores &c taken at Fort Montague March 3 1776

17 Cannon from 9 to ~~24~~ 36 Pounders
 1240 Round Shott
 121 Shells
 81 Iron Trucks for Carriages
 22 Copper Hoops – 2 Copper Powder Measures
 1 Worm, 1 Ladle
 Some old Iron, Copper & Lead not Weigh'd

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

“INVENTORY OF WARLIKE STORES FOUND ON BOARD THE BRIGG *Bolton* EDWD
 SNEID MASTER VIZT”¹

6 three pound Cannon wth Carriages Gunn tackles Britchings, &c
 8 Rope S[p]unges & Rammers
 Two Ladles 1 Wormer 2 Wooden Spunges 1 Crow barr
 [New London, April 8, 1776]²

1. Shaw Collection, Ledger 39, YUL.

2. The date is approximated. It will be noted that Shaw's report of the warlike stores, differs from that of Hopkins of April 8 to the Continental Congress.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE¹

[Off New London] Monday 8 [April]

at 8 A M, hove up Beat in a Brest of the town in Company with
 all the Fleet

Moderate & Cloudy Receiv'd orders to go out on a Cruse, Sent all
 the sick men on Shore to the Hospital & gott men from the *Columbus*
 & *Providence*, At 5 P M Hove up with Light Breezes from the South'd
 & Beat down abrest of the Light house & came too, it being foggy & the tide
 a Flood.

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

LIST OF THE PEOPLE ON BOARD THE *Andrew Doria* FROM FEBRUARY 1776¹

[New London, April 8]²

Mens Names.	Turn'd over or Dead	Sick in the Hospitl
Nicholas Biddle Comr.	1	
James Josiah 1 Lieutt.	2	
Elijah Warner 2d Do.	3	
John McDougale 3d Do.	4	
Benjamin Dun Master	5	
William Moran 1st Mate	6	
John Dent 2d Do	7	Sick
John Margeson 3 Do	–	Sick
Dennis Leary Midshipm	8	Do
Willm Reynolds Do	–	Do

Evan Bevan	Do	9	Do
Willm Lamb	Do	10	Do
Thoms Kerr Doctr		-	Do
Michl Jennings Mate		11	
John Young Clerk		12	
Elias Rohl Steward		13	
Alexandr McKenzie		14	
William Darby		Turn Over	
John Nowland		15	Sick
Willm Kennedy		16	
Willm Henderson		17	Sick
David Edmanson		18	
Willm Green		19	
Willm Johnson		20	
John Mackee		1	
Bartholomy Moore		2	Sick
George Swenney		3	
Alexandr Livingstone		4	
Robert Kennedy		Dead	
Edward Kirck		5	
Jacob Cook		6	
Thomas Johnston		-	Sick
John Christian		7	Do
Michl Smith		8	
Michl Bready		9	
Saml Dobbins		10	
James Swan		-	Sick
John Farrell		-	Sick
Willm Steward		-	Do
Jeremiah Twoohig		-	Do
George McAdams		11	
John Lee			
Edward Barrett			
Nichls Cooney		12	
John Green			Sick
James Duffin			Sick
John McCoy		13	
James Anguish		14	
James Evans		15	
Thomas Warren		16	
Peter Miller		17	
William Adams			Sick
David Ignew			Do
James Heath		18	
William Wilding		19	Do
William Miller			
Saml Smith		20	

Barnett garland	1	
James McGuire	2	Sick
William Hughes	3	
George McKane	4	
George Kelly		Sick
John Moize	5	
John Chisnell	6	
James Willson		
James Crosby	7	
John Swenney		Sick
Joseph Sheels		Sick
Timothy Ohara		
Willm West		Sick
Joseph Elding	8	Do
John Pattin	9	
Jeremh Mahany	10	
John Dennis		Sick
List Continued		

Mens Names	Turnd over or Dead	Sick in the Hospital
[Isaac] Kraigg 1 Lieut ³	1	
——— Turner Serjant ⁴	Dead	
Robert Hunter Do		Sick
John Garrigues		Do
Willm Steward		Do
James Moulsworth	2	Do
Charls Parker	Runaway	
Simon Harwood		Do
Isac Dewes	3	
Patrick Kenny	4	
Andw Scott	5	
Henry Jarett	6	
Saml Johnston		Sick
David Clark	7	
John Irazie	8	
Archibald Nellson	9	
Richd Owens		Sick
Patrick Crafford		Do
Andw Campbell		Do
John Campbell		Do
John Broomfield	Dead	
Thoms Wattson	11	
Robt Anderson		Sick
Willm Haselip	12	Do
James Campbell		Do

Fracis Dowie	13	
John McNeal		Do
Robt Kearns	14	
James Kite		Do
Benjn Tate	15	
Timothy Ohara		Do
Willm Skilling		Do
Henry Frazer		Sick
James Williams	16	
Edmund Lee	17	Do
Saml Harvey		Do
John Ponsett	18	
Cornelius Griner		Do
Willm Lock	19	
Men in all		110
Sick	49	
Dead	3	
Run away	1	
Turn'd over	<u>1</u>	
	54	<u>54</u>
		56
Remaining Prisoners		
the two Officers	2	
4 Privater	4	
Negroes	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>
		66

N.B. those 3 Men that are on Board the Scooner is here counted

The Prisoners I have not mentioned

Prisoners	
Willm Willson	Pilot
Jasper Chamberlain	2d
Peter Doomous	1
Henry Emour	2
James Brown	3
Negroes -	
Surrinam	4
Richd Brihly	5
Dragoon	6
Richd Bayard	7

1. Nicholas Biddle Papers, Edward Biddle Estate, HSP.
2. The date is established from the *Andrew Doria* Journal for this day, which states that the sick were landed. The roll does not show the men borrowed from the *Columbus* and *Providence*.
3. Isaac Craig, first lieutenant of Marines.
4. Thomas Vernon Turner who died at sea on April 3, 1776.

ROUND ROBIN OF THE CREW OF THE CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot* ¹[New London, April 8, 1776] ²

To the Honble Esek Hopkins Esqr

The Humble Petition of the Company of they Sailors and Marines on Board the Brigg *Cabot*, Most humbly Sheweth –

That your Petitioners having served faithfully on Board the said Brig in Defence of America Since her departure from Philadelphia; and her first Cruise being now Out; They humbly hope that your Honr (According to the Usual Custom observed in Board Vessels of War) will advance them Some Money as They are much in want of Necessaries which they Cannot proceed On another Cruise without. – They Humbly hope that your Honour will pardon this Liberty, and impute it to the real necessity which they Now labour under for the want of Cash, to procure them what's necessary for their Health & preservation; and your petitioners as in Duty Bound will ever Pray –

Please to turn over where you'll [see] they Subscribers Names are set down –

[Signatures in the Round Robin]

[Outer circle, reading clockwise]

Pa[torn]

John J[torn]

Thoma[torn]

James Ch[torn]

Christian Gosner

Thomas Forker

his

William X Osburn

Mark

John Stirlin

Peter Cashinbury

Mathew M[']Fee

his

Andrw X Magee

mark

his

James X McSorly

mark

Thos Derby

his

Michel X Shield

mark

Abl Jons

Robet Mill[s]

James Hall

Joseph Way[n]

Benjamin Ford

his
James X Black
mark

his
Richard X Sweeny
Mark

his
Thomas X Clark
Mark

Robt Halladay
Charles Harve[y]

his
Jacob X po[illegible]
mark

Jacob Maag
Joseph Ravencroft
Thos Goldthwaite
John Harman
John Hall
George McKenny
Thos David
Thomas Yad[ley]

his
James X Wilkeson
mark

John Coates
Anthony Dwyer
James Bowman
Rudolph Edi[na]

[Inner circle – clockwise]

his
Joseph X Antonio
Mark

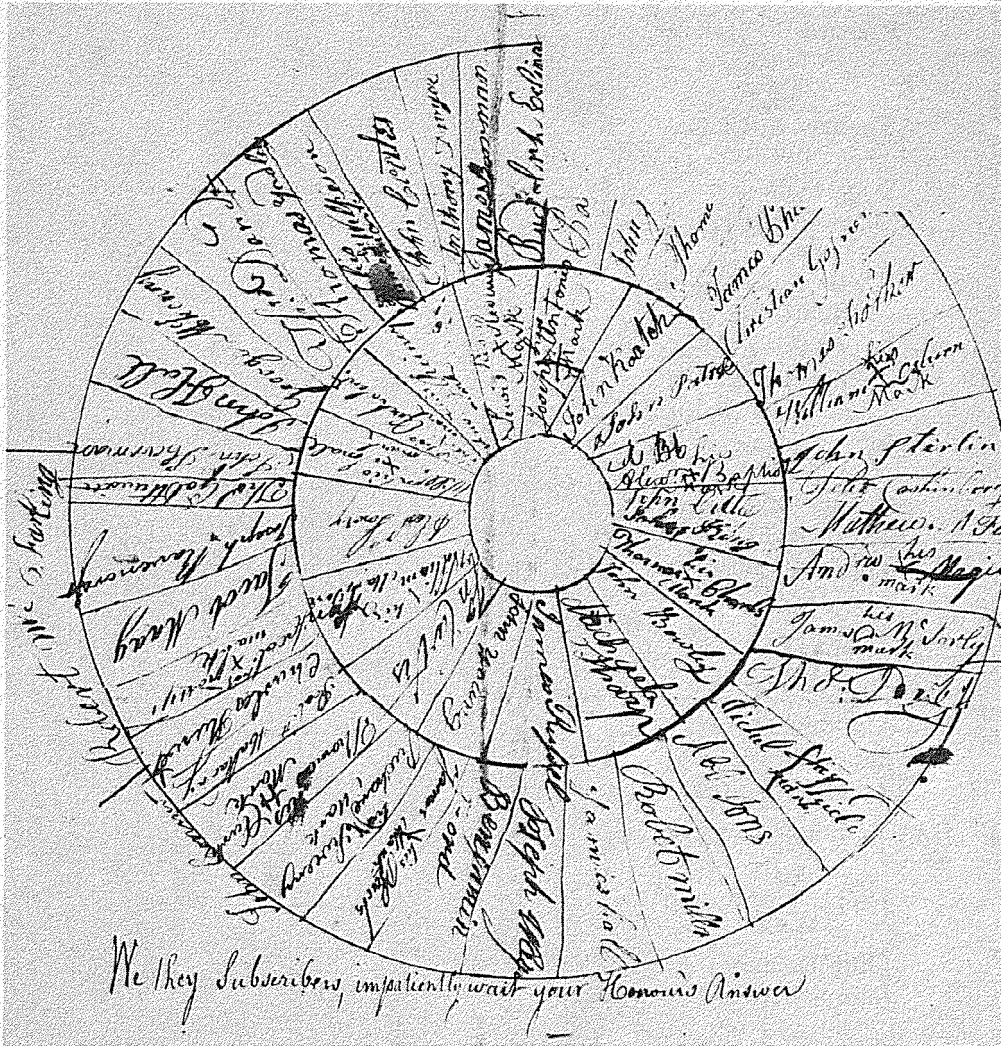
John Roatch
John Patr[ick]

his
Alexr X Baptist
mark

John Little
John King

his
Thomas X Charles
mark

John Bowles
Michael Thayr



Round robin, crew of Continental brig Cabot.

James Russel

John Young

Jno Curtis

his

William X York
mark

Alexr Lowry

his

Willm X Small
mark

his

Thos X Clerk Senr
mark

his

Chris X Reiney
mark

his

Lewis X Reding
mark

[Around perimeter of outer circle]

John Conner

Robert McFarling

[Across bottom]

We they Subscribers, impatiently wait your Honour's Answer

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. As the cruise ended at New London on April 8, 1776, that date has been assigned to this undated document.

"A LEAST OF THE PRESENORS ON BORD THE SCHOONER &c" ¹

[New London, April 8, 1776] ²

Laut Edward Sneyd Capt

John Dawson Mastt

Richd Tillage Midss

Edward Wattmore Midss

David Wardtrope Surgent

Wm Page Clarck

Mathew Mawrey Pilott

John Coggin Boatswain ³

Richd Markie Corp

Wm Breed Gunner

Mareens

Francs Shilles

Jms Graves

Samuell [George]

Jms [Hews]

Jam Marks

Thomas Crain

Jms Rieed

Jams Buesell

Jams Cooke

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. The date is based upon the arrival at New London. Lieutenant Sneyd was taken in H.M. Brig *Bolton*.

3. "We were carried into New London Harbour, and every man put in irons, because we would not inlist with the Rebels; they allowed us only four ounces of Bread per day and four ounces of Pork to last us two days. We defyed all they could do and were determined by the example and encouragement of our commander, Mr. S[neyd] (who in no respect fared better than the rest) to die by our colours rather than purchase life by ingloriously deserting them." This is the boatswain's account, as related later to Lieutenant Sneyd's sailor servant on board the *Bolton*. "Sneyd Papers," *Mariner's Mirror*, XLIV.

COLONEL JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Hond Sir

[Norwich] 3 oClock Monday [April 8]

Mr [Christopher] Leffingwell is very sorry he has not the Pleasure of waiting on You in Company with General Washington

the General will take Bed at Col: J[abe]z Huntingtons I have told the General I expected you down – it will much gratify him & all of us if you can do us the Pleasure of your Company – the General intends for New London Tomorrow where he expects to meet Admiral Hopkins – we will sup late or Breakfast late if you conclude to come – I wish Brothers wou'd attend You –

Yours most affectionately

Jed Huntington

1. Conn. Arch., Trumbull Papers, V, 24a, ConnSL.

JOHN COTTON, JR. TO BARNABAS DEANE, WETHERSFIELD ¹

Sir/ I fear that you will think me Extravagant in Calling for So much Money butt it is Certain it is Wanted this Way as the timber and Drawing is Mainly with Us, I have sent George Bull the Bearer on purpuss as I Cannot attend in Waiting on You My Self as We are about to Rjase if you Intend to Send any Dry Goods this Way I wish you Would wat till I See you again, if you Can Convenantly Send two or three Blls pork to Chatham it will be a favor as they are all poor and their provisions is all Most Exausted – I hope you will Dispatc'h the Bearer as soon as You Can as this Day Begins a New – Since I Saw you I have Got five good Carpenters and Engaged twenty four More in Two Weeks from this Time in your Service – Yr Complyanc with the above will Oblige [&.]

Apl 8th 1776 [Chatham, Connecticut]

John Cotton Jun^r

[Endorsed] Recd 8th April 1776 Seven Hundred & Twenty Dollars for Capt Jno Cotton from Bas Deane Recd pr George Bull

1. Barnabas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

THOMAS WICKES TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Huntington, April 8, 1776.

Gentlemen We have just received intelligence that there has a fleet of 30 sail of square rigged vessels been seen off between Gray Neck and Eden's Neck, and we thought it best to send you the earliest intelligence. We shall watch their motion, and as soon as we can discover their intention, we shall send further intelligence. We are mustering our militia, and shall do the best in our power. We are, gentlemen [&.]

Thos. Wickes, Chairman.

P.S. About seven o'clock in the evening we received the intelligence.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 173.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

Aprl 76 Block Island N 58° East distt 37 Leags
 Monday 8th at 6 [A.M.] saw a Schooner to the Soward; Gave Chace &
 brot her too, hove too & Hoisted the boat out, sent a petty
 Officer & seven men on board to take Charge of her;² double
 reef'd the fore & Mn TPs made the *Tamers* Signal to Chace
 to the SW; hoisted the Cutter in & made sail
 Fresh Breezes & Hazy with a very thick fogg at ½ past
 2 P M fired a Gun & made the *Tamers* Signal to leave off[f]
 Chace

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. The schooner *John & Joseph*, Daniel Deshon, master, Nathaniel Shaw, Jr. of New London owner, from Hispaniola with 1578 pounds of gunpowder, 10,202 gallons of molasses, 13,545 pounds of coffee, and other articles. The items of the cargo are taken from the account of sales in Shaw account book, No. 38, YUL.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH TO MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL
PUTNAM ¹

St. George's Square. New York. April 8th 1776.

Hond Sir The Taking Possession of and Fortifying Governors Island, The Elevation of which, I apprehend to be not more than three Degrees above the Surface of the Water, And at the same Time accessable on two or three sides to the Largest Ships – And on all Sides to Armed Vessels, Is a Manoeuvre which (with Humble Submission) I Think requires the Greatest Attention and Precaution in its Execution, and More so Since it has been the Opinion of the Best Engineers that it Cannot be made Tenable, This I am not fully Convinced of, but think it may Possibly be done after some Previous Steps are Taken – vizt Mounting Some Pieces of Cannon on Long Island to flank & defend the South side of Governors Island, and prevent Sloops or Tenders Running in on that Side – And to Keep Open the Communication which should for ever be done by the Construction of Batteries to Defend the Pass, Whether the Communication be over a Bridge or Ferry – And as I feel myself accountable for my Conduct both as it respects the Cause in which I am engaged and the Lives which are Interested in the Opinion that I may give, I think it to be my Duty to Declare it as my Opinion (which I also observed in Council) that a Battery on Long Island should be previously opened without which I cannot Consent to the Manoeuvre Propos'd and do Declare it in Explicit Terms. – I am with great Esteem [&c.]

W. Heath –

1. Heath Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

COLONEL GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN TO MARY SILLIMAN ¹

[Extract]

New York April 8th, 1776

. . . Last Evening I spent Part of the Evening wth General Heath and he told me that a Letter was Yesterday received in Town from Boston which

informs that 62 of Genl How's Fleet were gone to Halifax; and that 62 More of them were coming some Where this Way. we have no news of the Appearance of any of them here as yet; Yesterday we had a heavy Fire of Cannon & small Arms for a considerable Part of the Day down at Staten Island which lies down 9 Miles below & in Sight of the City which happened in this Manner, the Ship *Dutchess of Gordon* which lay about 3 Miles below the City (near the *Asia*) with Governour Tryon on Board, went down Yesterday Morning to the Watering Place which is at Staten Island, where 3 Companies of our Rifle Men are stationed to prevent the Ships getting fresh Water; and the *Dutchess* sent her Barge on Shore to get Water with 12 Men in her; as soon as they reached the Shore our Rifle Men fired upon them, & killed 3 & took the Barge and the other 9 Men Prisoners; on which a heavy Fire ensued from the Cannon on Board the Ship and they killed one Rifle Man; on which General Putnam immediately went down there to put Things in proper Order, from whence he is not yet returned & we are not sure that we have every particular Right, nor shall we be until Genl Putnam arrives which will be this Day, the Ship however is gone down below out of Sight; Genl Heath says that a small Sloop of Warr arrived here on Saturday which went away Yesterday with the *Dutchess*, and Genl Putnam suspected That she was an Advice Boat from that Part of the Fleet that comes this Way, and that they were not far off, and that Governour Tryon in the Ship was now gone out to acquaint them with the Situation of Things in this City; this is Conjecture only, but it is very probable to be so; but We are in good Order to give them a fiery Welcome altho we have yet a great Deal of Work to do to finish the Batteries compleat and I doubt not but that by the Blessing of Heaven it is in our Power to prevent their getting any Footing here we have in the City & close by it between 7 & 8 Thousand Men now, besides the City Militia which is 4,000 more & when the other Regts now on their March arrive, we shall be about 12, beside the City Militia; General Putnam is returned and says that our People took but 8 Prisoners & killed only two, there being only 10 in the Boat in the whole and that we lost None only one was wounded, the Rest of the Account is right; ²

1. Silliman Papers, YUL.

2. However, the barge was from the *Savage*, not the *Dutchess of Gordon*.

GENERAL ORDERS NEW YORK ¹

Head-Quarters, New-York, April, 8th 1776.

The General, informs the inhabitants, that it is become absolutely necessary, that all communication, between the ministerial fleet and shore, should be immediately stopped,—for that purpose, has given positive orders, that the ships should no longer be furnished with provisions: Any inhabitant, or others, who shall be taken, that have been on board, or near any of the ships, or going on board, will be considered as enemies, and treated accordingly.

HEAD-QUARTERS, NEW-YORK, April, 8th 1776.

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All boats, are to sail from Beekman's-
slip; Capt. James Alner is appointed In-
spector, and will give permits for oyster-
men: It is expected and ordered, that
none attempt going without a pass.

Israel Putnam,

Major General in the continental
Army, and Commander in chief
of the Forces in New-York.

All boats, are to sail from Beekman's-slip; Capt. James Alner is appointed Inspector, and will give permits for oystermen: It is expected and ordered, that none attempt going without a pass.

Israel Putnam,

Major General in the continental Army,
and Commander in chief of the Forces in New-York.

1. NYHS

ANDREW ELLIOT TO GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON ¹

(Copy)

Secret Intelligence

New York 8th April 1776.

Since I left Your Excellency on Sunday Night last, I have done my Endeavour to discover anything that might be hurtfull to His Majesty's Arms – There is no alterations in those Batteries I gave Your Excellency an account of – but now they are in the greatest hurry to get the Ambrazures finished on the Lower Battery under Fort George and has already placed 4-32 Pounders – and what more they intend mounting there I cannot as yet inform you – They have also this morning mounted on the Hill by Black Sam's House 2-32 Pounders. & last Night 2000 Men got on the Governor's Island, where they have begun an Entrenchment, and another on Red Point facing the Harbour – I am afraid when those two Battery's are finished they will do Damage to the Shipping – if there can be no method of putting a stop to them – they have got no Guns over that I can hear of – Permit me to say from the little Experience I have of Gunnery, that a Ship or a Sloop to get in behind the Governor's Island, might take both the Battery on the Island & that on Red Bank, as my opinion is, no Shot could reach there from any Battery they have erected

The Riffle Men are all over on Staten Island, except Thirty; by the best accounts I can get there is about 1100, of the Jersey men, likewise on Staten Island, or at Amboy The Number gone from hence, to the above places, may be about 1800 Men – I cannot learn that more then Four Companies are over on Long Island.

I am made to understand from undoubted authority that they have lodged in the New Hospital 252 half Barrels of Gun Powder – and now they are employed in making Travelling Carriages for Nine & Twelve Pounders – and this day I was called upon, to know if I could give them the dimensions for a Nine & Twelve Pounder Travelling Carriage, but directly told them I could not as I was no Artificer, & that part of the Artillery was entirely unknown to me, so got clear of them – There are Orders given out in print by Mr Putman [Israel Putnam] this Morning for all Communication be cut off from this day between the Men of War, & the Town, and that they shall have no more Provision – no Boat is to leave the Town, but from Beekman's Slip – and then must have a pass from one of their Captains appointed for that purpose, – So God help us in our distress – But still such

Friends to Government as are left in Town keeps us good Spirits – I shall Conclude 'till another Opportunity And am. &c. &c. &c.

1. Andrew Elliot Papers, Letter Book B, NYSL.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW YORK, DATED APRIL 8.”¹

Yesterday the *Viper's* boat² went ashore on Staten-island, to get water. A party of riflemen, who were posted there, attacked her, and took all hands prisoners; some say eight, others fourteen. The man of war fired, which the riflemen returned. They were at it all day – The man of war was obliged to cut her cables and run. – It is said she fell down with sails furled, and when the men went up to loose them, the riflemen popped them off – I can't get at particulars – Our people have since taken up the anchor, and eighty fathom of cable.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 9, 1776.

2. The *Savage*; not the *Viper*.

CAPTAIN HUGH STEPHENSON TO MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM¹

Statin Island April 8th, 1776 –

May it Please your Honor. –

Yesterday about Ten o'Clock in the forenoon the Ship *Savage* & the *James* pilate Boat came up the sound under cover of a thick fogg to the Watering place o[n] this Island, – each Sent a Boat with Eleven men to take in Water of which I Receiv'd Intelligence & prepar'd to attack them, – they recd Information of our approach & a signal Gun was fired for their retreat which they endeavoured to effect under cover of a Brisk and almost constant fire from the *savage*, but being Closely persued were Oblig'd to leave behind them one standard, one Musket, one Boat, Twenty seven Iron bound Barrels, one Cable, Anchor and Buoy, one speaking Trumpet one Iron pot & two watch Coats – Ten men were taken prisoners in the Boat, & in the Water Attempting to make their escape (one of whom is wounded) One man being shot fell into the Water and two others fell on Board of which we are Confident; many were Wounded but as I cannot inform you with certainty You'll please refer to four deserters who came ashore last night from the *Ph[o]enix* for better Information. Two Boys belonging to New-York who went on board the *black-Joke* Saturday & were tow'd in their Canoe by the *James* to the Watering place, Yesterday morning & Landed are suspected to be the persons who gave the ships Crew notice that the Rife Men were approaching and are therefore made prisoners, they inform that Messrs: Weatherhead & Wallace of New-York frequently go on Board the *Ph[o]enix* from Long Island, – I have undertaken to send Darbey Doyl as a prisoner for Selling provisions to and holding Correspondence with the Enemy. – I have the pleasure to Inform Yr Honor that the Officers and Soldiers under my Command behav'd (in the late little Skirmish) with a spirit and Conduct becoming Advocates for Liberty. I am to Acknowledge myself Oblig'd to Capt [Moses] Rawlings his Officers and men for the Assistance they pre-

par'd to lend us, by Crossing the river in the most expeditious Manner. a list of the prisoners will be delivered by Lieut [Samuel] Finley "to whom" I beg leave to refer Your Honor for farther particulars, -

I have the pleasure to Subscribe myself [&c.]

Hugh Stephenson

1. Washington Papers, LC.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY ¹

Sir

Philada April 8th 1776

We received your Letter by Mr Scott ² and approve of your Conduct in Sending in the St Croix Sloop. altho She does not prove to be aprize, yet as the circumstances attending her appeared Suspicious you did right.

Shoud this be delivered to you by Capt [William] Hallock at or about cape May he will also put on board your Lieutt of Marines and some men, If he does not see you he will land them at Cape May, and as Lieut Scott takes A Copy of it to Egg harbour, you will by this means learn that you will have either to take them off[f] from the Cape or him from Egg harbour. We wish Capt Hallack may fall in with you before he parts with Mr Deane on board the Sloop *Betsey* Capt John Tucker and in that case, We desire that you will take that Sloop under your Convoy and see her Two, three or four days Run off[f] the Coast, until you and Mr Deane Shall think her out of danger of the Enemies Tenders and Cutters. Wishing you Success

Rob^t Morris
Richard Henry Lee
Joseph Hewes

We are your friends
John Hancock.
Step. Hopkins
W^m Whipple

John Alsop

1. Commodore John Barry Papers, NYHS.

2. Robert Scott, "discharged 19th Sepr.1776", A List of the Commisioned Officers who served in the Navy of the United States in the late War, March 18, 1794, Papers CC, Misc. Naval, NA.

ROBERT MORRIS TO SILAS DEANE ¹

Dear Sir, -

Phila. April 8th 1776.

The express delivered me yours of yesterday this morning, and I do not wonder you shou'd be uneasy in your present situation; be assured I have done every thing in my power to hurry the outfits of the Sloop & Schooner, ² but they came in such wrecks and have so much to be done to them that it has not been possible to get either of them away yet. The Schooner I believe will go down tomorrow morning for the sole purpose of Convoying you, & she must come directly back to finish her outfit, get men, &c.; but you may depend she shall be sent off tomorrow sometime, & the Captain shall have orders to obey you in all things untill you get safe out to Sea. In my oppinion this Easterly Wind is favourable for your design, and I hope it may last with thick weather untill you pass them; no time shou'd be lost af-

ter the Schooner gets down to you, but work down the Cape May Channell quick as possible, and I think after you get one days sail from the Coast you have not much to fear. I will write you more by the Schooner & am very sincerely [&c.]

Rob^t Morris.

1. "The Deane Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1886*, I, 132.
2. The Continental sloop *Hornet* and Continental schooner *Wasp*.

ROBERT MORRIS TO SILAS DEANE ¹

Dear Sir, —

Phila. April 8th 1776.

I wrote you a few lines this morning by the return of your Express to whom I paid 40s. — in full of all demands for his Journey; since his departure I procured a meeting of the Marine Committee and orders to send down the Schooner ² soon as possible; therefore I hope you will receive this from Capt Hallock who is order'd to Consult with you the best & safest method of getting out to Sea, and to follow such orders as you may give him from time to time untill your departure; when he is to return.

He has a letter for Capt Barry, & shou'd you be lucky enough to fall in with him he is directed to see you three or four days run off the Coast untill you & he may think the dangers of Tenders & Cutters is over. If you don't find Barry at the Capes you had best take the letter from Hallock, as you may fall in with Barry afterwards. I have ordered the Brige *Polly*, Capt. [William] McFadden, to embrace this Convoy and go down in Comp'y with you, and most sincerely do I hope both of you may get clear; the 2d bills for £ 1200 stg are on bd her, and her Cargo Cost near £ 3000 Curr'y; therefore you'l have an Eye to her security as well as your own.

1. "The Deane Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1886*, I, 133.
2. The Continental schooner *Wasp*, William Hallock, commander.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 8th April, 1776.

Resolved, That John McFatridge be appointed Second Lieutenant to the floating Battery.

Resolved, That the Officers & Non-Commission'd Officers on board the floating Battery, have the same Wages with those of the same rank on Board the Provincial Ship of War.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 536.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO ANGUS MACBEAN ¹

Sir,

[Philadelphia] 8th April, 1776.

Mr. James Maule, Pilot, applying to this Board for liberty to go down with your Ship, the Committee are of Opinion that it is unsafe at present to

Suffer any Pilot to go down the River, and therefore cannot grant the Permission.

Whenever it can be done with Safety you will have Notice, and 'till then it is hoped you will not undertake to engage any Pilot upon that Service.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 731.

LIEUTENANT JOHN WEBB TO ALEXANDER WILCOCKS¹

[Fort Island] Sunday Night, 10 O'Clock,

8th April, 1776.

Sir: —

This afternoon, at 4 o'Clock, I Rec'd a letter from Capt'n John Hamblton, desiring my Emmedeate attendance, with my Evidences, to atten a Corte of Inquirry in Regard to Capt'n [Alexander] Henderson and my self. I Emmedeately Repair'd to the Island, with the greatest part of the Lieut's in the fleet then down, and mensioned the Improperity of the day, Itts being the Sabeth, and Likewise Late. However, the Corte being Called with Great difficulty, I gott Liberty for an Equal number of Lieut's to sett on the said Corte, they Having appointed three, the Rest all Capt'ns. On proseiding to Buisness, itt wass Conducted not with the property that I have seen Shuch Corts, my Evedances not a Quarter part being heard, and them Intemedated with feir of the officers that must Command them hereafter. Minnuts was takeing of shuch matters as was servisable only to those Gentle'n as wants to tyrenise over the Lieut's in General. I, theirfore, Begg the favour that you'l pleas to Represent the affair to the Committy, that I may have a Hearing By them, or sum three or four that they may pleas to appoint, as I think myself Greatly abused and not able to attend heir, being much afflicted with the rumetis. I am, Sir [&c.]

John Webb.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 596.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW,
H.M.S. *Liverpool*¹

Roebuck in the River Delawar the 8th April 1776 —

Dear sir I had the favour of your letter of the 29th March by the *Lord Howe* Tender who joined me the 6th instant, she had been so long absent that I was under a great apprehension for her safety: especially as I have seen two Rebel Privateers off the mouth of this River since I have been here, which on account of the Shoals and Tides I was not able to get at; both of which are an overmatch for such a miserable Vessel as she is. The one is a Brig carrying 18 four pounders and the other is a Bermuda Sloop of 10 four pounders,² and are fitted out with the intention of clearing the Coast of our Tenders.

I have the greatest reason to believe the Philadelphia Fleet are upon their return home, which makes me wish exceedingly for another Ship to be with me in order to make the intercepting them the more certain: Yet as I

am equally desirous to keep the little footing we have in Virginia secure, I cannot (I think) with any degree of propriety desire you to come round to me until another Ship or Sloop shall arrive, which may be left for the protection of the Fleet &ca in Elizabeth River: which I trust must happen very soon, either from Ships expected under the command of Sir Peter Parker, or from the Admiral to the Northward from whom I am in hourly expectation of hearing.

Having thought it necessary in my present situation to strengthen my Ships company by every means in my power, and at the Same time thinking it unsafe to trust my people & ammunition any longer in a vessel that can neither Sail, or is properly equipt for War; I have dismantled my Tender the *Lord Howe* and have Sent her round to Norfolk to be laid up; but if you can find me any vessel that has the character of being a good Sailor and can be made to mount 10 Guns I should be glad you would send her round to me with the people who navigate the *Lord Howe* to Virginia and the *Maria* Sloop who accompanies her.

I have sent Mr Mason the Purser round with the Sloop in order to settle the business of the Ship, and shall be obliged to you for any assistance that you can give him.

I am obliged to you for the account of the Act of Parliament, which I had before received from Philadelphia. I believe the officers & Seamen of his Majesty's Ships did not stand in need of any particular incitement to do their best in crushing this most unnatural rebellion; but since this great mark of the Nation's generosity towards them, they must feel a desire of acting still more spiritedly from the additional motive of gratitude, as in my opinion it is much more than they had any right to expect.

I have taken 6 or 7 small Vessels, but as none of them had Cargoes of much value, I rather chose to destroy them than weaken my Ships company by Sending men on board to Navigate them, but am sorry at the same time to tell you that I have lost my third Lieutenant who with three Seamen are now Prisoners with the Rebels. I sent him in a pilot Boat in quest of a Sloop that appeared in Sight, which he took and manned, and in returning to the Ship (in the night) he by some unfortunate accident or mistake run aground upon the beach at high water; ³ I wish of all things to have one of those flats at Norfolk fitted as a floating Battery. I have written to Lord Dunmore on this head, and I should be glad you would give his Lordship every assistance about it that you possibly can.

I am not quite easy at your trusting the River entirely to the *Otter*, especially as I understd Captain Squire has again weakened his Sloop by fitting out a Second Tender, when in my judgment he has already many more men that he ought to Suffer to be out of his Ship on board the *Fincastle*; but as he has not Sent me any account about his Ship, I am in hopes he has by some means or other encreased his numbers; therefore suspend all opinion about it until I hear from him.

I have according to your desire Sent Lightbody round to You, who you

will find to be very well acquainted with the Coast and at Least the mouth of the River Delaware. I am &c

A.S.Hamond

P.S. Instead of Lightbody I have sent you the Pilot Chambers.

1. Hamond, *Letters and Orders, Roebuck, 1775-1778*, UVL.
2. The Continental brig *Lexington* and the Continental sloop *Hornet*.
3. Lieutenant George Ball.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Monday 8 April 1776.

Ordered, That the Treasurer of the Western Shore pay to Mr Joseph Middleton thirty seven Pounds ten Shillings in Part Payment for his furnishing a Pilot Boat for the Purpose of gaining and communicating Intelligence.

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

JOSHUA BEALL TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentln

Bladensburgh 8th April 1776

Yours of the 29th Ult. I received Yesterday I have Examined the powder according to your request & find there are 26 bbls of Corse powder including one that was broke on bord the vessell four Barrell & 20 kegs of fine powder, though there seems to be something of a mixture throughout the whole I am Gentn [&c.]

Jos: Beall

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

EDMUND PENDLETON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Caroline, April 8, 1776

Dear Sir – On Friday last, General [Charles] Lee arrived safe in Williamsburg, in a very rainy day, and much fatigued; we considered him as a valuable acquisition, and esteem it a favour in Congress to spare him to this department, where, most people here think, the gentry who found Boston too hot for them, will come, and be joined by the much talked of powerful force from Europe. However, I am not of that opinion, and think they either mean a descent upon some other part of New England they like better, or, perhaps, by dividing our army, may purpose to return to Boston with greater advantage, or else to go to Halifax, and wait for the season to go up to Quebec. General Lee thinks if they come here, they will certainly make Williamsburg their object, and on that supposition is going to entrench it. I hear since I came away, he has ordered all the battalions from their stations to that place, which has made the people in town very happy, but I fear will be very alarming to other parts, particularly the Northern Neck, who were before uneasy, on the appearance of tenders in Potomac and Rappahannoc . . . I have seen your resolves about reprisals. Is it considered as a law we are now to execute by granting commissions? or must we wait for a confirmation by our convention?

1. Lee, *Lee Memoir*, II, 192.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Monday, 8th April, 1776.

A Report of the persons appointed to appraise Mr. Maxamilian Calvert's Schooner was ret'd. Whereupon it is ordered that a Letter be written to Mr. Calvert requesting to know whether he will accept the appraised price.

A warrant to Capt. James Baron for £20. 5. 0 for 2 swivel Guns and a Top Sail for Capt. Calvert's Row Galley, and als' for paper.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 157. The Minute Book is missing for the period April 10 to April 28, inclusive.

LORD DUNMORE TO GOVERNOR SIR RALPH PAYNE¹

On Board the Ship *Dunmore* in Eliza
River Virginia 8th April 1776.

Sir

The Army and Navy here being much in want of Salt Provisions, I find it necessary to send the Brig *Rebecca*, John Brown Master to procure some from Antigua. must therefore beg you will give the Master your Advice and assistance in procuring it as quickly as possible.

As the Rebels seem determined to prosecute this unnatural War with unwearied dilligence, and have already fitted out some and are still fitting out more Privateers, to protect their illicit Trade, it is therefore become necessary for Government to employ Tenders to Cruize against them, and as there are many Vessels here which would Answer that purpose were we supplied with Ordnance, I would therefore intreat you to purchase or procure by any other means you shall think proper Guns &ca according to the inclosed list, or as near it as you can, and you will much oblige

Sir [&c.]

Dunmore.

[Enclosure]

A List of Ordnance wanted for His Majesty's Service in the Colony of Virginia by His Excellency the Earl of Dunmore. Guns. Brass if they can be had, if not Iron.

12.....	9	Pounders	} If the numbers cannot be had according to this list. Vizt if 12 - 9 Pounders cannot be had, let the Number be made up with Sixes and so on.
12.....	6	Do	
12.....	4	Do	
12.....	3	Do	
12.....	2	Do	

20 or 30 Swivels. 20 or 30 Blunderbusses. - 1 Dozen Drums & 1 Dozen fifes.
5 Rheams, Cannon, Cartridge paper, and 20 lb Matches.

It is requisite that a very large proportion of Ball, of the different Sizes should be sent, especially of the smaller Sort which are now become

very scarce. If hand Grenadoes are to be got, they would be of great service here.

Virginia 8th April 1776.

Dunmore.

[Endorsed] (A true Copy)

Jam^s Young.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309. Payne was governor of the Leeward Islands.

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

April 1776. Oak Island N Wt 5 or 6 Leagues.
 Sunday 7 at 8 am saw a Sail in the N E Qr gave Chase 1/2 past 9 spoke a Schooner from Hispaniola bound to So Carolina took her in tow.

Monday 8. Cape Fear Et 5 Miles
 at 5 A M Came too with the Small Br in 6 1/2 fathm water fired 6 Six pounders as Signals for a pilot at 9 Came off a pilot took the Officer and men out of the Schooner & sent her into Cape Fear

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Halifax] Monday April 8th 1776.

Mr Harnett [Cornelius Hartnett] presented the Petition of Joseph Wood and Partners, praying an order to dispose of the Effects of His Excellency Josiah Martin Esquire, within this province, to reimburse the loss they have sustained by the Capture and detention of the Sloop *Joseph*, and the Cargo on Board of the same or such other relief as this Congress in their Wisdom shall think fit

Resolved That Mr Harnett, Mr Allen Jones Mr Thomas Persons and Mr Thomas Jones be a Committee to take under Consideration the said Petition and make report to this Congress

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

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Monday the 8th Day of April. 1776

Message to His Excellency the President

May it please your Excellency

This House thinking it necessary That Obstructions should be laid on the Bar of the Inlet to Stono have come to a Resolution to make Provision for the Expence of that Service which they request you will give Orders to have executed

Colonel [Charles] Pinckney according to Order presented an Ordinance to ascertain the Duties of a Muster-Master General of the Land and Sea Forces in the Service of this Colony And the same was received and read a First Time

Ordered That the Ordinance be read a Second Time
 An Ordinance to ascertain the Duties of a Muster-Master General of the
 Land and Naval Forces of this Colony was read a Second Time
 Resolved That the Ordinance do pass
 Ordered That it be sent to the Legislative Council

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 49, 51, 52.

9 Apr.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP ¹

April [1776] Sambro Light NNE $\frac{1}{2}$ E 6 or 7 Ls.
 Tuesday 9 at 6 AM Saw a Sail to Windward Gave Chace at 8 came up
 with the Chace found her to be a Sloop from Plymo bound
 to broad Bay. took her men out & Sent a Petty officer & Men
 onbd her Sounded 55 fam –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

JONATHAN GLOVER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Marblehead April 9th 1776

May it Please your Honours

The Committee of Correspondence have this day Received from Captt
 Samuel Tucker Commander of one of the Continentall Armed Vessells,
 Twenty two Persons, Who where in the Brigint[in]e Lately taken by Captt
 John Manly, from Boston Bound to Hallifax, Among whom are four Sol-
 diers with their wives and Children, one Caleb Wheaton (who from his own
 Accounts has heretofore Been Esteemed Inimicall to his Country) with his
 three Sons, and a Number of others who in the Course of their Examina-
 tion, have Not Been Able to Acquitt themselves to their Country, (in our
 Esteem) for the Particulars of which we Beg Leave to Refer you to the wor-
 thy Bearer Azor Orne Esqr one of the Committee who attended the
 Examination, the Committee have Made Comfortable Provision for the
 Entertainment of the above persons, and desire your Honors direction what
 further Steps they Shall take with them, and are with Respect your Honors
 [&c.]

Jonathan Glover, Chair Man

[Endorsed] In Council April 10th 1776 Read & committed to Joseph
 Palmer Esqr with such as the Honl House shall join, to consider & report
 thereon sent down for Concurrence Perez Morton D Secry
 In the House of Representatives April. 11. 1776 – Read & concurrd & Coll.
 Coffin & Mr Hobart are joined. J Warren Spkr

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 334. Glover was Continental agent at Marblehead.

JOSEPH NYE TO NATHANIEL FREEMAN ¹

Sir

Sandwich Aprl 9. 1776

A vessell is arrived at Barnstable In a Short passage from the

Westindies three Masters of Vessells who were taken there came passengers who inform us that the Islands swarm with the Enemies Armed Vessells that more than Half the American Vessells that have Sailed Since the Middle of Feby are taken amongst which are two Large Ships Laden with Flour from Philadelph[ia] fitted out by the Congress, one had on board 280 barrells, if this Intelligence has not before Arived I thought it might be of use to be known. We are likewise told by these passengers that Said Vessell has brought a large quantity of tea I wish the sence of the Court was Made Publick concerning this Matter if there is a Resolve of Congress against emporting this Article it ought to be adhered to or Rescinded this affair I fancy will make much Noise if worked out of Sight. Excuse haste I remain [&c.]

Joseph Nye

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 208, 377.

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

April 1776 Point Juda SWBW 2 Miles
 Sunday 7 AM at 4 lost sight of the *Swan*, Tack'd.
 First and latter part light Breezes and hazy, Mid fresh Breezes
 P M at 1 In Co H M Sloop *Nautilus* and *Charlotte* T[ende]r
 11. Sound'd 30 fm at 12 - 3 Sail in Sight.
 Monday 8 At 8 AM Joined Co. *Glascow*, *Swan*, and *Fortune* Tender
 Augusta Tr Transport and 2 prize Sloops
 Fresh Breezes and hazy at 4 PM the SW end of Block Island
 SSE 3 or 4 Miles.
 Tuesday 9 at 8 AM 9 Sail in Sight, fresh Gales and hazy
 parted Compy the *Nautilus* took the People out of the *Mary*
 Sloop and sat her on fire.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

2. *Ibid.*, there is no further identification of the *Mary*. H.M.S. *Rose* and her squadron proceeded without further incident to Halifax arriving April 18, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] April 9th, 1776.

Voted, That an order be drawn on the Pay-Table, in favor of Capt. Jonathan Lester, for one hundred pounds, for the purpose of building the row-galley at Norwich. *An order was drawn April 9th, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Lester for £100.*

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 259.

ORDER ON THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF THE PAY TABLE ¹

Lebanon April 9th 1776

Draw on the Colony Treasurer for the Sum of Seven Hundred Pounds in Favour of Messers Isaac Sears William Greenough Michael Todd and

James Rice Committee for fitting out the Brig *Defence* and Building and fitting the Row Galley *Whiting* and for them to Render Account

By Order of the Govr & Council of Safety

Benj Huntington Clerk P.T.

To the Committee of Pay Table Hartford

£700. –

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 61a, ConnSL.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Gentlemen

When I put to Sea the 17th Febry from Cape Henlopen we had many Sick, and four of the Vessels had a large number onboard with the Small Pox The *Hornet* & *Wasp* join'd me two days before the Wind came at N E which made it unsafe to lye there – the Wind after he got out came on to blow hard – I did not think we were in a Condition to keep on a Cold Coast and appointed our Rendezvous at Abacco one of the Bahama Islands – The second night we lost the *Hornet* & *Fly* –

I arrived at the Rendezvous in order to wait for the Fleet fourteen days agreeable to Orders – I then formed an Expedition against New Providence which I put in Execution the 3rd March by landing two hundred Marines under the Command of Captn [Samuel] Nicholas, and 50 Sailors under the Command of Lieutt [Thomas] Weaver, of the *Cabot* who was well acquainted there – The same day they took Possession of a small Fort of Seventeen Pieces Cannon without any Opposition save five Guns which were fired at them without doing any damage – I received that Evening an Account that they had two hundred and odd Men in the Main Fort all Inhabitants – I then caused a Manifesto to be published the Purport of which was (that the Inhabitants and their Property should be safe if they did not oppose me in taking possession of the Fort and Kings Stores) which had the desired effect for the Inhabitants left the Fort almost alone – Captn Nicholas sent by my Orders to the Governor for the Keys of the Fort which was delivered and the Troops march'd directly in where we found the several Warlike Stores agreeable to the Inventory inclosed, but the Governor sent 150 barrels Powder off in a Small Sloop the night before – I have all the Stores onboard the Fleet and a large Sloop that I found there which I have promis'd the owner to send back and pay him hire for – The *Fly* joind us at [New] Providence and gave an Account that he got foul of the *Hornet* and carried away her Boom and head of her Mast and I hear since she has got into some port of South Carolina – I have taken the Governor Montfort. Browne, the Lieutt Governor who is a half pay Officer and Mr Thomas Erwin who is a Counsellor & Collector of his Majestys Quit Rents in South Carolina and it appears by the Court Callendar that he is also Inspector General of his Majestys Customs for North America –

Since he came out, we have lost Company with the *Wasp* –

The 4th Instant we fell in with the East End of Long Island and took the Schooner commanded by Young Wallace of Six Carriage Guns & eight

Swivels & the 5th took the Bomb Brig [*Bolton*] of eight guns and two Howitzers & 48 hands – well found with all sorts of Stores, Arms, Powder, &c – the 6th in the Morning we fell in with the *Glascow* and her Tender and engaged her near three hours – We lost six men killed and as many Wounded – The *Cabot* four Men killed and Seven Wounded the Captain is among the latter – the *Columbus* had one Man lost his Arm. We receiv'd considerable damage in our Ship but the greatest was in having our Wheel Rope & blocks shot away which gave the *Glascow* time to make Sail I did not think proper to follow as it would have brought on an Action with the whole of their Fleet and as I had upwards of thirty of our best Seamen onboard the Prizes, and some that were onboard had got too much Liquor out of the Prizes to be fit for Duty thought it most prudent to give over Chace and secure our Prizes – & got nothing but the *Glascow's* Tender and arrived here the 7th with all the Fleet – Amongst the dead are Mr Sinclair Seymour Master of the *Cabot* a good officer. Lieutt [James Hood] Wilson of the *Cabot* & Lieut [John] Fitzpatrick of the *Alfred*. The Officers all behaved well onboard the *Alfred*, but too much Praise cannot be given to the Officers of the *Cabot* who gave and Sustain'd the whole Fire for some considerable time within pistol Shot –

I expect to leave this place in three or four days & as General Washington is expected here every minute if he will give me leave to inlist some of his Men, shall be able to get away soon –

I hear that since the Action the Fleet is gone from Newport but whether they intend to return again I cannot tell but if I can get the Fleet well Manned shall be able to give a more Intelligent account I have now on board 80 Pieces of heavy Sail Duck which I purchased at New Providence and have drawn Bills on the Treasurer for I am [&c.]

Esek Hopkins

Ship *Alfred* New London Harbour April 9th 1776

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XI, 33-35, NA. A letter book copy, minus the last three paragraphs is in the Hopkins Papers, RIHS, and a deleted version, dated April 9, 1776, was published in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, April 17, 1776, "by Order of Congress." Hopkins wrote a similar report on April 8 to Governor Nicholas Cooke in which he noted: "if you should want any of the Stores [taken at New Providence] shall be glad to know the Sorts." Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

"ACCOMPT OF SUNDRY STORES AND FURNITURE OF THE BRIGANTINE *Marry Ann* [*sic Lilly Ann*]. NOW CALL'D THE *Defence*"¹

Blocks those fit for Use after repair sent on Board as spare Mainsail For stay sail & For Topsail. for spare sails now on Board one steering and one Top Gallt sail being New and made Larger and now in Use all the running rigging. now on Board and one old Cable for Junk the other 2 in Service

the Long Boat Carried with Brige to N London

the yards and Topmast not fit for Service Cut up for to Lay a platform in the Hold.

part of the Sails Us'd for Parceling the riggin]g and part for the Same Use

in the New Galley and now Remains part of Two sails on hand – proper for the Ships rigging
 2 Anchors Sent to Norwalk by order of Committee of Safety Remains on hand in New Haven
 Lower Shrouds & stays & part of Topmas[t] rig[gin]g part being used for the row Galley
 the 2 masts with the windless Remain here
 Sundry[s] stores &c from the Brigantine *Minerva*
 3 steering sails and 1 TopGt Sail alter'd and in Use in the *Defence*
 all the other articles according to Inventory D[e]l[ivere]d to Capt [Seth] Harding some for Use others to be Left at N London Except Nine white Oak hhds Left here
 the Guns on Board the *Defence* are 4 Six Pounders and ten 4 pounders which Came from New York And 2 4 pounders which C[a]me from N London
 the Guns left here by the B. *Minerva* are 1 of 6 pound and 9 of 4 pound
 Taken for the Use of the row Galley from the Ships Duck while at N Haven
 12 Bolts of No 4 Contg 477½ yds
 And Sent in the place thereof 6 Bolts No 1 Contg 245½ yds one Bolt No 2 Cg 41 yds. Also a Quantity of Match Stuff left here.
 [New Haven, April 9, 1776] ²

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX (*Defence*), 54, ConnSL.

2. The date is approximated. From the text it is evident that the *Defence* had gone to New London before the account was prepared, and Captain Harding was definitely in New London on April 13, 1776.

COLONEL GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN TO MARY SILLIMAN ¹

[Extract]

[New York] Tuesday Morning 9th April

. . . last Evening Draughts were made from a Number of Regiments here mine among the Rest to the Amount of 1,000 Men with these and a proper Numbers of Officers, Genl Putnam at Candle lighting embarked on Board of a Number of Vessels with a large Number of intrenching Tools and went directly on The Island a little below the City called Nutten Island where they have been intrenching all Night and are now at Work and have got a good Breast Work there raised which will cover them from the Fire of the Ships and it is directly in the Way of the Ships coming up to the Town the *Asia* has fallen down out of Gun Shot from this Place, and it deprives the Ships of the only Watering Place they have here without going down toward the Hook. I am now at 10 o'clock and the other Brigade is not here yet dont know my Love whether I shall see You before next Week. I am [&c.]

G Selleck Silliman

1. Silliman Papers, YUL. Continuation of April 8 letter.

STATE OF THE FORTIFICATIONS AT NEW YORK ¹

Nature of Guns. Pounders				Total	Where placed on the different Batteries.	The Form of the Batteries.
32	18	12	6			
2	"	4	"	6	Behind the Governors House near the old Church, facing the North River	} E Half Moon
				6	Above Black Sams Hill on Greenwich road facing the North River	
				6	Behind Mr Harris's Brew house by the Forge facing Do Do	} E Cock Pitt
				3	In broad way facing the Fort	
				4	On the Dock opposite the Albany Pier, facing the East river	} E Square
4	2	"	"	6	At the Ship Yards, facing Do	
					By the Jews burying ground, behind the Ship Yards	} E In Squares
				8	Mr Byards Hill near the Bowery road	
					Round the New Hospital, by the New road	} S Breast Works
"	"	4	"	4	Behind Mr Waltons House at Horns Hook facing the East River	
4	2	2	"	8	On the Height, So of Long Island Ferry, facing the East River	} E Angular
				6	Fort George	

57

[April 9, 1776] ²

The above where the Letter E stands are Batteries with Guns mounted as stands in the Columns. The Letter S is Breast Works for small Arms only. That Breast work on the Hill by the Jews Burying Ground will contain near 400 Men, it is made in an Angular form, with a large Trench all round; The Entrance into it on the back part facing Mr John's House on the Hill going to Corleys Hook. The Breast work round the New Hospital is in Squares with a Trench all round, 10 feet wide at the Top, and at Botton one foot and half, this Breast Work will contain about 300 Men, and as they intend to Line the Hospital with Men to Fire over the Breast Works I know not how many Men it will contain.

There is one thing I shall remark that their Embrazures are so narrow and confined, that should any Ship pass, there is no one Gun can bear more

than once to do any Damage to any Ship. That Battery on Long Island is so narrow and confined that it will not contain about 300 Men.

I need not give the Names of the Streets in the Town that is Blockaded, as every Street facing both North and East Rivers has wooden Trunks made across 10 feet thick filled with Earth, in Order to intercept any Troops that may attempt landing. I cannot see any Cover for the Rear, only Mr Byards Hill, it will contain near 300 Men, One Gun points across to Greenwich and one over Mr Delancy's House, Two directly up the Road to Kings Bridge, and four Guns over the Town, but I never saw any Works worse Plan'd on such a Spot of Advantageous Ground. The numbers placed in the Total Columns has not yet their Guns placed, but are to mount the Number as above Mark'd. In the Total Column, the half moon Battery on Black Sams Hill will contain about 400 Men; This Battery is Open on the Side next to the New Hospital as the Hospital Covers it.

The Cock Pitt Battery behind Mr Harris's Brew House will contain about 250 Men. The Battery behind the Governor's House, it may contain about 200 Men or more. The Battery at the Ship Yard may contain 500 Men; they have began a Redoubt about a quarter of a Mile behind the Battery on Long Island, which appears to be pretty large, but as they have not done any work at it for this two Days, I imagine they are going to alter the Plan of it. As to Fort George, they have pulled down all the Square, fronting Broadway and the Embrazures on the Ramparts not finished I shall leave that 'til another opportunity.

[Endorsed] State of the Fortifications at New York &ca

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosure No. 1 in Shuldham to Philip Stephens, May 20, 1776.
2. This letter, while undated, was written to Captain Hyde Parker, Jr., who forwarded it to Shuldham on April 29, 1776 and the date is established by the writer's subsequent letter of April 17, which reads: "Since my last of April 9th."

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

April 1776

Moor'd in Graves End Bay.

Tuesday 9th AM got the Flag staffs down, & Top Galt Masts up empd Reeving the Rigging & workt up Junk
Light Airs and Cloudy Wr these 24 Hours. P M Clear'd
Hause M[en] empd occasionally, Fired a Nine Pound Shott
at a Party of Rebels on shore, & one to bring too a Sloop ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.
2. Sloop *Sukey*, from Black Point for New York, with oysters, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, April 9, 1776

A letter from Colonel Haslet, of the Delaware batallion, was also read and referred to the Committee on Prisoners.²

The Congress took into consideration the report of the Committee on Prisoners: Whereupon,

Resolved, That Captain Duncan Campbell be permitted to reside with his wife and family in the city of Burlington, in the western division of New Jersey.³

Resolved, That a list of the prisoners of war in each colony be made out and transmitted to the house of assembly, convention, council, or committee of safety of such colonies, respectively, and that they be authorized and requested to cause a strict observance of the terms on which such prisoners have been enlarged, and also to take especial care that none of those confined by order of the Congress, be suffered to escape; and also, that the allowance to each prisoner be punctually paid by the president of the convention, or of the council or committee of safety of the colony in which he resides; and where there are no conventions, by the speakers of assembly; which said presidents or speakers are hereby authorised, from time to time, to draw for the sums advanced in pursuance of this resolution, upon the president of Congress.

Lord Stirling having, agreeable to the order of Congress of the 19 of March last, appointed persons to value the boat of Michael Kearney, Junr and transmitted the valuation by them made, amounting to £290 York currency – 725 dollars:

Ordered, That the same be paid to said Michael Kearney.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 263–66.

2. See Haslet's undated letter placed under approximate date, April 7, 1776.

3. Campbell, in charge of a recruiting party for the British army, was taken prisoner in October, 1775 when the transport *Rebecca & Frances*, en route from Boston to New York, was cast away on Brigantine Beach in New Jersey.

ROBERT MORRIS TO SILAS DEANE ¹

I am now at the 9th, & yesterday wrote a note to Mr [John] Jay desiring him to furnish you with news and to send his letter to me; as yet it is not come; however there is little news to inform you of. The troops keep filing off from Boston for New York, where Man of Warr & some People on shore have had a little firing; I don't mean at the City, but in some part of that Bay our People took their Boats Crew prisoners, wounded some men & obliged the Ship to Slip her Cable & anchor, which our Folks have since weighed and got; the report is that two or three Men of Warr are arrived at the Hook, so we may expect the Campaign will open in that quarter before long. Nothing new from the Southward by the last Post.

I have just heard that Capt Barry was at Cape May last Friday [April 5] & Convoyed out some New England Men; I hope you'l meet him. We find difficulty to get Men to go down in the Schooner² as they have a notion they will catch the distemper she brought in with her; but we must get the better of this oppinion, and perhaps I may write to you again if any delay happens which however I will endeavour to prevent being most truly [&c.]

Rob^t Morris.

P.S. If you cou'd clear of Cape May in the night it might do well.

1. "The Deane Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1886*, I, 133–40. Continuation of letter of April 8, 1776.

2. The Continental schooner *Wasp*.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK ¹

Remarks on Tuesday the 9 of April 1776 [Philadelphia]

Thick Rane Wather Employ Sating up the Srouds & Banding of Sails at 4 p m Came on Bord the pilet & Dropt Down the Rever

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER AT LEWES, DATED APRIL 9, 1776." ¹

On Sunday the seventh of April an express came from the light-house guard to Lewes, with intelligence that Captain [Nehemiah] Field, who commanded a schooner ² sent by the Council of that county to St. Eustatia for powder, had just arrived, and demanded assistance to unload her. I gave orders for the troops to march as soon as boats could be had to ferry them across the creek, which the inhabitants procured with amazing despatch. We then marched with the utmost expedition to reinforce our guard, which had taken post by the schooner to assist in discharging her cargo, mostly coarse linens; she then lay seven or eight miles to the southward of our Cape; at the time of our arrival, the tender, making sail, bore down upon the schooner, on observing this the men immediately ran her on shore. Our troops were outgone by the tender, though they marched at the rate of seven miles per hour, just before our arrival the tender gave our guard a broadside with swivels and musquetry, which they returned. On our junction a constant fire was kept up for some time, till we perceived the distance too great. We then left off firing, and unloaded the schooner, though several hundred shots were fired at us, to prevent it. Our people picked up many of their balls rolling in the sand. The tender despatched one of the barges to the ship for assistance, who made sail immediately, but was soon obliged to come to an anchor for fear of running on the Hen and Chickens. About the time the ship turned the cape the tender anchored within musket shot of the schooner, and kept up a continual fire with her swivels. We had by this time got two swivels in the schooner loaded with grape shot, and a constant fire for two hours was kept up on both sides. We undoubtedly wounded their men, for we perceived some to fall, and others ran to their assistance; they made several efforts to purchase their anchor, which we prevented by our fire, but at last they succeeded; fortunately however one of our swivel shot cut their halyards, and down came their mainsail, which obliged them to anchor once more. At last the wind shifting, they had a boat to tow them off; we then turned our fire on the boat, when two men were seen to fall; the barge returning from the ship joined to tow them out. Our men escaped unhurt. The militia officers, at Lewes, acted with a spirit which does honor to their county. ³

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 13, 1776.

2. The schooner *Farmer*.

3. The commander of the troops at Lewes was Captain Charles Pope of the Delaware Continental Battalion.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO WILLIAM LUX ¹

No 110

Sir Be pleased to send us immediately in Captain Nicholson's small Tender all the spare Blankets, and two third Parts of the Linens imported in the *Wild-Dick* [*sic Wild Duck*] Captain Tibbitt – shew this to Captain Nicholson and he will in Consequence of it dispatch his Tender with them.

[Annapolis] 9th April 1776.

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

LORD DUNMORE TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG ¹

[Extract]

On Board the Ship *Dunmore*, in

(A Copy)

Elizabeth River in Virginia April 9th 1776.

Sir Salt Provisions growing Scarce and no fresh to be had, obliges me to send the Brig *Rebecca*, John Brown Master, to Antigua for a Supply, for his Majesty's Land and Sea forces here: shall therefore be much obliged to you if you will give the Master your Advice how he may be Supplied in the most expeditious manner, and not to permit him to remain longer in the Island than is absolutely necessary.

Not being certain that you Still commanded His Majesty's Fleet in the West Indies, I some time ago recommended in general, a Young Gentleman of the name of Goodrich to the Admiral or Commanding Officer of his Majesty's Ships in the West Indies, but learning now from a Small Schooner that arrived here Yesterday from Antigua, that you are Still on that Station, I take the liberty of troubling you with a few lines to inform you that Bartlet Goodrich is the third Son of Mr John Goodrich, who has Six other Sons, and that the Father and the whole family have Sustained a loss of several thousand Pounds, from the Warm Attachment and Zeal, they have manifested by the very active part they have taken in endeavouring to bring their Countrymen in this Colony, to a proper Sense of their duty, and are now perpetually employed in rendering every Service in their power to His Majesty's Servants here. I think it but justice To this well disposed family, to give you this information, that any Vessels of theirs Trading to or from the Islands, may receive that Protection and Assistance, that their Loyalty and Services to their Sovereign entitled them to, from every Servant of the Crown. I am Sir [&c.]

Dunmore.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

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

April 1776	Moor'd off Brunswick in Cape Fear River N Carolina.
Saturday 6	Fresh Breezes & Cloudy with Rain AM Fir'd 4 Six pounders at the Rebels Emp'd Occasionally. PM Fir'd 4 Six Pounders at the Rebels
Sunday 7	PM Fir'd 6 Six Pounders & 3 Hand granadoes at the Rebels.

Mondy 8 Punish'd Thos Doyle Seamn with 12 Lashes for Neglect of Duty
 PM Fir'd 4 Hand granadoes at the Rebels.
 Tuesdy 9 PM Fir'd 8 Six pounders with Round & 6 with Round & Grape at the Rebels

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Tuesday the 9th Day of April. 1776

A petition of Henry Aitken late Master of the Ship *Port Henderson* was presented and read

Ordered That the said Petition be referred to the following Committee viz Mr [Gideon] Dupont Mr Roger Smith and Mr. [Philotheos] Chiffelle

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House a Bill to impower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in all Cases of Capture of the Ships and other Vessels of the Inhabitants of Great Britain Ireland the British West Indies Nova Scotia and East and West-Florida to establish the Trial by Jury in the Court of Admiralty in Cases of Capture and for the other Purposes therein mentioned read a Second Time in that House Also an Ordinance to ascertain the Duties of a Muster-Master General of the Land and Sea Forces in the Service of this Colony read Twice in the Legislative Council

The Ordinance being then read a Third Time in this House

Ordered That the same do pass

Ordered That Mr [Thomas] Middleton and Mr [William] Bull do carry the said Ordinance to the Legislative Council

A Bill to impower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in all Cases of Capture of the Ships and other Vessels of the Inhabitants of Great Britain Ireland the British West Indies Nova Scotia and East and West Florida to establish the Trial by jury in the Court of Admiralty in Cases of Capture and for the other Purposes therein mentioned was read a Third Time

Resolved That the Bill do pass and that the Title be, An Act [&c.]

Ordered That Mr. Bull and Mr. [Francis] Salvador do carry the Bill to the Legislative Council for their Concurrence

5 OClock P M

Mr Speaker reported That this House with the Legislative Council having attended His Excellency in the Council Chamber and presented to him the following Ordinance and Bills he had been pleased to give his Assent to them viz

An Act for the more effectual Prevention of the Desertion of the Soldiers and Sailors in the Service of this Colony and for the Punishment of those who shall harbour and conceal them or who shall purchase receive or conceal the Arms Cloaths or Accoutrements of Deserters

Ordered That the latter Act be forthwith printed and made public

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 53, 56-58.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Argo*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM GARNIER ¹

April 1776 Moored in Wood Bridge Bay Dominica
 Tuesday 9th At 7 AM Seized as Prize in the Offing a Schooner from
 Georgia, New England [*sic*] for Dominica, Named the *Dolphin*.

1. PRO. Admiralty 51/19.

10 Apr.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE ¹

April 1776 Remarks &c in Quebec
 Tuesday 9th At 1 pm came in a deserter from the rebels recd orders
 to be under Arms every morning at 2 oClock & continue
 so till day light
 Wednesday 10 am the rebels fired some shot into Town we return'd Do
 got Intelligence by the above deserter that the rebels had
 made a Fire Ship with intent to burn the Shipping in the
 Coudesac –
 Fresh Gales with rain pm mounted a 9 pounder onboard
 the *Fell* & cleared the platforms on the Kings wharf the
 rebels firing as before & we Returning Do

1. PRO. Admiralty 51/466.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

No 62.

Halifax April 10th 1776

Mr Lord I have the Honor to receive your Lordships Circular letter of the 10th November last informing me, that His Majesty had been graciously pleas'd to appoint your Lordship his Principal Secretary of State, for such business as relates to His Majesty's Colonies, and I take this oppertunity of Congratulating your Lordship, upon your Appointment to so Important an Office.

I shall by every oppertunity, communicate to your Lordship every material circumstance relative to the Affairs of this Colony, and of every Intelligence that may be necessary to be known, in this Critical Conjunction of Affairs in America.

On the 30th March arrivd Fifty Sail of Transports in this Harbour having on board Those Inhabitants of Boston, who have remaind Steady in their duty and Allegiance to the Crown and agreeable to the directions I have receivd from Lord Dartmouth to support such as may necessarily require it, shall take particular Care that His Majesty's Instructions, for their support, be carried into Execution with Prudence and Oeconomy.

On the first Instant arrivd the Transports, with His Majestys Troops from Boston, which Post they evacuated the 17th of last Month: The Provision Vessels sent them last Winter, by the great severity of the Weather,

were drove to the West Indies, from whence they are daily expected: which Circumstance has left the Army and Fleet with not more than one Months Allowance for both; We are taking every method to secure all the Provision this Province can by any means furnish, and to prevent Extortion – I have with the Advice of Council settled the prices of such kind of Provision they will stand in greatest need of, and I thought it necessary that the Generals then in Town should be present at this Council, and they highly approved of the Measure.

I have also received your Lordships Circular letter of the 23d of December last; inclosing an Act of Parliament, relative to Captures made in America and shall give every Aid & Assistance in my power, to carry it into Execution.

The Measures His Majesty has taken to bring about a Reconciliation between the Rebellious Colonys and Great Britain, I hope will have its desirable effect, and am of Opinion that so benevolent a proposition will have its due weight and Influence.

I have in my last letter to Lord Dartmouth No 61, Duplicate of which I have the honor to inclose your Lordship, given an account of my attention in raising the Regiment Orderd to be raised here for the defence of this Province, which has in a great measure been impeded by the Liberties Granted by the General to the two other Regiments, the Royal Fensibles & the Emigrants, to Recruit and raise Men within the Limits of this Province: however I have Neglected no means to Levy them, having sent Recruiting Officers into every part of it, as also to Newfoundland, and hope to hear of their success in a Short time. I have the honor to be [&c.]

Fran^s Legge

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52, DAC Photocopy.

GRIFFIN BARNEY AND JOHN CHAFFEE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

To the honble the Members of the General Court now Setting at Watertown –

We the subscribers Two of the Committee of Inspection for the Town of Dartmouth do Certifie that William Haydon master of the Sloop *Friendship* from Hispaniola hath landed out of said Sloop in Bedford in Dartmouth, Three hundred & ninety seven pounds of Gunpowder, which is disposed off in the following manner vizt – Two hundred ninety nine & a half pounds purchas'd by the Committee at providence the remainder ninety seven & a half pounds is deposited in the hands of Messrs Leonard Jarvis & Lemuel Williams Merchants in said Dartmouth for the Defence of that place –

Griffin Barney } Subcommittee for the
John Chaffee } Town of Dartmouth

Bedford 10th April 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 291.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

In the House of Representatives April 10, 1776

The Comtee to whom was referred the Consideration of a letter from Joseph Nye Esqr to Colo Freeman and Another letter to The Honble Colo [Joseph] Otis having attended that Service report that they find that a Certain Solomon Davis has fitted out a Vessell for the West Indies and imported into this Colony a quantity of India Tea and English goods Contrary to the resolves of the Continental Congress ² We are therefore of opinion That the said Solomon Davis & Prince Gorham be ordered to attend this Court to answer for their Conduct aforesaid.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 208, 375.

2. On April 11 the General Court ordered the tea and English goods seized. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 745.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Gentlemen

Boston 10 April 1776.

I would propose to the honourable Board the fixing upon proper Signals for alarming the Country if an Enemy Fleet should appear. Perhaps it might be proper that an Alarm should be given from Cape Ann or Marblehead and forwarded by Signals to Boston and into the Country; but as you are the best Judges of this Matter you will determine accordingly. The sooner this matter is determined and the method for alarming the Country fixed upon the greater will the public Safety be. I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Artemas Ward

[Endorsed] In Council April 11th 1776

Read & sent down Perez Morton D Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 208, 410.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

[Extract]

Copy

Rose, at Sea the 10th April 1776

Sir, I am Honoured with your Orders and Letter by the *Nautilus* of the 20th 22d & 23d Ulto for sending His Majesty's Ship *Glasgow* to the Southward, and the *Bolton* and *Swan* to Cruize on each side of St George's Bank, agreeable thereto, I immediately gave them their Orders, but still desired them not to separate, 'till we had all got out of the Port, and executed a piece of Service I had in View – The *Bolton* Brig, and the Armed Schooner belonging to us, was desired to Cruize off Block Island 'till joined by us – The 5th Instant we got under way, and Turned out of the Port, but being apprehensive, some of our Sternmost Vessels would not be able to get out, Bore up, and Anchored again with the Squadron, except His Majesty's Ship *Glasgow*, who stood on, and about 3 O'Clock the next Morning (AM) fell in with the Enemy's Squadron, Commanded by Hopkins (Inclosed is Captain [Tyringham] Howe's Account of that Affair) ² at 8, ditto she returned, firing of Guns – Got under way turned out of the Port, and desired

the *Glasgow* to follow as soon as possible – Cruized about Block Island three or four days, Miss'd the *Bolton* and Schooner; from which imagine they have fell into the hands of the Enemy. – The *Glasgow* having received so much damage in her Mast, and having thrown her Dispatches Overboard, thought it proper to send the *Nautilus* in her Stead, with what information I could give to His Majesty's Ships at York and Virginia. . . I am [&c.]

Jas Wallace

1. PRO. Admiralty 1/484.

2. See Captain Howe's reports and journal of the *Glasgow*, April 6, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

At a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety

[Lebanon] April 10th, 1776

Gave an order on Nathl Shaw junr, to deliver to Capt. Seth Harding eight of the swivel guns, and fifteen hundred pounds of powder, and four hundred swivel shot, in part of what he, the said Shaw, has provided for the Colony, and take receipt accordingly. *Order delivered to Capt. Bartram.*

Gave an Order to Col. Jonath. Fitch to deliver to Capt. Seth Harding of the brig *Defence* one hundred of the six-pound shot in his hands that belong to this Colony, and take receipt. *Order delivered to Capt. Bartram.*

N.B. Mr. Ebenezer Bartram's commission as a lieutenant of the brig *Defence* bears date the 3d day of March, 1776.

Mr. Samuel Smedley's commission as second lieutenant on board the brig *Defence* bears date the 10th day of March, 1776.

Mr. Joseph Squire's commission as lieutenant of marines of the brig *Defence* bears date the 10th of April, 1776.

Voted, That Mr. Samuel Smedly is promoted to be Second Lieutenant of the brig *Defence*.

Voted, That Mr. Joseph Squire be and he is hereby appointed Lieutenant of Marines on board the brig *Defence*.

Voted, That orders be given to Capt. Harding to proceed up sound with the brig *Defence* as far as Stamford, if need be, to inlist men on board said brig and to take in some shot at N.Haven, and return with all convenient speed to N.London. *Orders delivered to Capt. Bartram April 10th, 1776.*

Voted to draw on the Pay-Table for two hundred pounds, in favour of Capt. Seth Harding, for the use of the brig *Defence*, and to render his account. *Order drawn April 10th, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Bartram.*

Voted, That the men to be inlisted on board the row-galley *Whiting* shall be inlisted to be held in service until the first day of December, 1776, unless discharged sooner by proper authority.

Voted To draw an order on the Pay-Table, in favour of Wm. Greenough and the rest of the committee for fitting out the brig *Defence* and building the row-galley *Whiting*, for the sum of seven hundred pounds, and to render his account. *Order drawn April 10th, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Rice*

Voted to draw on the Committee of Pay-Table for four hundred pounds, in favour of Col. Jonth Fitch as a commissary to furnish the brig *Defence* with provisions &c., and to render his account. *An order was drawn April 10th, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Rice.*

Pass'd an account in favour of Danl Lyman, Esqr, on which this Board allow the sum of nine pounds two shillings and two pence, for supporting Capt. Harding. *An order drawn April 10th, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Rice.*

Voted, That Capt. James Rice of New Haven is joined with Capt. Isaac Sears, William Greenough and Michael Todd, as a committee for fitting out the brig *Defence* and building the row-valley *Whiting*.

Voted, That Capt. Hezekiah Bissell and Mr. Jonathan Trumbull, junr be appointed a committee to repair to N. London and consult with Commadore Hopkins about what measures to take in disposing of the continental prisoners in his custody, and also to apply to the commodore for some cannon of different sizes to mount the forts at N. London and Groton for the present, consulting with the commanding officers and engineers in those forts about the number and sizes of the cannon wanted; also for cannon suitable and sufficient for three row-galleys.

Voted, That the committee for taking care of the prisoners at Salisbury may, at their discretion, remove the prisoners in Salisbury to any other place in Litchfield county, as they shall judge most convenient.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 259-61.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE CAPTAIN OF MARINES [SAMUEL NICHOLAS], ON BOARD THE SHIP *Alfred*, DATED AT NEW-LONDON, APRIL 10, 1776.”¹

Before this comes to hand, I make no doubt you will have heard of our arrival in this port, and of our engagement with the *Glasgow* man-of-war; but as I intend giving you an account of our cruise, must beg your patience for a while respecting that matter. The 17th of February, left Cape-Henlopen, and after a very pleasant passage of fifteen days, came to anchor off the Island of Abaca, about seventeen leagues distance from New-Providence, where we brought to several small vessels belonging to Providence, which gave the Commodore an opportunity of inquiring into the state of the Island, as to its defence; and found it very well supplied with warlike stores, and an object worthy of our attention, as it was not sufficiently manned to give us opposition. The vessels we then had in our possession were detained as transports, to carry the Marines over to Providence. We embarked, and made sail on Saturday evening, March 2, and on Sunday, at two o'clock, landed all our men (two hundred and seventy in number) under my command at the east end of the Island, at a place called New-Guinea. The inhabitants were very much alarmed at our appearance, and supposed us to be Spaniards, but were soon undeceived after our landing. Just as I had formed the men, I received a message from the Governour, desiring to know what our intentions were. I sent him for answer, to take possession of all the warlike stores on the Island belonging to the

Crown, but had no design of touching the property or hurting the persons of any of the inhabitants, unless in our defence. As soon as the messenger was gone, I marched forward to take possession of Fort Montague, a fortification built of stone, about half way between our landing place and the town. As we approached the fort, (within about a mile, having a deep cove to go round, with a prodigious thicket on one side and the water on the other, entirely open to their view,) they fired three twelve-pound shot, which made us halt, and consult what was best to be done; we then thought it more prudent to send a flag to let them know what our designs were in coming there. We soon received an answer, letting us know that it was by the Governour's orders that they fired. They spiked up the cannon and abandoned the fort, and retired to the fort within the town. I then marched and took possession of it, in which were found seventeen pieces of cannon, (thirty-two, eighteen, and twelve pounders,) and not much damaged; they were spiked with nails and spikes, which are easily taken out. I thought it necessary to stay all night, and refresh my men, who were fatigued, being on board the small vessels, not having a convenience either to sleep or cook in. The next morning by daylight we marched forward to the town, to take possession of the Governour's house, which stands on an eminence, with two four-pounders, which commands the garrison and town. On our march I met an express from the Governour, to the same purport as the first. I sent him the same answer as before. The messenger then told me I might march into the town, and if I thought proper, into the fort, without interruption; on which I marched into town. I then drafted a guard, and went up to the Governour's, and demanded the keys of the fort, which were given to me immediately, and then took possession of Fort Nassau. In it there were forty cannon mounted, and well located for our reception, with round, langridge, and canister shot. All this was accomplished without firing a single shot from our side. We found in this fort a great quantity of shot and shells, with fifteen brass mortars; but the grand article, powder, the Governour sent off the night before, viz: one hundred and fifty casks. Immediately after we were in the fort, I sent for the Governour, and made him prisoner until the Commodore arrived, which was soon after. We remained at Providence till we got all the stores on board the fleet, and then took our departure, the 17th of March. We have brought with us from Providence the Governour, his Secretary, and one Mr. Irving, Receiver-General of his Majesty's Customs, who belongs to South-Carolina.

On the 4th instant, we made the east end of Long-Island, and discovered the *Columbus* (who had parted with us the night before) to windward, with a schooner of six guns, one of Captain Wallace's tenders, which she had taken that morning.² We made Block-Island in the afternoon, when the Commodore ordered the brig to stand in for Rhode-Island, to see if any more of the fleet were out, and join us the next morning; which was accordingly done, but without seeing any vessel except a New-York sloop, which Captain Biddle brought to the fleet, and after her papers were examined, she was released. At daylight we discovered a brigantine to leeward: we made



Captain Samuel Nicholas, Continental Marine Corps.

sail, and soon came up with her, and after a few shots, took her. She proved to be a bomb brigantine belonging to Wallace's fleet, mounting eight guns and two howitzers, commanded by one Snead [Edward Sneyd], a Lieutenant in the Navy³ We continued to cruise all day within sight of Block-Island, and in the evening took a brigantine and sloop from New-York; and have brought them into port with us, not being satisfied as to their clearances. At sunset we were twelve sail in all, and had a very pleasant evening. At twelve o'clock went to bed, and at half past one was awakened by the cry of "all hands to quarters." We were soon ready for action; the main body of my company, with my First Lieutenant, was placed in the barge on the main-deck, and remaining part, with my Second Lieutenant and myself, on the quarter-deck. We soon discovered a large ship standing directly for us. The *Cabot* was foremost of the fleet, our ship close after, not more than one hundred yards behind, but to windward withal. When the brigantine came close up, she was hailed by the ship, which we then learned was the *Glasgow* man-of-war; the brigantine immediately fired a broadside, and instantly received a return of twofold, which, owing to the weight of metal, damaged her so much in her hull and rigging, as obliged her to retire for a while to refit. Our ship then came up, (not having it in our power to fire a shot before without hurting the brigantine,) and engaged her side by side for three glasses, as hot as possibly could be on both sides. The first broadside she fired, my Second Lieutenant fell dead close by my side; he was shot by a musket-ball through the head. In him I have lost a worthy officer, sincere friend and companion, that was beloved by all the ship's company.⁴ Unfortunately for us, our tiller-rope and main-brace were shot away soon after the firing began, which caused the ship to broach to, and gave the enemy an opportunity of raking fore and aft. The battle continued till daylight, at which time the *Glasgow* made all the sail she could crowd, and stood in for Newport; and our rigging was so much hurt, that we could not make sail in time to come up with her again. At sunrise, the Commodore made the signal to give over the chase, he not thinking it prudent to risk our prizes near the land, lest the whole fleet should come out of the harbour. The *Glasgow* continued firing signal guns the whole day after.

In the action I lost three of my people out of twelve that were on the quarter-deck, and two others, who were in the barge, were slightly wounded. Captain [John Burroughs] Hopkins, of the *Cabot*, is wounded, his Master killed,⁵ and the Second Lieutenant of Marines wounded, and since dead.⁶ Upon the whole, it was a very hot engagement, in which our ship and the brig were much damaged; but we have this consolation, that the enemy is full as badly off; for by several expresses from Rhode-Island, we are assured that it was with much difficulty she got into port, both pumps

going. We are now, thank God, in harbour, and shall stay some time to re-fit.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 846-47. Published in part in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, April 17, 1776.
2. The schooner *Hawke*, commanded by Captain Wallace's nephew.
3. H.M. Bomb Brig *Bolton*.
4. Second Lieutenant John Fitzpatrick.
5. Charles Sinclair Seymour.
6. Second Lieutenant James Hood Wilson.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE BRIG *Andrew Doria*¹

1776

April 10	To 1 Arm Chest	£ 3..0..0
	To 1 bar Oatmeal	1..0..0
	To 1 bar Pork	3..10..0
	To 12 lb Sgr Brown	0..3..0
	To 21..3..12 lb Bread @ 12/	13..2..6
	from Brig <i>Boulton</i>	20.15..6

1. Shaw Collection, Ledger 39, YUL.

SAMUEL BUELL TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Huntington, April 10, 1776.

Sir - After a cordial salutation, these inform that I left Easthampton on Monday morning after nine o'clock. No farther discoveries were made of the fleets mentioned in the committee's letter, unless that a considerable number of shipping made a harbour at Fisher's island, Lord's day evening. These, I suppose, were what we call Wallis's fleet. Those seen at sea on Sunday afternoon, perhaps, were from the West Indies or Boston. By their clustering in together and frequent firing, it seems they were collecting in their scattered fleet. We, sir, at the east end of Long island are certainly much exposed to ravages and plundering by the hands of violence. Whether we do not greatly need a regiment or two at the east end, must be submitted to your superior wisdom. I am, sir, in great haste [&c.]

Saml. Buell

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 173.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-YORK, DATED APRIL 10, 1776"¹

Last night Gen. [John] Sullivan arrived here with six regiments. On Sunday last Admiral Hopkins's fleet fell in with the *Glasgow*, a good twenty gun ship, the bomb brig that has done so much damage at Rhode-Island and that neighbourhood, and three tenders. The brig commanded by Capt. [John Burroughs] Hopkins first came up with the *Glasgow*; they soon exchanged the compliments of a broadside, and continued engaged till the admiral came up, when the *Glasgow*, finding it too hot for her, ran off. The

brig followed, but the Admiral being unable to keep up with her, the man of war got off from them.

While the Admiral and Captain Hopkins were foul of the *Glasgow*, the rest of the fleet were busy with the bomb brig, and the three tenders, all of which were taken and carried into New London, where they had arrived before Gen. Sullivan left it.² A gentleman, from Newport, informs that on the inhabitants hearing the engagement, they got down some 18 pounders, and began to fire upon Wallace and Ayscough, on which they weighed and stood out of the harbour; at which time the *Glasgow* hove in sight, firing signal guns, on which they stood out to sea, and the *Glasgow* with them. Where they are gone is not known.

Our fleet is from New-Providence. They have brought from thence sixty twenty-four pounders, a large quantity of shot and shells, some other military stores, and some Tories. The *Asia* is moved down the harbour two or three miles. Our people took post, the night before last, on Governor's Island, and on Red-Hook, both of which are now secure, and all communication with the ships and their dearly beloved Governor is cut off, which measure gives great umbrage to some.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 13, 1776.

2. A very garbled account of the taking of the *Bolton* and *Hawke* and the engagement with the *Glasgow*.

Constitutional Gazette, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1776

New-York, April 10.

Monday night 1000 of the Continental troops stationed here, went over and took possession of Governor's Island, and began to fortify it; the same night a regiment went over to Red Hook, and fortified that place likewise.

On Sunday morning about ten o'clock his most *unchristian* Majesty's ship *Savage*, and the *James* Pilot boat, came under the cover of a thick fog, to the Watering Place on Staten Island; each sent a boat on shore to take in water, of which Capt. [Hugh] Stevenson received intelligence, and prepared to attack them; the ship received information of our approach, and fired a signal gun for the boats to retreat, which they endeavoured to effect under a brisk and constant fire from the *Savage*, but being fired on by our men, and closely pursued, they left one of their cutters behind with 13 men; three killed and a number wounded, were carried off in the other boat; the prisoners arrived at Head Quarters on Monday evening, together with four Deserters from the *Phoenix*, who inform us they were immediately after this fray put to short allowance. By several gentlemen who were spectators of this engagement from Red Hook, we learn, that a number of men were seen to drop from the tops of and bowsprit of the *Savage*. Our brave Riflemen kept such a hot and incessant fire on the ship, that she found it expedient to cut her cable, and retreat out of their reach. They left behind them One Standard, One Musket, Twenty-seven iron bound casks, a *Cable* and *Anchor*, a Speaking Trumpet, Watch Coats &c.

On Saturday last the Continental fleet fell in with the *Glasgow* man of war, off Montock Point, at the East end of Long Island, when Admiral Hopkins being the foremost ship, he attacked the *Glasgow*, when a hot engagement ensued, but before another ship could come up, the *Glasgow* sheered off with considerable damage. The fleet afterwards took a bomb brig, and three tenders, all which they carried safe into New London on Sunday morning¹

This morning arrived in the harbor twenty three transports, from the eastward, having on board the Brigade commanded by Gen. Sullivan.

1. The bomb brig and the schooner tender *Hawke* were taken before (not after) the engagement with the *Glasgow*, and the other two vessels referred to as tenders were the brigantine and sloop from New York, carried in because they lacked proper clearances.

JOHN HANCOCK TO THE NEW YORK CONVENTION¹

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia April 10th 1776.

It is necessary in conducting the warlike operations on the Part of America, to meet our Enemy on every Ground, and to defend ourselves, in the best Manner we can, against all Attetmpts, in whatever Shape, to deprive us of either Liberty or Property. So far are the British Ministry from chusing the least Relaxation in the barbarous Schemes of reducing the American Colonies to Slavery, that they have passed an Act to seize & confiscate our Property wherever found on the High Seas. In Consequence of this Measure, the Congress have come to a Resolution of fitting out Letters of Marque & Reprisal, the Commission, Instructions, and Bond, preparatory to which, I have the Honour to enclose you, and am Gent [&c.]

J. H. Prest

1. Papers CC (Letter Books of the President of Congress), 12a, I, 95, NA.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1776

Philadelphia [April 10].

The *Roebuck* man of war at our Capes, on Friday last put to sea and returned on Saturday [April 6], having taken a schooner commanded by Seymour Hood, with naval stores from North Carolina for this port. They took 30 barrels out of the schooner and then scuttled her. The people they sent ashore in their boat.¹

1. *Sally*, Seymour Hood, master, E. Bachelder, owner, from Ocracoke, North Carolina, for Philadelphia, with tar and turpentine, destroyed off Cape Henlopen, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANCIS JOHNSTON TO COLONEL ANTHONY WAYNE¹

Chester April 10th 1776

Dr Sir – I have the inexpressible pleasure of informing you, that Captn Barre [John Barry] has been amazingly succesful –

After an Engagement, wch continued at least one hour and twenty minutes (off Virginia) he made a Capture of the Armed Sloop *Edward*, commanded by a certain Mr Boyger² 1st Lieutt of the *Liverpool* –

All The Prisoners are to go to Philada thro' Jersey (saving one or two Seamen & three or four Negroes, who are prisoners with the Prize Master) Mr Bellengee³

One of the Prisoners you will please to inform the Committee of Safety (one Henry Kelly) is an artful designing fellow – you will therefore naturally conclude, that special care should be taken of him –

The Commander of the Arm'd Sloop, *Wasp*, having this moment got a Pilot is just ready to sail.

I expected to see you to Day, but find myself disappointed – tomorrow perhaps, you will pay us a Visit – I am Dear Sir [&c.]

Fr: Johnston

1. Wayne Papers, I, 44, HSP.

2. Richard Boger.

3. John Bellinger, sailing master of the *Lexington*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND¹

- April 1776 At a Single Anchor in Hoar Kill Road Dela-
war[e] bay
- Thursday 4th In the morning Dried Sails, and Exercised the Ships
company at Great Guns and Small arms.
Moderate and fair weather, took a Small Sloop named
the *Betsey* alongside, and Scuttled and Sunk her.²
- Friday 5th at 7 in the morning observed a Small Sail Standing in,
weighed and made Sail after her; finding the Small
Bower Cable much rubed, cut off from it three fathoms
and bent it again; At Noon brought too the chace, which
proved a Schooner from No Carolina to Philadelphia,
laden with Tar, & Turpentine, Scuttled and Sunk her;³
parted this life the Serjeant of Marines.
Moderate and fine weather, Sounded every half hour,
at 4 in the afternoon having touched Gently upon Fen-
wick Island Shoal, tacked and Stood to the N Et
- Saturday 6th Indian River bearing NW½No and Senepuxen SWt
Sent the Master of the Schooner and a passenger on
Shore.
Moderate and fair weather with small Showers of Rain
at times, Sent the *Maria* in chace of a Vessel, within
the Hen and Chickens, and the Barge after one in the
Delaware bay, at 11 Anchored within the Capes in 10½
fathoms, the Lighthouse WbSo
- Sunday 7th the Barge returned with the intelligence of the *Maria's*
Chace being Run on Shore, and the Rebels defending
her with musquetry.
Fine pleasant weather, at 1 in the afternoon weighed
and made Sail after a vessel in the offing, at 4 Fired a
Shot at the Chace, which proved to be the *Lord Howe*

- Tender, at the Same time was joined by the *Maria*, whose officer [had] drove her chace on Shore, and returned the Rebels fire very frequently.⁴
- Monday 8th at 6 the Light house NWbN Distant 5 Leagues, at Noon the *Lord Howe* and *Roebuck's* Tenders in Company. The first part Strong gales and rain, latter little wind and foggy, at 2 PM Anchored in Old Hoar Kill Road in 7½ fathom water, the Lighthouse SbE½Et
- Tuesday 9th In the morning disarmed the *Lord Howe* Tender, and the *Maria*.
- Wednesday 10th Moderate and thick foggy weather, In the morning Sent the *Lord Howe* and *Maria*, late Tenders to Virginia. Strong Gales and rain at 8 In the afternoon Struck Yards, Topmasts.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. *Betsey*, C. Wey, master, W. Shepherd, owner, from Chincoteague, for Philadelphia, with oats and tobacco, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

3. The schooner *Sally*.

4. The schooner *Farmer*.

WILLIAM LUX TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER ¹

Dear Sir

Baltimore 10 April 1776.

I have just now reced your favor of the 6th & am much pleased that our Committee are able to Justify their Conduct to your Satisfaction. I believe they all mean to do right, but its quite necessary to keep them within Bounds, because their Zeal will sometimes outstrip their Prudence. I intend down the last of the Week or Beginning of next with the Accot of the *Defence* and will then bring the Schooners Accot so far as I am Concernd – Mr Hollingsworth has not got any Cloverseed, the Flaxseed, Oil & Lead you shall have by the very first Conveyance. I am afraid Hackler cant be got, but I will try – I must beg you to send by Mr Chase £800. Mr Alexander has never come down, & I must Pay off all the Ships Accots before I come down. – I hear the Convention is adjourned if so I wish to know – We have got 3 of the 18 Pounders come down, 6 more were to set off yesterday Mr Hughes has drawn on me for the Carriage & hopes you will place some Money in my hands for that purpose. I have paid £30 for these 3, & wrote to him to send an Order on the Council, As I imagined they woud indulge him when they saw him exerting himself Mr Trumbull tells me you have appointed Capt Nicolson Agent & Paymaster of the *Defence*, please to let me know, & whether we are to be any further Concernd in furnishing any thing on the Ships Accot as we may close it finally; – I wish the accot in the Papers of the Surrender of Quebec cou'd be true, but it will come presently. I have been hard at it disputing the Point

of Independency, – two to one against me – I wish you Health & Happiness & am [&c.]

Will^m Lux

[You] must excuse ½ a sheet of Paper these times.

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR KNEES FOR THE CONTINENTAL FRIGATE *Virginia* ¹

Baltimore, April 10, 1776.

Wanted, for the Frigate now building at Fell's-Point about 200 Knees of the following Dimensions, viz Five feet long in the Body, Four feet and a half in the Arm inside the Throat, to side 9 Inches, and to be left large in the Molding Way, to be strong and sound. Five Shillings a Piece will be paid on Delivery at the Yard, for the above-mentioned Number of Knees answerable to this Description, if brought within three Weeks from this Time. — Any Person or Persons, willing to contract for the whole, or any Part, may apply to

Samuel Purviance, jun.

1. *Maryland Journal*, April 24, 1776.

DR. C. F. WIESENTHAL TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Annapolis April 10th 1776

Memorendum

in the beginning of February I attended Some of our Soldiers So as they arivd – but not general Since my appointment was not known to all the officers but since the midle of february I attended the whole. Mr Wm Augustus Dashiell whom I recomendd as Mate under me did attend the Same Time but he has not got a Comission yet. Dr Budd arivd 2 Days after the Ship *Defence* returnd. when he went on Board Mr. Nathan Dorsey arivd the Evening the *Defence* Set off from the Wharf and thus went on Board.

Mr Dashiell was one of those that went out with the ship *Defence* in place of Dr Budd.

Dr Coulter and Beard went likewise out with the *Defence*

C Wiesenthal

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Halifax] Wednesday April 10th 1776

The Congress being informed that a certain brigantine, called the *William* now lying in port Beaufort whereof Philip Wescott is at present Master belonging to William Strobroom, Francis Burchitt and Philip Westcott of London, and it appearing by the register of the said Vessel that she is British property;

Resolved That Richard Cogdell, James Davis and John Green cause the

said Brigantine or Vessel to be immediately seized and detained, together with her Tackle Apparel and Furniture until further Orders

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

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

April 1776	At Anchor in Cape Fear Harbour
Saturday 6	Employ'd about overhauling the Rigging at 2 P M weigh'd and came to Sail up the River wt the watering sloop at 6 came too in 5 fm water off Brunswick the Church WBS ½ mile
Sunday 7	at 8 AM weigh'd and Run up the River with the watering sloop fired 7 4 pounders 12 swivels & Small arms at the Rebbels who fired on us from the shore. at 1 P M came too anchor in 2 fm water the Dram tree NEBN the Old town House WSW Employ'd in watering
Monday 8	at 6 AM weigh'd and got further down the River and came too the watering sloop in Compy At 11 weigh'd and came to Sail turning down the River at 1 P M got aground sent the boat for the pilot out of the watering sloop at 9 got off
Tuesday 9	at 4 AM came on Board 4 Refugees which had Escaped from the Rebbels at 9 weigh'd and came to sail & kept firing at the Rebbels who fired on us Little wind and sometimes Calm with thunder and Lightning at 4 P M came too Deepwater point SW 5 miles.
Wednesday 10	At 5 AM weighed and came to sail turning down the River at 9 came too Bald Head SSE Deepwater point WSW at 4 P M Recd 14 highlanders ² weighed and ancd at brunswick the Church Wt ½ mile.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

2. The Highlanders and the refugees picked up on the previous day had escaped after the defeat at Moore's Creek bridge in late February, and apparently had been hiding out along the shore since.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Wednesday the 10th Day of April. 1776

On Motion That this House do resolve That it is necessary a Commander of the Navy of this Colony subordinate to the President should be appointed

A Debate arose

And the Question being put It passed in the negative

The House was moved for Leave to bring in an Ordinance for vesting certain Powers and Authorities in Subordination to the President in the

Commander in Chief for the Time being of the First Rate Vessel in the Colony Service

And the Question being put

Resolved in the affirmative

Ordered That such an Ordinance be brought in and that the Honourable Mr Drayton Captain Lampriere Captain John Huger Colonel Pinckney and Capt Moultrie do prepare and bring in the same

Mr [Gideon] Dupont reported from the Committee to whom the Petition of Henry Aitken was referred and he read the Report in his Place and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table where the same was read and is as followeth

That having examined the Accounts of the Petitioner they found a Balance of Three Thousand One Hundred and Fifty-eight Pounds and sixteen Shillings due from the Ship *Port Henderson* of which Five Hundred and Fifty eight Pounds and Twelve Shillings for Wages That the Sum of Three Hundred and One Pounds Sixteen Shillings and Nine Pence appears to be a Bill of Exchange paid to Mr Nathaniel Russel which Bill being drawn upon himself is now of no Value They therefore recommend That those two Sums making together Eight Hundred and Sixty Pounds Eight Shillings and Nine Pence Currency be paid to Captain Aitken out of the Proceeds of the Cargo of the Ship *Port Henderson* also the sum of Four Hundred and sixty nine Pounds Eight Shillings and Nine Pence which Captain Aitken had received from sundry Passengers and expended on the said Ship and is now demanded of him by the said Passengers

Message from the Legislative Council by their Clerk

In the Legislative Council the 10th Day of

April. 1776

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen

Upon the Third Reading of the Bill to impower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in all Cases of Capture of Ships or Vessels of the Inhabitants of Great Britain Ireland the British West Indies and to establish the Trial by Jury in such Cases this House is of Opinion that some Amendments are necessary to be made thereto – We therefore desire your House will be pleased to appoint a Committee to confer with a Committee of this House in the Conference Room immediately on such Amendments – Our Committee are the Honourable Mr [Thomas] Bee and the Honourable Doctor [David] Oliphant

By Order of the House

Geo: Gab: Powell Speaker

Message to the Legislative Council

Honourable Gentlemen

Agreeable to a Message Just now received from your House this House have appointed a Committee to confer with a Committee of your House on such Amendments as may be necessary to be

made to the Bill to impower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in all Cases of Capture of Ships or Vessels of the Inhabitants of Great Britain Ireland and the British West Indies and to establish the Trial by Jury in such Cases Our Committee are Colonel [Charles] Pinckney and the Honourable Mr [William Henry] Drayton

Ordered That the Message be ingrossed and that Mr Speaker do sign the same

Ordered That Colonel Pinckney and the Honourable Mr. Drayton do carry the said Message to the Legislative Council

Colonel Pinckney from the Committee of Conference reported several Amendments proposed in the Conference which being read were severally agreed to and ordered to be made Parts of the Bill

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House a Bill to impower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in all Cases of Capture of Ships or Vessels of the Inhabitants of Great Britain Ireland and the British West Indies Nova Scotia and East and West Florida and to establish the Trial by Jury in such Cases – read the Third Time and passed in that House

Ordered That the Bill be ingrossed

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House an Ordinance to ascertain the Duties of a Muster-Master General of the Land and Naval Forces in the service of this Colony read a Third Time and passed in the Legislative Council

Ordered That the Ordinance be ingrossed

On Motion

Resolved That this House will now proceed to ballot Jointly with the Honourable the Legislative Council for a Captain of the Ship *Prosper*

The members of the Legislative Council being introduced into the General Assembly for that Purpose

The balloting was proceeded in accordingly

And the Ballots being reckoned

Mr Speaker reported That Clement Lampriere Esquire was duly elected Captain and Commander of the Colony Ship of War *Prosper*

On Motion That the Report of the Committee on Henry Aitken's Petition be now taken under Consideration

The Question was put

And it passed in the Negative

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 59–62.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE GUNNER OF THE *Viper* SLOOP OF WAR
DATED ON BOARD THE SHIP *Experiment* AT SEA, LAT. 21. LONG. 63.
APRIL 10”¹

On our passage from Boston to New York, we met with a hard gale of wind, which blew us off that coast, and we are obliged to bear away for Antigua; on our passage we took five American vessels, and since being in the

West Indies we have taken several others. The *Viper* sailed the beginning of March last, leaving me in the care of three prizes at St. John's, Antigua; she has sent in since sailing two prizes more.² His Majesty's ship *Experiment* sailing with a fleet of transports, &c. for Boston, I with several other officers and men of the *Viper*, take our passage to join her.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 4 to June 6, 1776.

2. See Prizes Taken by British Ships in the Windward Islands, May 1, 1776.

THOMAS HARRISON TO GOVERNOR SIR BASIL KEITH

Copy

Sir In obedience to your Excellency's commands, signified to me by your Letter of yesterday I have perused the Admiral's Letter, and the affidavits therein inclosed. The affidavits I have submitted to the consideration of the Judge of the Admiralty, and we are both of opinion, that the Offence therein charged, being committed by a person coming from shore, while the Ship lay off Savannah, which is within the body of the Province of Georgia, arises out of the Admiralty jurisdiction, and is not cognizable thereby, or by any other criminal jurisdiction of this Island. The forcibly taking away Stores, belonging to, or intended for the use of the Kings Forts, with intent to assist, in carrying on hostile measures then on foot against His Majesty, raises the Offence from Robbery to High Treason, which being committed in Georgia, is cognizable there on the 25th Edward 3d, or in England by that Statute, and the jurisdiction given by the 33d or 35th of Henry 8th. But the State of Georgia, wherein the administration of civil and criminal justice, is silenced by arms, makes in effect this offence triable, for the present in England only. Under these circumstances I am of opinion, that William Platt² cannot be in such proper and safe custody, as tha[t] of the Admiral, who, if he shall judge proper, may send him to England, there to be dealt with according to Law – Had William Platt been apprehended by any civil Magistrate, I do suppose, the Admiral would have been applied to, through your Excellency, to take him under his charge and send him to England, for the purpose aforesaid. I am, with the greatest respect Sir [&c.]

April 10th 1776

Tho: Harrison

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Harrison was attorney general at Jamaica.

2. The prisoner was Ebenezer Smith Platt, not William Platt, a name which Admiral Gayton had mistakenly given him.

GOVERNOR SIR BASIL KEITH TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON¹

Spanish Town 10th April 1776

Sir As your Letter of yesterday's date comprehends questions of Law, wherein it is my duty to be advised by His Majesty's Attorney General, I directly sent it, with the Depositions accompanying it, to Mr [Thomas] Harrison for his guidance; and at the same time desired him, to lose no time in furnishing me, with his written opinion on the matter, and advice what part I ought to take in it, as Governor of the Island –

Inclosed I send you his answer, by which I conceive myself precluded

from any interference, in this affair – This being the case, I return you the Depositions of the Evidences against [Ebenezer Smith] Platt – I am Sir [&c.]

Basil Keith ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. *Ibid.*, Gayton, in his letter of June 13 to Philip Stephens, endorsed this letter: "April 10th 1776 Letter from the Govr Inclosing the Attorney Generals opinion respecting William Platt who I apprehended on information of being concern'd in taking Amunition belonging to Governmt out of the Ship *Philippa*, Richd Maitland Master, at Georgia in July 1775."

11 Apr.

GENERAL ORDER FROM VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO
CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N. ¹

[Extract]

Whereas it is His Majesty's firm resolution that every measure be pursued for Suppressing by most vigorous efforts by Sea and land, the unnatural Rebellion which at present unhappily subsists in North America; You are hereby required and directed to observe and punctually obey the following orders and directions, untill you receive contrary Orders from me or any other your superior officer: And whereas an Act having passed the present Session of Parliament, "To Prohibit all Trade and intercourse with the several Colonies in North America therein named during the continuance of the present rebellion within the said Colonies.["]

1st

You are therefore hereby required and directed to seize and take all vessels whatsoever belonging to or found Trading with the Said Colonies, and send them to Halifax in order for their being proceeded against according to Law. And as the Rebels are endeavouring to collect and equip a Naval force to intercept the supplies intended for the Fleet and Army, to obstruct the commerce of his Majesty's faithful Subjects, and to oppose the small Ships and vessels belonging to his Fleet: You are to do your utmost to Take, Sink, Burn or destroy these Pirates wherever they can be found, as also all Vessels whatsoever, that may be Arming, or evidently intended to be employed in the Rebellion against His Majesty: And for your further guidance and information herein, I refer you to the beforementioned Act of Parliament, which you will receive herewith, likewise the Kings Proclamation relative to the distribution of the Prizes taken in consequence thereof, and you are to send me an account of all vessels seized and taken by you, according to a form annexed.

2d

You are very carefully to examine all vessels you may meet with, and upon the discovery of any Arms, Ammunition, Military or Naval Stores, you are to Seize the Vessels on board of which such stores may be found and send them to Halifax, unless they are in the King's Service, and carrying supplies for the Fleet and Army.

IN CONGRESS.

The Delegates of the United Colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Countys of New-Castle, Kent, and Suffex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, to,

Samuel Nicholas Esquire

W^hereby reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity,
DO by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be *Captain of Marines*

~~The Army~~ ~~called the~~ _____ in the service of the Thirteen United Colonies of North-America, fitted out for the defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every hostile Invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of *Captain*

of Marines by doing and performing all Manner of Things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers, Marines and Seamen under your Command, to be obedient to your Orders as *Captain of Marines* And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from Time to Time, as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the United Colonies, or Committee of Congress, for that Purpose appointed, or Commander in Chief for the Time being of the Navy of the United Colonies, or any other your Superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, the Usage of the Sea, and the Instructions herewith given you, in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in Force untill revoked by this or a future Congress. *Philadelphia Novemr. 26. 1777*

By Order of the Congress

John Hancock

PRESIDENT.

Aust. Cha^s Thomson Esq

3d

You are to receive on board and afford every reasonable accomodation to the Governors or other officers of the Colonies within your respective Stations, who may be compelled by the violence of the people to seek such an Asylum, and generally to afford any protection in your power to any of his Majesty's Subjects who may require it; And as you are further hereby required & directed to cause it to be publicly signified in all such Sea Port Towns as are accessable to the Kings Ships, that if any violence shall hereafter be offered to any of the Officers of the Crown or other peaceably disposed subjects to his Majesty, or if any Bodies of Men should be raised and Armed in the said Towns, or any Military works erected therein then by order of His Majesty or those acting under his Authority, or if some attempts shall be made to seize or destroy any Public Magazines of Arms, Ammunition, or other Stores, it will be your Duty to proceed by the most vigorous efforts against the said Town, as in open Rebellion against the King, and if after such Signification any Town shall persist in the Rebellious Acts above stated, You are hereby required and directed to proceed accordingly.

4th

And whereas there is good ground to suspect that many persons in England hold a traitorous correspondence with his Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in North America: You are hereby most strictly required and directed to Stop and search all Ships and vessels bound to, or from North America, and carefully examine every letter on board, and all those that shall in your Opinion contain any matter tending to aid, abet, or advise the Rebellious proceedings of His Majesty's Subjects in North America, to secure and send them to me carefully Sealed up by the safest and quickest conveyance.

5th

You are to observe the same conduct with respect to all letters containing intelligence of present or intended operations of the Rebels, or any othr information proper for me to be acquainted with.

6th

And whereas some attempts have been made by the Masters of Ships bound to North America, to take on board flint Stones by way of Ballast; You are hereby reqd and directed carefully to examine all such Ships & Vessels as shall arrive in the different Ports which you may be at in North America from Great Britain or Ireland, and in case you find the Ballast, or any part of it to consist of Flint Stones, to cause such flint stones to be taken out and thrown into deep water; And also to seize any flints manufactured for the use of Fire Arms, which you may find on Board such Ships, for, although they are not expressed in His Majestys Order in council prohibiting the Exportation of Gunpowder, Arms, and ammunition, they are certainly within the meaning and intent of it; observing at the same time that these Orders are not to extend to flints manufactured for the use of Fire Arms sent out by, or within License from, the Master General or Principal officers of the Board of Ordnance.

7th

Whenever it can be done you are to Seize any of the Delegates to the Congress, the Rebel General Officers, or principal Aiders and abettors of the Rebellion, and keep them Prisoners until you can safely deliver them to me, and you are to Seize all Vessels carrying Emigrants from Great Britain to the Colonies and send them to Halifax.

8th

You are always to acquaint the Governor (for his Majesty) of the Province wherein you may be stationed with your arrival, and from time to time consult with him in what manner the ship you command may be best employed for the protection of His Majestys faithful Subjects and their property, the Support of Legal Authority of Government, and to answer such other purposes as the exigencies of the times may make it necessary for the Good of the Kings service: You are to give your utmost Aid and Assistance, according to the information and advice you may receive from the Governor, and use your best endeavours to employ the Kings Ship under your command very diligently towards answering the purposes beforementioned. ²

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Chatham*
in Halifax Harbour the 11th April 1776

M. Shuldhham

1. Hamond, Orders received, 1775-1776, UVL.

2. Remaining articles are identical with Vice Admiral Grave's orders of October 8, 1776 except for the substitution of Halifax for Boston. See Volume 2, 356-62.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE
HAMOND, R.N.¹

[Extract]

Halifax April the 11th 1776.

Sir You have represented to me in your Letter of the 3d of March the Reason you had to request an Augmentation to the Force under your Command; I immediately dispatched Orders for the *Glasgow* to join You, that You might find no Inconvenience from the Absence of the *King's fisher*, which Ship I found it necessary to send to Halifax, where she is now heaving down; and as an Addition to your Squadron, I have ordered Captain [George] Montagu of the *Fowey* to follow your Directions for his future proceedings.

With the Ships You now have, I hope and flatter myself you will be able to effect some, if not all, the Services in the Delaware pursuant to my former Orders. I wish I could send You a greater Reinforcement, but the indispensibly necessary protection of the Victuallers which We hourly expect on the Coast, and the safe Arrival of those being of so great Importance to His Majesty's Service, it is utterly impossible for me to furnish You at this time with a greater Number of Ships.

I have no Doubt of the Propriety of your proposal for having a small Body of Troops to act in Conjunction with You upon the Service You are employed; but the present Situation of Affairs will not I fear admit of any being employed for the Purposes You mention.

In answer to your Request to have some Howitzers or Cohorns, I must inform You upon Inquiry I find that the Ordnance Storekeeper has none in Store, nor any three pound Shot, as demanded by Captain [Henry] Bellew.

In my Letter of the 23d of March I mentioned to You my Expectation that Sir peter parker would join You with a Squadron from England, from whom You consequently would have required an Additional Force and Assistance; but by Dispatches which I have since received by the *Milford*, I am informed by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that it is probable Sir peter will proceed to Charles Town in South Carolina. The Inconveniences which attend your distant Situation certainly will not be lessened by this Measure: However if when you have authentic Information of Sir Peter's Arrival on the Coast, you should be so situated that it may be necessary to give Information of it, and should prefer sending to him rather than to me, I am sure he will chearfully give you his Advice and every Assistance in his Power.

You will also receive a Copy of a Letter I have received from Sir peter parker, wherein he expresses his Wish to be re-inforced with the *Experiment* and *Roebuck*; the *Experiment* which has been drove to the West Indies, and which is I hope now on her passage to Boston, I have ordered to join him, and if the important Service of preventing the Operations of the Rebels in the Delaware could be dispensed with, or that you could leave a sufficient Force there for that purpose, I should be glad to comply with his Desire.

From the most positive Information I have received, it is probable Sir peter parker is by this time at, or in the Neighbourhood of Charles Town, South Carolina.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Portsmouth] 11 [April, 1776].

Gave Liberty to Capt William Pearne to fix a Vessel out for the Foreign West Indies, To be loaded with Such Articles as are not forbid by any Resolve of the Continental Congress. Among other articles, to carry about 70 M of Boards, the Neat proceeds of Which is to be laid out in Such things as We may direct – the Colony to receive the Same on their Arrival, Allowing the first Cost, Customary Commissions & Freight home, the Residue to be laid out as he may think fit, for all Which he is to give Bonds.

1. *Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society*, VII, 43, 44.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Boston 11th April 1776

I am to inform your Excellency that Col [John] Glover applied to me for a Warrant upon the Paymaster Genl to pay those Men who are in the Service of the Continent, on board the Continental Privateers just arrived from a Cruise, but I did not think myself authorised by your Instructions to grant a Warrant; he informed me the Men would not be induced to go out

again unless they received their pay, I therefore directed him to supply the places of such Men as might leave the Privateers, out of his Regiment, until I could receive your Directions in the matter.

The Agent for the Privateers at Beverly, Capt [William] Bartlett has likewise applied for the same purpose. I must therefore beg the favour of your particular Directions relative to the above mentioned applications.

I have not been able to collect any material intelligence from the people taken on board the Transport, which Commodore Manley sent into Portsmouth; ² the general account they give, is, that the Enemy are going to Quebeck as soon as the River opens.

A fifty Gun Ship, ³ with three Transports, lies in Nantasket Road. A Man who made his Escape from the Ship informs that the Officers on board said they were to lie there until the Transports arrived which are expected from Europe and then to follow the Fleet. I am Your Excellency's [&c.]

Artemas Ward

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The brig *Elizabeth*.

3. H.M.S. *Renown*, Captain Francis Banks.

"LIST OF THE MEN ON BOARD THE *Spit-Fire* AT THE TIME OF CAPTURE OF THE BRIGANTINE *Georgia Packet* & SLOOP *Speedwell*" ¹

Newport April 11th 1776

A List of Officers, Marines &c. on Board the *Spit-fire* Gally John Grimes
Commander

1	Saml Viall	19	Michl Feild
2	Isaac Tyler	20	Johnathan Hill
3	Joseph Mauran	21	Jams Wheeton Bragton
4	Chas Yonge	22	Danl Hart
5	Oliver Reed	23	Jno Morgan
6	Benaja Cole	24	Jams Dauly
7	Thos Jones	25	Michl Da[u]lly
8	Ignatius Pitts	26	Thos Meret Smith
9	Josiah Vial	27	Henry Wigens
10	Noise Brown	28	Jno Rowland
11	Jno Pitts	29	Jno Powell
12	Jno Dunwell	30	Jno O'Neal
13	Thos Berkins	31	Wm Brawton
14	Tho Beal	32	Wm Japo
15	Jno Amer	33	Jno Cranston
16	Benja Johnson	34	Gardner Eldrige
17	George Cole	35	Winchr Viall
[18]	[blank]		Contential Arms
	Volenteers		Mr Thos Devall Esqr
	Mr Thos Scranton		Joseph Chase
	Saml Rhodes		Michl Ephrim
	Jno Miller		Jno Peirce

Henry Higen Landers

Warrick Peirce
Nathl Humphry
Joseph Sunck

1. Maritime Papers, Revolutionary War 1776-1781, R.I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

Aprl 76

Block Island N61° East distant 40 Leagues.

Thursday 11th at ½ past 1 A M handed the fore TS; at 2 made the Signal & lay too, it blowing very hard at 4 saw a sail to Winward, Continue the Gun every Hour, at 6 the fogg Clear'd up, the *Whitby* & the Schooner ² out of sight, at 11 saw Block Island NEbE 8 Leagues, set the foresail & made sail; at noon Block Island bore SWbW 4 or 5 miles.

First part fresh Gales & Squally Middle & latter light airs & Variable at 4 P M came too in Rhode Island Road with the Bt Br in 22 fathms water & veer'd to a Cable, as did the *Symetry*, Brig & Sloop: the fort ESE the Dumplins WbS; Connanicut ferry NNW, at 10 two Row Galleys came out of the Harbr & boarded the prizes; Cutt the Cable Close to the Splice, & made sail after them, begun to Cannonade them, and they us, & struck often, at 11 they Towed the prizes into the Harbour.³ at ½ past the Rebels began to fire at us, from a Battery at the North end of the Town, carried out the Kedge Anchor & Hawser to warp farther off,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. The schooner *John & Joseph*, taken April 8, 1776.3. The brig was the *Georgia Packet*; the Sloop, *Speedwell*.JOSEPH TOOCKER TO BARNABAS DEANE ¹

Sir

Hartford april the 11th A D 1776

I have some trunals for the Ship ² but have Not had any oppertunity to Send them Down

But I Shall go Down to work upon the Ship in a two or three weeks by water and will Cary them with me

I Should be very glad if you would Send me four Dollars or five Dollars by Mr Watson and I will Settlet with you when I bring the trunels From your Humble Servent

Joseph Toocker

1. Barnabas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

2. The Continental frigate *Trumbull* building in Connecticut.MARINE LIEUTENANTS JOHN TREVETT AND ROBERT CUMMING TO COMMODORE
ESEK HOPKINS ¹

To The Honble Eseck Hopkins Esqr

Sir Please sign the following order, that we may get our Cloathes & c from on board the Ship *Columbus*, and you'll oblige Yr Hble Serts

John Trevett Rob^t Cumming

[New London] 11th Apl 1776 -

[Endorsed]

Captn [Abraham] Whipple, Please deliver to John Trevett & Robt Cumming all the Clothes &c which are on board your Ship ²

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. On the muster roll of the *Columbus*, both Trevett and Robert Cumming are listed as "deserted" but with no date given. The captain of Marines, Joseph Shoemaker, was also listed in the same manner, R.I. Archc. Trevett's Journal reads: "After two or three [blank] we were ordered to be paid in Continental money. When we wished to spend it, it would not pay for one pair of shoes. A grand cruise and I am glad it ended so well." NHS.

BILL OF JAMES RICE FOR SUNDRIES SUPPLIED THE CONNECTICUT
BRIG *Defence* ¹

[New Haven, April 11, 1776] ²

The Colony of Connecticut To James Rice Dr
To Sundrys Supply'd the Brige *Defence* (Viz)

To a Sett of Sparrs Blocks & pumpss Except one Top		£48..--
To 2 Spare topmasts		2..--
" 4 dozen Gun Takle Blocks	a 8/ p Dozn	1..12..
" 15 Gun handspikes	1/	15..
" 150 hand Gronados Fuses	2d	1..5..
" 12 False Fire Moulds	9d	9..
" 20 Rammers & Spung Staffs	1/	1..--
" 12 Swivel Ram[mer]s & Spungs	1/	12..
" 4 Formers for Carthrage	9d	3..
" 14 Spare Carriage Wheels		1..2..
" over hauling old Blocks (used for spare Blocks)		1..--
" 32 Ram[mer]s Spungs & Ladel heads	9d	1..4..
" 21 lb Brimstone	5d	8..9
" 4 lb Tallow	6d	2..
" 1 Broome 1/ and 15 powder Flasks	4d	6..
" 12 lb Brimstone	5d	5..
" 12 Kegs Lampblack	1/6	18..
" 20 lb Brimstone	5d	8..4
" 169 foot Boat oars	2d	1..8..2
" 5 lb Sugar 3/4 12 lb Brimstone	5d 5/	8..4
" 2 Bottles oil	3/	6..
" 1 Oak Bucket		2..
Storage of 105 Bar[rel]s	3d	1..6..3
15 3/4 Bushels Salt to pack provisions	3/	2..7..3
		<hr/>
		£67..8..1

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

2. *Ibid.*, date given in summary of the *Defence* Accounts.

DIARY OF ENSIGN CALEB CLAP ¹

[En route from Cambridge to New York, March 29 to April 11, 1776]

Five Regiments Marchd for New York, from Cambridge Col [Loammi] Baldwins Regiment ² Left Cambrige at 3 O,Clock P,M, marchd to Waltham the first Day, the Second Day as far as Marlborough, the 3rd Do to Grafton the 4th to Bellingham, the 5th to Providence, the 6th day Lay at Providence, the 7 Marchd to Coventry (in Rhodiland) the 8th to Plainfield the 9th Norwich the 10th New London arived there at 7 O,Clock P M [April 6], drawed 6 Days Provision and Embarkd About 9, O'Clock the next morning for New York had fair wind, About 11 O. Clock PM We run O Ground at Huntington beach on Long Island Lay there till the 10th Instant then She Saild, and arived at New York the 11th Day —

1. "Diary of Ensign Caleb Clap, of Colonel Baldwin's Regiment, Massachusetts Line, Continental Army, March 29 until October 23, 1776," *The Historical Magazine*, 3rd series, III, No. 2, 133.
2. The Twenty-sixth Continental Infantry.

CAPTAIN OTHO HOLLAND WILLIAMS TO ELIE WILLIAMS ¹

My Dear Brother

Statin Island April 11th 1776

I wrote you from New York by Messrs Hall and Solley of Maryland by which you've learnt the reasons of my coming to that City, since which I have been removed with my Company together with Captain [Hugh] Stephenson and his Company to this Place which is about nine miles from [New] York and one of the most Beautiful Islands you ever Saw, tho' the soil is not cultivated and Ornamented in Such an Elegant & pleasant manner as the fine Country Seats in Connecticut and Massachusits (which I believe I've mentiond in former Letters) the great heighths on this Island surrounded as well by plentifull ffrarms as broad and Bold Waters abounding with all kinds of fish and Cover'd in a manner with Sails, afford a Delightful prospect, but those beautiful prospects are not the only advantage of the Hills many of which are natural fortifications and very happy for us if the Report is true that the Parliamt intends Landing 25,000 of their Merce-nary Troops here this spring. New York is fortified at all Quarters and I hope will be able to make an Excellent defence in Case the f fleet Shod attempt burning the City, Several redoubts are Markt out here which I suppose will be thrown up as Soon as a Sufficient Number of troops can be Stationd here at present there is not more than Sufficient for Guards.

Sunday morning (being easter Sunday) we had a little Skirmish with a Parcel of Marines that came on shore to get fresh water, the first intelligence that we recd was that five hundred were landing at the watering place about three Miles from our Quarters the alarm was given and Capt Stephenson went to collect his men who were stationd near the Spot leaving me to bring up the Rear — the fact was the Ships wanted water and sent about 25 Men to fill their Barrells and the *Savage* (a Ship of War and the *James* a Pilot Boat to the *Phoenix*) to Protect their landing the Men were

APRIL 1776

Busy filling their Vessells when the front of our line came in Sight a Signal gun was fired for their retreat but not early enough [illegible] were with Stephenson in front and with a small Party gave the first fire which brot to[o] one of the boats in which they were making their Escape and ten of them were made Prisoners one of whom was carred in the tide Some were draggd out of the Water some were aboard the Boat three were killed and a number wounded the *Savage* kept up a brisk and almost Constant fire of Swivels Grape Shot and Musquetry but luckily none of our men were hurt. I dischargd a few Rifle Balls among the Vessels but not Certain what Effect they had after the Prisoners were made we had nothing to Contend with but the *Savage* which we co'd not Damage wth small arms and her Guns were a little Dangerous, She Continud firing about four hours and then stood off leaving behind One Barge Anchor Cable stores &c Twenty nine Iron bound Barrells One Standard one Muskett one Iron Pot and variations, and committees or councils of safety of the United Colonies, to use Putnam who Commands at New York. The Genl returned his thanks to Capt Stephenson's Officers and Men under his Command for their Soldier like behaviour Captain Stephenson setts off for Virginia this afternoon & leaves me Commanding Officer of the Guard & Stationd on Lower shore and I hope the next affair of this Sort will be Conducted by Yr affectionate Bror

Otho Hd Williams

Mr. Elie Williams Fredk County Maryland
favor of Capt Stephenson

1. Otho Holland Williams Papers, Letter Book, No. 1, MdHS. Enclosed with this letter was a briefer one of the same date to his sister, in which he said: "last Sunday in particular we had a little Skirmish but it was not of Sufficient duration to try the Mettal of all our men part of the Enemy being made Prisoners and the remainder dispersed before all our party co'd get engaged and then we had nothing to do but Dodge the great guns on board the *Savage* a very proper name for a Ministerial Ship of War."

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, April 11, 1776

A letter from General Putnam, at New York, of the 7, with sundry papers enclosed, ~~also a letter from Captain Barry~~² was presented to Congress, and read.

Resolved, That two new members be elected for the cannon committee, in the room of two who are absent:

The ballots being taken, Mr. [George] Clinton, and Mr. [William] Whipple were elected.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to examine into the truth of the report respecting Governor Tryon's exacting an Oath from persons going by the Packet, and to ascertain the fact by affidavits taken before a chief Justice, or other chief Magistrate.

The committee chosen, Mr. [John] Jay, Mr. [George] Wythe, and Mr. [James] Wilson.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several assemblies, conven-

tions. and committees or councils of safety of the United Colonies, to use their best endeavours in communicating to foreign nations the resolutions of Congress relative to trade. ³

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 270-74.

2. While scratched off as Marine Committee business, this is the letter of April 7, 1776.

3. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 20, 1776.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY ¹

In Marine Committee

Philadelphia, April 11th 1776

Sir We have received your letter of the 7th instant p the Prize Sloop *Edward* which shall be immediately Libelled in the Court of Admiralty of this Colony, and when Condemned a fair Sale of valuation of the Vessel her Stores and Materials will be made. – The share thereof belonging to you, the Officers and Crew shall be deposited in the hands of your Agents and in every respect the utmost Justice Shall be done to all concerned –

We Send down the Prize Master ² and Men to little Egg Harbour where you propose to call for them, and our letter by Lieut. Robert Scott ³ would inform you that Capt. Boys [Abraham Boyce] ⁴ with four or five Marines went down to Cape May in the Schooner *Wasp*, where they were to land if you did not fall in with them consequently You will take them off. As the Men of Warr in Virginia, Delaware and New York will undoubtedly hear of you they will probably lay some plans to surprize or decoy you, but we dare say a continued vigilance will enable you to avoid the Snares and power of those who are too strong for you, as well as to send us some more of those that are not an over match for the *Lexington*. We repeat our approbation of your Conduct, and beg you may signify to your officers and Men that the Marine Committee of Congress highly applaud their Zeal and bravery. With the best wishes &c.

Joseph Hewes

Geo: Read

W^m Whipple

Step Hopkins

John Hancock

Rob^t Morris

John Alsop

Richard Henry Lee

1. Mss. Collection, NYHS.

2. John Bellinger.

3. See letter of April 8, 1776.

4. Boyce was Marine Captain in the *Lexington*.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED APRIL 11.” ¹

This morning arrived a sloop mounting six three pounders, and eight or ten swivels, late a tender ² belonging to the *Liverpool* man of war, and commanded by a Lieutenant Boucher, ³ of said sloop, having thirty five picked men on board, who on Saturday last off the Capes of Virginia, fell in with Capt. Barry of the Continental Brig called the *Lexington*. A battle ensued, which was continued desperately for one hour and twenty minutes,

when the tender struck. Capt. Barry lost two men killed and had four wounded. The other, one man killed and one wounded.

1. *New-York Journal*, April 18, 1776.
2. *The Edward*.
3. Lieutenant Richard Boger.

JOSEPH HEWES TO SAMUEL JOHNSTON ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] – the 11th [April, 1776]. Advice is Just received from New York that Comodore Hopkins with two Ships two Brigs & a Sloop under his Command fell in with the *Glasgow* man of War of 20 Guns, a Bomb Briga and three Tenders off the east end of Long Island when a smart engagement ensued in which the Bomb Brig & three Tenders were taken, the *Glasgow* got off by out sailing our Ships, the Commodore has got safe into New London in Connecticut with his little Fleet and Prizes,² this Morning arived here a Prize Sloop taken by Capt Barry of the Brig. *Lexington* a Vessel lately fitted out by Congress, the Sloop was Commanded by a Lieutenant of the *Liverpool* had Six carriage & Six Swivel Guns & 35 Men, see Barrys Letter in the News paper enclosed to Mr [William] Hooper,³

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, HSP. Continuation of April 9 letter.
2. A repetition of the first garbled account of the engagement with the *Glasgow*.
3. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 11, 1776.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

Dear Sir

Philadelphia 11th April 1776

I rec'd your favor of the 24th ult – Col. [Josiah] Bartlett took with him the Marine money, you mention – the 10,000 dollars from the Secret Committee shall send by the first opportunity which I expect will be in about a week by Mr Jos: Henderson who is here in a carriage and will set out about that time. I find you are going to Boston and shall expect from you a particular account of the situation that town was left in by the Barbarians, also what Tories are left behind &c &c. There are several contracts for guns – if your ship cannot be supplied nearer home they must be sent from here.

I congratulate you on Admiral Hopkin's success, the particulars of which no doubt you have before now. Yesterday arrived there a sloop – she was a tender fitted out by the *Liverpool* with 6 carriage guns and 35 picked men commanded by the first Lieutenant of the *Liverpool* – she was sent in by the *Lexington* whom she engaged an hour and killed two of his men and wounded two; the sloop had one man killed and 5 or 6 wounded;² there are several more of these small fellows on the coast, which I expect the *Lexington* will give a good account of. The army have converted all the Yankees. I expect the statue of the Royal Brute now standing in Bowling Green will soon be demolished. In my last, I mentioned the officers for the ship you are building – I shall be glad if you'll also think of proper persons for Marine officers. I suppose there must be a Captain and two Lieuten-

ants; the officers for all the ships will soon be appointed – the day is set for appointing Agents, so expect my next will enclose your commission.

I suppose the late Act of Parliament declaring all Americans rebels has reached you before now; I should have sent you a copy had I have been able to obtain one but it has not yet been printed here. On the arrival of that Act in South Carolina, the Convention there seized a ship loaded with sugars bound from the West Indies to London (and had put in there to repair some damages she had rec'd and was then ready to sail) ordered ship and cargo to be sold and the money lodged in the Treasury and have sent to Congress for approbation: their conduct no doubt is justified by some late Resolves which I now enclose you. refer you to the papers for news. Yours sincerely

W^m Whipple.

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, I, 109–10, LC.
2. The sloop tender *Edward*, Lieutenant Richard Boger.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] April 11th

after dinner went to Kinsington, where a number of Inhabitants mett, in order to assist in geting the Lower deck beams in the Ship that was building for man of war, by Bruce & Compy. ²

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.
2. The Continental frigate to be named the *Effingham*.

CAPTAIN JOHN ADAMS' COMMISSION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA PRIVATEER SLOOP *Chance* ¹

In Congress. – The Delegates of the United Colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Counties of New-Castle, Kent and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia: To all to whom these presents shall come, send greeting:

Know ye,

That we have granted, and by these presents do grant, license and authority to John Adams, Mariner, commander of the sloop called *Chance*, ² of the burden of forty-five tons, or thereabouts, belonging to Joseph Dean, Philip Moore & Co., of Philadelphia, in the County of Philadelphia, mounting four guns, and navigated with forty-five men, to fit out and set forth the said sloop in a warlike manner; and by and with the said sloop, and the crew thereof, by force of arms, to attack, seize, and take the ships and other vessels belonging to the inhabitants of Great Britain, or any of them, with their tackle, apparel, furniture, and loading, on the high seas, or between high water and low water mark, and to bring the same into some convenient Ports in the Colonies, in order that the Courts, which are or shall be appointed to hear and determine causes, civil and maritime, may proceed in due form to condemn the said captures, if they be judged lawful prizes; the said Joseph Dean & Co. having given bond, with sufficient

security, that nothing be done by said commander, or any of the officers, mariners, or company thereof, contrary to, or inconsistent with the usage and customs of civilized nations, and the instructions, (a copy of which is herewith delivered to him.) And we will and require all our officers whatever to give succour and assistance to the said commander in the premises. This commission shall continue in force until the Congress shall issue orders to the contrary.

Dated at Philadelphia, April 11, 1776.

By order of Congress:

John Hancock, President.
John Adams.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 850.
2. The *Chance* and the sloop *Congress*, of the same ownership, were commissioned the same day, and were the first privateers commissioned under the resolves of Congress of April 3, 1776, ordering blank commissions to be sent to the various colonies, and setting forth the instructions to be given to the captains of all private ships of war.

SUMMARY OF BOND FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA PRIVATEER SLOOP *Chance* ¹

1776 *Chance*, Pennsylvania Sloop. Guns: 4 Crew: 45. Tons: 45.
 April 11 Bond: Not stated. Master: John Adams
 Bonders: Joseph Dean, Philadelphia. Philip Moore, Philadelphia.
 Owners: Joseph Dean, Philip Moore & Co., Philadelphia.
 Witnesses: William Ritchie, John Duffield.

1. Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal 1776-1783), 196, II, 92, NA.

SUMMARY OF BOND FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA PRIVATEER SLOOP *Congress* ¹

1776 *Congress*, Pennsylvania Sloop. Guns: 6. Crew: 45. Tons: 50.
 April 11 Bond: not stated. Master: George Macaroy
 Bonders: Joseph Dean, Philip Moore, both of Philadelphia.
 Owners: Joseph Dean, Philip Moore & Co., Philadelphia.
 Witnesses: William Ritchie, John Duffield.

1. Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal 1776-1783), 196, III, 40, NA.

INVOICE OF MERCHANDISE BOUGHT BY NORTH CAROLINA FROM JOHN WRIGHT STANLY ¹

Sundry merchandise Imported by John Wright Stanly from St Eustatia and Offered to the Honorable the Convention of No Carolina Vizt

No. 1.	{	100 peices fine Stripes	@ 4½ ps of Eight	450. . . . -
		5 Rheams fine Letter Paper	5½	27. . 4. . -
		1 ditto	4 & 1 bits	4. . 1. . -
2.		100 ps Stripes	4 Ps	400. . . . -

3.	{	12 ps Check	8 ps	96..-.-
		4 Rheam Papr	4 1/8	16..4.-
		4 ps blue Oznabrigs 180 Ells	7 1/2 Stivers	29..3.-
		2 ps bed Ticking 91 do	4 1/2 rials	51..1..3
		12 Bundles Sail Twine	4 1/8 Ps	49..4.-
4.	{	24 ps Check	8 Ps	192..-.-
		14 Rheam Paper	4 1/8	57..6.-
		1 ps Rowans 50 Ells		12..-.-
without a no		76 ps Russia Duck	14 Ps	1064..-.-
Do		1 ps Course Sheeting 131 1/2 Ells @ 2 1/2 bitts		41..0..1
Do		51 Coils Cordage 5251 lb @ 10 Ps		525..0..4
Do		8 ps Oznabrigs 1079 3/4 Ells 6 1/2 Stivers		146..1..4
				<hr/>
				3162..2..0
75 P Ct Advance				2371..5..3
				<hr/>
				5533..7..3
				£1660..3..1/2
Carried Over				
Amount brought Over				1660..3..1/2
No 9 & 11. -		220 ps Stripes @ 4 Ps	880..-.-	
2 & 5.		500 ps Brittanys @ 2	1000..-.-	
1 & 4		50 ps Onabs 6522 Ells 6 1/4 Stivers	849..4..1	
No numbr		35 ps Dowlas 763 yds 11 Stivers	404..4.-	
Do		15 ps Rowans 53 Ells in each		
		@ 12 Ps	180..-.-	
Do		8 ps Oznabs 1400 Ells 6 Stivers	175..0..3	
Do		40 ps Check 18 yds in each @ 5 Ps	200..-.-	
Do		30 lb White thread @ 9 bitts	33..-.-	
6		100 ps Brittanys 2 Ps & 1 bitt	212..4..0	
				<hr/>
				3934..4..4
87 1/2 P Ct Advd				3442..6.-
				<hr/>
Ps				7377..2..4
				<hr/>
				2213..4..0
				<hr/>
				3873..7..1/2
20 PCt on the above Sum of £3873..7..1/2				774.13..6 1/4
500 lb best Gun Powder 18/.				200..-.-
				<hr/>
				£4848..1..1 3/4

Errors Excepted
April 11th, 1776.

J W Stanly

Your Committee have examind the Invoices of Sundry Goods Imported by John Wright Stanly the Cost of Which Appears to Amount to the Sum of

3162 ps of Eight & two reals charg'd at St Eustatia on which an Advance of 75 P Ct for risque & Charges Appear Reasonable as they were bought in Barter. Also Sundry Other Goods by Invo produced Amounting to 3934 ps Eight four reals & four Stivers bought with Ready Money, on which an Advance of 87½ PCt for risque and Charges and Twenty PCt for the risque, trouble & Commission Mr Stanly had in the Adventure. Your Committee are further of Opinion that 500 lb of Gun Powder offered by Mr Stanly at 18/. p lb is at this time a reasonable Price Which Several Sums Amount in the Whole to Four Thousand Eight Hundred & forty Eight Pounds One Shilling & One Penny three farthings Prock [Proclamation] Money which your Committee are of Opinion may be Allowed & paid to Mr Stanly for the Said Goods on Acct & for the Use of the publick On delivery of said Goods at Newbern in Good Order to such Person or Persons as the Congress shall Appoint to receive them.

Humbly Submitted to this Honorable House

April 11th 1776

Jn^o Campbell

Arch^d Corry

Jn^o Cowper

W^m Johnston.

Corn^s Hartnett

[Endorsed] Report on Merchandize Invoice of Goods bo't of John W. Stanly. Concurred with Apl 1776.

1. Treasurer and Comptroller Papers (Military Papers), NCDAAH.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GEORGE-TOWN [SOUTH CAROLINA], APRIL 11 [1776]”¹

We have accounts from Georgia of another small brush at Cockspur: There being a few soldiers on shore cutting wood, and filling water, the militia with a few Creek Indians, fired on them and killed some, three of which the Indians scalped, they also took twelve negroes, and one white man prisoner. On this the *Cherokee* hauled close, in shore, and landed a number of men under a heavy fire, but our people fired at them several times, to some advantage, so that the men were obliged to embark, and the vessel to haul out of gun shot.² Since this we are fully informed, that all the vessels have left the river, except two.

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

2. For the British version of this affair see journal of H.M. Armed Vessel *Cherokee*, March 25, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY¹

[Charleston] Thursday the 11th Day of April. 1776

Ordered That the Honourable Mr Drayton and Captain [Thomas] Savage do make immediate Inquiry of Edward Blake Esquire Commissary of the Naval Department and yesterday chosen one of the Commissioners of the Colony Treasury which of the two Departments he choose to act in

The Honourable Mr Drayton reported That he with Captain Savage had made the Inquiry they were ordered of Captain Blake And that Captain

Blake said he chose to act as a Commissioner of the Treasury and to decline the Office of Commissary of the Naval Department

Colónel Pinckney presented according to Order an Ordinance to appoint a Commander of the Navy of this Colony subject to the immediate Command of the President and Commander in Chief and the same was received and read a First Time

Ordered That the Ordinance be read a Second Time

An Ordinance to appoint a Commander of the Navy of this Colony subject to the immediate Command of the President and Commander in Chief was read a Second Time and passed

Ordered That the Ordinance be sent to the Legislative Council

Ordered, That Mr Dupont and Mr Berwicke do carry the same to the Legislative Council.

The Report of the Committee on Captain Aitkens Petition being taken into Consideration the same was debated on Paragraph by Paragraph and agreed to after a Question being put upon each

Resolved That the Commissioners appointed by the late Congress for the Sale of the Cargo of the Ship *Port Henderson* Henry Aitken late Master be Authorized to pay to the said Henry Aitken out of the Proceeds of such Sales the Sum of Five Hundred and Fifty-eight Pounds and Twelve Shillings Currency due to him for Wages also the sum of Three Hundred and One Pounds sixteen Shillings and nine pence for a Bill of Exchange paid to Mr Nathaniel Russel which being drawn upon himself is now of no Value and also the sum of Four Hundred and Sixty Nine Pounds Eight Shillings and nine Pence Currency which Captain Aitken has received from several Passengers and expended on the said Ship and is now demanded of him by the said Passengers

Ordered That a Copy of the above Resolution be sent to the Legislative Council for their Concurrence and to His Excellency the President for his Assent

Mr Speaker reported That this House and the Legislative Council had attended His Excellency the President in the Council Chamber and presented to him the following Five Ordinances and Acts to wit

An Ordinance to ascertain the Duties of a Muster Master General of the Land and Naval Forces in the Service of this Colony

An Act to empower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in all Cases of Capture of Ships or Vessels of the Inhabitants of Great Britain Ireland the British West Indies Nova Scotia East and West Florida and to establish the Trial by Jury in such Cases

On Motion

Resolved That it is the Opinion of this House That such Crown Officers as were confined by the late Congress to Charles-Town should have Liberty (if they choose it) to depart this Colony and that this House will make Provision for the Payment of their Passages and necessary Sea Stores to Europe or the West-Indies

12 Apr.

COMMITMENT ORDER ISSUED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Colony of the
Massachusetts Bay } The major part of the Council

To the Keeper of the Goal at Boston, in the County of Suffolk –
Greeting –

You are hereby directed and commanded to take into your Custody Crean Brush, William Jackson, Peter Ramsey, Edward [H]eighley, and Richard Newton, lately taken ² in their flight from Boston in attempting to carry away from thence under the protection of the British fleet, large Quantities of Goods Wares & Merchandizes, the Rightful Property of the Inhabitants of that town, and having joined themselves with the Fleet & army employed against the united Colonies of America – and you are commanded to confine the said Crean Brush William Jackson & Peter Ramsen, each in an apartment by himself, without the Privelege of Pen, Ink, Paper or Candle, and not suffer them, or either of them to converse with any person whatever, unless in your hearing, and for the better Security of the said Crean Brush you are further ordered & commanded to put him into Handcufts immediately – And them and each of them safely keep, 'till the further Order of the Major part of the Council, or they be otherwise discharged by due Course of Law – Hereof fail not at your Peril. –

Given under our hands at the Council Chamber in Watertown, this twelfth Day of April, in the Year of the Lord 1776 –

In the name & by Order of the major part of the Council

James Otis President

By their Honors Command Perez Morton D Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 316.

2. Taken in brig *Elizabeth* by Captain John Manley's squadron of schooners.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] Friday April 12th 1776

Resolved That the following Officers and Seamen be appointed for each of the Vessels now building by this Colony, and the pay pr Month allowed them agreeable to the Sums affixed – Viz

Captain	Eight pounds
Lieutenant	Five pounds Eight shillings
Second Lieut	Five pounds
Master	Four pounds
Mate	Three pounds
Boatswain	Three pounds
Boatswains Mate	Two pounds four shillings
Steward	Two pounds Eight shillings
Gunner	Two pounds Eight shillings
Gunners Mate	Two pounds four shillings

Carpenter	Three pounds
Carpenters Mate	Two pounds four shillings
Surgeon	Seven pounds
Surgeons Mate	Four pounds
Quarter Master & Master at Arms	Two pounds Ten shillgs
Pilot	Two pounds Eighteen shillings
Cook	Two pounds four shillings
Drummer	Two pounds four shillings
Sixteen Boys	at Twenty Shillings each
Eighty Seamen & Marines	at Forty Shillings each

All of which Officers, Seamen & Marines shall furnish themselves with a good effective Fire Arm, Cartouch box, Cutlass and Blanket –

And be it further Resolved That the Captains be appointed as soon as may be, which Captains when chosen shall return a List of Persons, suitable for the other Officers, and shall proceed to inlist the Number of Seamen, Marines and Boys proposed; And for further encouragement to said Officers, Seamen & Marines – it is further

Resolved That they shall be intituled to One Third part of the proceeds of all Captures that shall be by them made and finally condemned to be distributed in such manner as this Court shall hereafter determine – and that said Vessels shall be Armed and mounted with at least Twelve Carriage Guns, all of One size viz – Six pounders, and with a proper number of Swivels and Cohorns – and the Honble Council are hereby desired to Commission them to Cruize against all [British] Property agreeable to the late Resolves of the Honble Continental Congress –

Resolved that for the more effectually fortifying & Securing the Town & Harbour of Boston, the Committee already appointed for that purpose, be & they hereby are directed & impowered to purchase a Sufficient number of Old Ships or Vessels, and cause them to be sunk in the Channel between the middle ground & Castle rocks so called, in said Harbour, for preventing any Vessels of above Two hundred Tons, entering the same, & that the said Committee execute said order without loss of time, & lay their Accounts before this Court for allowance –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 752–53, 757.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Renown*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS BANKS ¹

April 1776.

Moor'd in Nantasket Road.

Friday 12th Sent the Cutter on shore to Georges Island with some Necessaries for the Sick; it came on to blow so hard, that in endeavouring to fetch the Ship she was drove to the N E part of Gallops Island; and the Boats Crew took that oppertunity to Desert with the Cutter & her Masts, Yards, Sails &ca; Seven black Musquits, 7 Cutlasses, 7 Cartouch Boxes wth belts &ca Compleat.

1. PRO, Admiralty .51/776.

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

[Providence] Fryday Evening April 12. 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment

Voted That the sum of One Thousand and Eighty Five pounds four shillings & Ten pence be paid Messrs Clarke & Nightingale being the Balance of their Acct out of the Treasury.

That Seventy Two pounds be paid Nicholas Cooke Esqr for Twelve bolts of Duck bot of Jacob Greene

That seven pounds be paid Nicholas Cooke Esqr being the Amount of his Acct

That Nine pounds Twelve shillings & eight pence be paid James Marsh being the Amount of his Acct -

That Seven pounds One shilling be paid Elisha Brown out of the Treasury. - being the Amount of his Acct -

Voted. That One Hundred & Sixty Cutlasses be purchased of Benja Comstock a 9/ p piece.

Meeting Adjourn'd to Monday Evening

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

OWNERS' BOND FOR THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Unity* ¹

Know all Men by these Presents That I Nicholas Brown of Providence in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchant am held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr. General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Fourteen Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony: To which Payment well and truly to be made I bind myself, my Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents Sealed with my Seal. Dated the Twelfth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas the said Nicholas Brown hath imported into the said Colony a Quantity of Powder and Warlike Stores amounting to Fourteen Hundred and Sixty eight Pounds 12/ and in Consequence of a Resolution of the Continental Congress of the Fifteenth of July last for the Encouragement of the Importation of Powder and other Military Stores hath equipped the Sloop *Unity* with a Cargo for Hispaniola amounting to Seven Hundred & Twenty one Pounds 14s/.² and whereas pursuant to said Resolution and of an Act of the General Assembly of the said Colony the said Charles Church hath received Permission from the Honourable Nicholas Cooke Esquire Governor of said Colony to proceed to the Island of Hispaniola in the said Sloop with the said Cargo. Now the Condition of this Obligation is such That if the said Charles Church shall in all Things during the said Voyage conform himself to the Rules of the Continental Congress and shall lay out the Sum of One Hundred & Fifty Nine Pounds of his said Cargo in Powder Military & Naval Stores &c. as also the Amount of the Sperma Coeti Candles ¹ on board

said Sloop amounting to £262.10/ in the above mentioned Articles and in Case he shall not be able to invest the whole Proceeds of the Sperma Coeti Candles in the Articles abovementioned that then he shall be permitted to lay out the remainder of the Sperma Coeti Candles in Paper Ozenbriggs Ticklenbourg German Steel Flints Lead Linnens or Woolen Cloths Jesuits Bark or Rhubarb and shall import the same into this or any other of the United Colonies the Danger of the Sea & of the Enemy only excepted that then he shall be permitted to lay out & bring back the remainder of his Cargo in such Articles as he shall think proper and shall also within three Days after his Arrival in this Colony lodge in the Secretarys Office a true Account or Manifest of his Cargo the Danger of the Sea & Seizure by an Enemy being always excepted then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

Nich^s Brown^s

Sealed & Delivered
in the Presence of
William Mumford
Esek Brown

1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.
2. "In the sloop *Unity* Charles Church Master for Hispaniola 164 bbls Flour, 2½ Tons Oil, 15 bbls Pork in Keggs, 19 Keggs Hogs Fatt, 13 Kegs Meat, 4 bbls Hams, 2 M Staves and 60 Boxes Sperma Coeti Candles owned by Nicholas Brown," Account of Permissions Granted by his Honor the Governor, R.I. Arch. See Appendix A.
3. A second bond was signed the same day by Nicholas Brown for the sloop *Polly*, Remembrance Simmons, master, to sail for St. Croix, with instructions similar to those given for the *Unity*, and based upon the same quantity of powder and arms imported in the *Unity*, R.I. Arch. The cargo shipped outward on board the *Polly* consisted of "22 m.hoops, 124 Shaken Hogsheads, 25 c Staves, 1½ Tons Oyl, 12 Keggs Hogs Fatt, 6 Keggs Meat, 4 Hhds Tobacco and 60 Boxes Sperma Coeti Candles. Owned by Nicholas Brown," Account of Permissions granted by his Honor the Governor, R.I. Arch.

PERMISSIONS GRANTED BY GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE¹

[1776]

April 12. Sloop *Dianna* John Home Master for South Carolina with Seamen & Stores for the Publick Service, fitted by Clarke & Nightingale.²

1. Account of Permissions granted by his Honor the Governor, R.I. Arch. See Appendix A.
2. Probably the men recruited by Captain Robert Cochran, sent from South Carolina to engage seamen for the South Carolina armed vessels.

"MANIFEST OF SLOOP *Joseph's* CARGO JAMES MUNRO MASTER FROM
HISPANIOLA MARCH 1776"¹

[Providence, April 12, 1776]²

5300 lb Gun Powder	30 ps Check & Linen
380 Muskets	18 doz Linen Stockings
17 m Gun Flints	5000 lb Coffee.
37 Large Cutlasses	5 Bolts Oz naburgs
4 Swivle Guns	200 Yds Gold Lace

12 Rhms Writing Paper
18 Casks Claret Wine

11 ps Scarlet Broad Clothe

Providence April 1776 I hereby certify the above to be a true Manifest of the Sloop *Joseph's* Cargo -

James Munro

1. Maritime Papers, Manifests Import Cargos, R.I. Arch.
2. The date is approximated. Munro, in the sloop *Joseph*, cleared Providence on another voyage to Hispaniola on April 20, 1776, and eight days between arrival and departure is a likely estimate.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

April [17]76
Friday 12th

At a Single Anchor in Rhode Island Road.
at 1 A M a light breeze springing up, slip'd the Hawser to Run farther off, a great number of shot struck us, & did great damage to the Lower Shrouds & Running Rigging, one shot struck the main mast, about 6 Inches in at 2 the Row Gallies went into the Harbour & the Battery left off firing; came too with the small Br in 21 fm water, & veer'd to $\frac{2}{3}$ of a Cable, the fort ESE the Dumplings SWbW at 5 the Rebels got three Guns on Brintons point, & began to fire at us, several shot came Close to us, at 6 weigh'd & shifted further to the Noward; & came too with the Small Br in 15 fms water; the fort SE the ferry House WNW; got the sheet anchor over the side; empd Knotting & splicing the Shrouds & Running Rigging; the Carpenters empd fishing the Mn Mast; bent the Inner Bt Br Cable to the spare Anchor & got it over the side, saw the Rebels making a Battery on the South point coming into the Harbr got the spare Sails up to Barocade the Quarters.

First part fresh Gales & Squally with rain, Middle & Latter fresh Breezes & Squally: P M empd in Knotting the shrouds & Splicing the Rigging,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

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

[April 1776]
Friday 12

[Off Point Judith, Rhode Island]
At 7 A M Hove up, Point Judith & stood off to the Southd At Meridian saw a sail under Montock point Moderate Breezes & Heazy Tackd & stood off for S W sail under Montock At 1 Brought her too, she had been taken by the *Scarborough* man of War about 8 Days before, took out a Midshipman & Six Hands & put a Lieutenant & 3 Hands, on board, she was from Hispaniola bound to new London Loaded with Mollasses Coffee & Powder ² Beat up the Sound with the Schooner At 12 M Night struck the Bottom to the

Westward of Fisher's Iland, Back'd off & Came to in 3 fathom Water.

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
2. The schooner *John and Joseph*. See journal of the *Scarborough*, April 8, 1776.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1776

New London, April 12.

Last Saturday [April 6] Capt. Samuel Champlin arrived here in 27 Days from St. Eustatia, with a Quantity of Powder and Warlike Stores. Off the Capes of Virginia, he was bro't too by a Schooner Tender of 6 Carriage and 12 Swivel Guns, and ordered to lie under her stern 'till some People could be put on Board (there being at that Time a heavy Sea) however, the Wind shifting and blowing a hard Gale, he got clear of them, after being nine Hours under their Care, and proceeded on his Voyage. Three Days after, off the middle of Long-Island, he was attacked by a Sloop Tender of 12 Swivel Guns and between 20 and 30 Men: The Tender discharged about 40 Swivels and 60 small Arms at Capt. Champlin, who with 5 Swivel Guns and 16 Men, beat her off, and chased her 30 Hours, but could not get up with her. When Capt. Champlin was attacked by the first mentioned Vessel, he threw over some Letters he had for the Members of the Continental Congress.

Capt. Champlin left at St. Eustatia the Schooner *John*, John Eikens, Master, owned at Salem, and was bound for Newfoundland.

On Monday last [April 8], Commodore Hopkins, with the Continental Fleet under his Command, arrived here from New-Providence — He sailed from Philadelphia the 17th of February last, at which Time four of his Fleet were infected with the Small-Pox, which rendered it imprudent to cruise on this Coast; and the Wind coming at N.E. the Fleet sailed for New-Providence, where they arrived the 1st of March, and on the 4th they took Possession of his Majesty's Forts and Stores on that Island . . . ¹

On the 17th of March, the Fleet sailed from thence and on the 4th Instant made the East End of Long-Island, where they fell in with his Majesty's armed Schooner *Belona*, of 6 Carriage-Guns, 8 Swivels, and 25 Men, commanded by — Wallace, a Nephew of the noted Capt. [James] Wallace,² which Vessel they took Possession of; the next Day they fell in with the Brig *Bolton* (employed by Capt. Wallace as a Bomb Vessel) which they also took Possession of; [she] has 8 Guns, 2 Howitzers, 10 Swivels, and 48 Men, and was extremely well fitted with every Kind of Warlike Stores: On the 6th, they took Possession of two Vessels outward-bound with Provisions, having no Papers on Board to shew they were qualified to proceed; — the next Morning at 2 o'Clock, they [esp]ly'd his Majesty's Ship *Glasgow*, commanded by [Ty]ringham Howe, and at 3 o'Clock engaged her with part of the Fleet, for 3 Glasses, when the *Glasgow* bore away for Newport, and was chased for 3 Glasses longer, when the Commodore gave a Signal to discontinue the Chase, not chusing to follow her any longer, (as he had a Number of his prime Sailors on board the Prizes he had before taken, and knowing

that he should soon have Capt. Wallace's whole Fleet to engage, some of them being in Sight, and many of his own Crew very [sickl]y). During the Engagement they took the *Glasgow's* Tender.

Six Men were killed on board the *Alfred*, and 6 wounded; and on board the Brig *Cabot* 4 were killed and 7 wounded, among the latter was the Captain, who is badly wounded in the Hand; and one Man lost his Arm on board the *Columbus*. Among the killed was Sinclair Seymour, Master of the *Cabot*, and Mr. [James Hood] Wilson, Lieutenant of Marines; and Mr. [John] Fitzpatrick, Lieutenant of Marines on board the *Alfred*. The Brig *Cabot*, received considerable Damage in her Hull, Spars, and Rigging, which occasioned her falling a-stern of the *Glasgow*; and the *Alfred* received a very unlucky Shot which carried away her Tiller Ropes and Blocks, by which Misfortune the *Glasgow* got much a-head of them.

The next Day the Fleet arriv'd in this Port, and have landed their sick Men to the Number of 120, and likewise the wounded.

Commodore Hopkins has brought in Mr. Brown, Governor of the Bahama Islands; Mr. [James] Babbage, Secretary of that Province, one of the Council, and a Half Pay Officer; also Mr. [Thomas] Irving, a Mandamus Counsellor of South-Carolina, and Receiver of his Majesty's Quit-Rents.³

A Transport with most of the above Stores, arrived here with the Fleet.

Last Tuesday Young Wallace, who was taken by our Fleet, was carried from hence under Guard to Providence.

1. Inventory of Stores follows here. For inventory list see Hopkins to Trumbull, April 8, 1776.
2. The prize was the schooner *Hawke*, not the *Bellona*.
3. The parole of these three prisoners was taken the same day, and reads as follows: "We, Montfort Browne, Esq., Governour of New Providence, Thomas Irving, Esq., and James Babbidge, prisoners in the power of the Governor and Council of Safety for the Colony of Connecticut, being delivered to them by the Commander in Chief of the Fleet of the United Colonies in America, having been kindly treated and protected by them, and enlarged on parole, do hereby solemnly promise and engage, on the honour of gentlemen, that we will not bear arms against the Colonies of America, in any manner whatever, for the space of twelve months, or until we may be exchanged; nor will we, during that time, take any measures to give intelligence to the British Ministry or Ministerial Army or Navy, or to any person or persons whatever relative to American affairs; but will proceed, with all convenient expedition to the town of Windham in this Colony, and peaceably abide within the limits of said township, and submit ourselves to the further directions of the said Governour and his Council of Safety; that we will not, directly or indirectly, attempt to procure any person or persons to rescue us; and that we will not go on board any British man-of-war during the continuance of our engagement not to bear arms." ConnSL.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Fort George April 12th 1776

The Troops that Arrived too late at Albany to Cross the Lakes on the Ice are now at this Post and Fort Edward Impatiently waiting for the Lakes to become Navigable. I hope a day or two will Effect it all is in readiness to move Immediately the Cannon are Imbarked and all such Stores as are not perishable.

General [John] Thomas is seven Miles from this place where I have advised him to remain untill the Lake opens as we have scarcely room to lay

down at this place. the Gentlemen Committee remain at Saratoga for the Same reason.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 101-02, NA.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] 3 ho. P.M.

April 12th, 1776.

Mr. [Thomas] Randall informed the Committee that he stands in need of cash to discharge debts contracted in purchasing and in part fitting out an armed Schooner

Ordered, That Peter Van Brugh Livingston, Esqr. as Treasurer of the Provincial Congress of this Colony, advance to Mr. Thomas Randall, Esqr. the sum of nine hundred pounds on account, in part of moneys by him advanced for the purchase of an armed schooner and her arms and outfit, the Treasurer to take Mr. Randall's receipt for the same.

Ordered, That Mr. Richard Norwood, commissary of Colony stores, deliver to Thomas Randall, Esqr. two hundred and fifty pounds of gunpowder and three hundred weight of lead for the use of a small armed schooner fitted out by the marine committee by order of the Provincial Congress, the said commissary to take a receipt for the same.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 404, 405.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, April 12, 1776

A letter from Colonel John Haslet, of the 10th instant, enclosing an account of an engagement between the detachment of the Delaware batallion at Lewis, and a tender of the *Roebuck*; also informing that another company is wanted at Lewis, and that he had ordered one to march thither, were presented to Congress, and read:

Resolved, That the conduct of Colonel Haslet, in ordering another company to Lewis, be approved.

Resolved, That Mr. Alexander be appointed a member of the Marine Committee, in the room of Mr. [Samuel] Chase, who is absent.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 274, 275.

JOHN HANCOCK TO THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia April 12th 1776.

While the British Ministry are taking every Step, that Cruelty and Ravage can dictate, for the Destruction of American Liberty, it is incumbent on these United Colonies to exert their utmost Efforts to defeat them. Happily for our Country, their military Operations have not been attended with the Success which they so sanguinely expected. This Circumstance however, far from abating their Rage, has had the Effect constantly produced by disappointed Passions. It has roused them to make new Exertions of

Power against us: and we now behold American Property, by a late Act of Parliament, made legal Plunder. Such a Strain of Rapine and Violence, can be equalled only by the Spirit, with which it is likely to be executed.

Having authorized the Seizure of Vessels belonging to these Colonies wherever found upon the High Seas, there is too much Reason to apprehend the Execution of the Edict, (which we may expect in its greatest Extent) will, for a Time, prove a severe Clog to the Trade of America. Under these Circumstances, the Congress in Hopes of checking in some Degree, an Evil, which they cannot, at present, remove; and acting upon the same Principles of Self-Preservation and Retaliation which they have hitherto adopted, have been induced to come into sundry Resolutions relative to the fitting out Letters of Marque and Reprizal. The Trade of America is an Object of so much Consequence, and the Protection of it so necessary, that I make no Doubt of your giving all the Encouragement in your Power, to any Measures that may be deemed expedient, for its Security & Existence. I herewith transmit Bonds, Commissions, and Instructions,² which the Congress has thought proper to request the several Assemblies, Conventions, and Committees of Safety, to make Use of on the Occasion. I have the Honor to be Gentlemen [&c.]

John Hancock Presid^t

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

2. See Journal of the Continental Congress, April 3, 1776.

MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE MARYLAND
COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen.

Yours of the 9th Inst. was delivered to us this day at twelve o'Clock, and we immediately handed the Packet inclosed to the President. It contained the Act of Parliament for restraining the Trade of the Colonies passed in December last, and which was received here in the Begining of February; Our friends in South Carolina supposed we might not have received the Act and therefore sent the first Copy they received – There having been an Arrival of Powder lately On Account of the Congress we just before the Rect. of your Letter borrowed a Ton and shall send it to Chester Town to wait your Order. in the Distribution thereof – Every other Colony has been supplied from the Continental Magazine & this was spared to us without Hesitation – We are Gent. [&c.]

Th Johnson Junr T. Stone

Phila April 12th 1776 OClock night –

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

JOHN ADAMS TO ABIGAIL ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] April 12. 1776

The Ports are opened wide enough at last, and Privateers are allowed to prey upon British Trade. This is not Independency you know. – What is? Why Government in every Colony; a Confederation among them all,

and Treaties with foreign Nations, to acknowledge Us a Sovereign State, and all that. — When these Things will be done, or any of them, Time must discover. Perhaps the Time is near, perhaps a great Way off.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 376–77.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO MESHECH WEARE ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, 12th Apl, 1776.

Inclosed you have some papers contag the late Resolutions of Congress, Blank Commissions &c. will be forwarded by the President. I hope Col. [Josiah] Bartlett will soon be here. I expect he will be set out before this reaches you.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 121.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a., 12th April, 1776.

Upon application of John Cabourn for a sum of money towards the payment of Men employed in sinking the Chevaux de Frize, By order of the Board an order was drawn on Jno. Nixon & others, the Committee of accounts, in his favour, for two hundred pounds.

Capt. [Charles] Alexander requesting to be dismissed from his present service, being offer'd the Command of a Vessel in the Continental Service, to be employed in the protection of our Trade,

Resolved, for the above Reasons, that his request be granted.

Capt. [John] Hazelwood having applied for a sum of Money for the service of the Fire-Rafts, By order of the Board, an order was drawn on Jno. Nixon & others, the Committee of accounts, in his favour for one hundred pounds.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 539, 540.

JOSHUA HUMPHREYS' SHIPYARD ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONTINENTAL SLOOP
Hornet ¹

Philadelphia April 12. 1776

Stephen Hopkins Esqr for Sloop <i>Hornett</i> .			Dr
To Henry Rhile	for 19 days	9/	8.11..0
John Cotton	14 do	9/	6..6..0
William McMichal	3½ do	do	1.11..6
Adam Watt	3½ do	do	1.11..6
William Jesson	5 days	do	2..5..0
John Black	5 days	do	2..5..-
2 Stages	3½ do	5½	17..6
2 potts	4	3/	12..-
2 poles			1..-

Josphua Humphreys Attendance	2. . . . -
Thomas Heavam for 31½ days	1. 11. . 6
To 4 Mast Cloats 1/6	6. . -
bill deliver'd	<u>£27. 18. . 0</u>

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

SILAS DEANE TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

[Extract]

Reedy Island, April 12, 1776.

I do not think there is any probability of meeting with Capt. Barry as he has gone into Egg Harbor to put up Nettings & is besides weak handed after manning Two prizes & the Loss of some Men in his last Action, but I hope we shall make out, by running directly off the Coast. I have no Time to add save my Compliments to Presidt Hancock,

1. *The Confidential Correspondence of Robert Morris*, Stan V. Henkel Catalogue, No. 1183 (Philadelphia, 1917), Letter No. 116.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, Delaware Bay, Friday 12th April, 1776]

. . . a ship called the *Chance*, laden with Flax seed & Staves came down from Philadelphia. She did all she could to avoid me, by going out at the Cape May Channel where I could not follow her, but as soon as I saw she was fairly out, I gave chace to her and come up with her. The Master produced an English Register, declared that his Ship belong'd to a Mercht in London, and that the Cargo was a remittance for the payment of debts, and shippd agreeable to the Act of Parlimt of Decr last. I at first believed her to be so, but on examining the Papers of a Man who pretended to be only a Passenger, I found, what appeared to me sufficient Proof, that the Cargoe at best was the Property of a Mr Cason of Philadelphia an Active Man in the Rebellion; who jointly with the before Mentiond Passenger, whose Name is Graham, had very lately imported a considerable Cargoe of Powder & arms from Holland. I therefore took out all the Sailors (who were mostly English) put on bd a few others and sent the Ship to be tryed in the Court of Admiralty at Halifax; and Graham to be delivered to the Commanding officer. There wer[e] many letters found on board, all those that treated on Politicks (every one of which breathed nothing but resistance) I thought proper to suppress, as well as all the News Papers; but those Letters which were merely mercantile and containd Bills of Exchange (of which there was a number to a very considerable amount) I forwarded by the Ship to Halifax.²

anchor'd at the Back of the overfall, which I find to be a quick Sand. The Anchor buried itself in such a manner that when we came to heave it up in the morning, the Cable broke and we lost the Anchor.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

2. "By The *Roebuck*, and Ships under Captain Hamond's Orders . . . *Chance*, Thomas Rose, Master, Mess[rs.] Curson, of Philadelphia, Owners, from Philadelphia to Cork; with Flax Seed and Staves," *London Gazette*, May 10-13, 1777. *Chance*, ship, Thomas Rose, master, "found trading on a pretended voyage from one of his Majestys Colonies now in open Rebellion," Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769-1777, N.S. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO RICHARD HARRISON ¹

No 115

To Mr Richard Harrison. Martinico

Sir By Captn Kell we send you a Cargoe of Flour, which we hope will get safe to Hand, and meet with a good Markett – as to the Species of Returns we have heretofore wrote you fully – we have Nothing to add at present only that you would please to observe that our Bay is so full of Men of War and Tenders, that we are of Opinion that whatever Returns you send should be in small Vessels, that sail well, and may occasionally run into some of the Inlets on the Seaboard Side of Worcester County, or come in close under Cape Charles. –

[Annapolis] 12 Apl 1776.

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

JOHN PAGE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Wm'sburg April the 12th 1776

... Before you can receive this you will have seen the Letters to Governour [Robert] Eden from Ld G. Germain. They had a good Effect here – I think almost every Man except the Treasurer is willing to declare for independency – But I fear it is too late for Virginia for if the Attack should be made here, which we have now great Reason to expect, we shall be able to make but a poor Resistance – Our Army is but an handful of raw undisciplined Troops indifferently armed, wretchedly clothed, & without Tents or Blankets – our People are some Places discontented about [Patrick] Henry's Resignation, in others on Account of the removal of the Troops from their Neighbourhood, & in others at the Apprehension of being removed as the People of Norfolk & Princess are to be into the interior Parts of the Country. In this State of Things God knows what will be the Consequence of a vigorous Push made by a Fleet & 6 or 7 Regiments.

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1776

Williamsburg, April 12.

Last Saturday capt. James Barron arrived in town with despatches from the secretary of state for governour [Robert] Eden of Maryland, which he took from on board a small vessel that had been sent by lord Dunmore to carry them to Annapolis. They were in the custody of a certain mr. [Alexander] Ross from Fort Pitt, an old offender, and an associate of the infamous [John] Connolly.

The packet contained three letters. The first, dated Nov. 10th, only serves to announce his lordship's succeeding the earl of Dartmouth as secretary for the American department. The second, of Dec. 23d, enclosed the act of parliament for seizing American property; and assures him of his majesty's being determined, in concurrence with his parliament, to pursue the most *vigorous measures for reducing his rebellious subjects in North Amer-*

ica; and then closes with the king's exhortation to the people of his government, couched in terms of the same import, which we have already seen in sundry proclamations from his governours. The third letter, being more interesting, is inserted at full length, and is as follows:

[Here is inserted George Germain's letter of December 23, 1775, to Robert Eden, which will be found under that date in Volume 3.]

By two deserters who came into York last Sunday, from [John] Goodrich's pink, commanded by one Picket of the Eastern Shore, we learn that the tenders took off our capes a French sloop with 150 barrels of powder and 250 stand of arms; there were three engineers on board likewise, whom the governour ordered to be put into irons. They also inform, that lord Dunmore has fitted out a vessel with 16 oars, that carries 50 men, 6 three-pounders, and 12 swivels; and that another was on the stocks, under the inspection of Goodrich.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Halifax] Friday April 12th 1776

The Committee to enquire into the Cost of sundry Merchandizes deemed useful to the service of this province as per Invoice exhibited by Mr John Wright Standley and to agree with him for the same reported as follows, vizt

Your Committee have examined the Invoices of sundry Goods imported by John Wright Stanley the Cost of which appears to amount to the sum of three thousand one hundred sixty two peices of eight (peices 8/8) and two rials charged at St Eustatia, on which an Advance of seventy five per Cent, for risk and charges appear reasonable as they were bought in Barter; also sundry other Goods, by Invoice produced amounting [to] three thousand nine hundred thirty four peices of eight (peices 8/8) for Rials and four stivers bought with Ready Money, on which an advance of eighty seven and a half per Cent for risk, and Charges, and twenty per Cent for the risk, trouble, and Commission, Mr Stanley had in the Adventure.

Your Committee are further of Opinion the five hundred pounds of Gunpowder offered by Mr Stanley at eight shillings per pound is at this time a reasonable price; which several sums amount in the whole to four thousand eight hundred forty eight pounds one Shilling one penny three farthings Proclamation Money, which your Committee are of Opinion may be allowed and paid to Mr Stanley for the said Goods, on Account and for the use of the public, on delivery of said Goods at Newbern in good order, to such person or persons as the Congress shall appoint to receive them. humbly submitted to the House

The Congress taking the same into Consideration and the said report being read concurred therewith

The Congress having agreed with Mr John Wright Stanley on Account of the public, for sundry Goods, and Merchandizes, as per Invoice exhibited;

Resolved That the Treasurers or either of them pay to John Wright Stanley the Sum of four thousand eight hundred forty eight pounds one Shilling one penny three Farthings Proclamation Money, for sundry Goods and Merchandizes purchased of him on Account and for the use of this province, he first producing a Receipt from John Green, and David Baron that all and every Article contained in the said Invoice are Bona fide and actually delivered into their possession in good and Merchantable Order, and that the Treasurers be allowed in their Accounts with the Public

On Motion, Resolved, That Mr John Green and Mr David Baron of New Bern be requested to receive and take into their possession from Mr John Wright Stanley, sundry Goods and Merchandizes as per Invoice exhibited, amounting to forty eight pounds one Shilling one penny three farthings, at the risk and account of the public till further Orders.

Mr Harnett Chairman from the Committee to take into Consideration the Petition of Joseph Wood and Copartners, praying an Order to dispose of the Effects of his Excellency Josiah Martin Esquire reported as follows to wit.

Your committee having enquired into the several Allegations set forth in the said Petition do report as follows: That the said Joseph Wood and Partners, with permission of the Committee of the City and Liberties of Philadelphia, did on the fifth day of January last past, load on Board the Sloop *Joseph*, William Raddon Master, sundry Goods and Merchandize, on their own Account to the value of Six hundred and seventy pounds three Shillings and seven pence, on the Account of William Todd, one hundred and ninety pounds, of Joseph Wood junr Ten pounds, of William Raddon, nine pounds eighteen Shillings, prime Cost in Philadelphia, all which were consigned to the said Joseph Wood and bound to Georgia; that in his passage the said Sloop and Cargo were taken by an Armed Vessel called the *General Gage*, George Sybels Master, and carried into Cape Fear, where Josiah Martin, Esquire late Governor of this Province bore the chief Command, and the officers under Command of the said Josiah Martin did violently seize the said sloop and Cargo, and apply them to the use of the Enemies of America, whereby the said Joseph and Partners lost fifteen hundred pounds Current Money of Pennsylvania over the above the Profits they might reasonably have made

The house taking the same into Consideration concurred therewith.

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

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO THOMAS MCKNIGHT¹

On board the *Pallisser* Transport
the 12th April 1776

Thos McKnight Esqr Agent for prizes

having given directions to the Commissary General to purchase the Cargo of Flour taken by the *General Gage* Sloop with the Cyder on board the other Vessel taken by that Sloop, and such a Quantity of Rice as he could

obtain at the prices that may hereafter be agreed upon I am to desire You will make application to the Court of Vice Admty for permission that those articles may be delivered and that you will in consequence of such permission deliver the same into the hands of the Commissary Generl, as I apprehend they may be immediately wanted for the use of His Majesty's Troops under my Command I am &ca

H C

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

GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON¹

No Carolina Snow *Peggy* in Cape Fear River April 12th 1776
 Sir The Master of The Ship *Jenny* which I have hired for the accomodation of His Majesty's Subjects who are daily flying from the Shore for protection from the Rebels, having represented to me that there is no lumber to be had but what is reserved by The Quarter Master General for His Majesty's Service; and that for want thereof he cannot fit his Ship for the reception of the People for whom she is intended I am to intreat the favour of you Sir, if it be consistent with the preferable wants of His Majesty's Service, to direct such Supply of lumber to fit The *Jenny* as a Transport, as shall be necessary for that purpose.²

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir [&c.]

Jo. Martin

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, CL.

2. *Ibid.*, the next day, Clinton issued an order to furnish the lumber.

THOMAS HARRISON TO GOVERNOR SIR BASIL KEITH¹

Copy

[Spanish Town] April 12th 1776

Sir I cannot advise your Excellency, to receive William Platt,² and the two Witnesses against him, from the Admiral, for the purpose of having them committed, to the Kingston goal; as well for the reasons contained in my former Letter, as because I am certain, that William Platt would be less secure there, than under the Admirals custody, in the Dock-Yard. —

In regard to the Witnesses, nothing less than the most absolute necessity, can justify their being so strictly confined. From what I hear, of the character and disposition of Mr Maitland, the Master of the *Philippa*, I am satisfied means can be contrived, between the Admiral and him, to put their appearance past a question — I am with the highest respect Sir [&c.]

Tho: Harrison

1. PRO. Admiralty 1/240.

2. Ebenezer Smith Platt.

GOVERNOR SIR BASIL KEITH TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON¹

Sir

King's House Spanish Town 12th April 1776

As it is my duty, so it is my most earnest desire on all occasions, to act conjointly with you, in every matter, which may be for the good of His Majesty's service, or in support of His Government. —

But however anxious I am, in my endeavours [fo]r these purposes, I cannot go beyond the authority vested in me, by the Law and the Constitution; I therefore thought it highly proper, to take the opinion of His Majesty's Attorney General, upon your Letter of yesterday's date. –

As I think it my duty, to be guided by the officer appointed by the Crown to advise me, in matters of such nature, as your request is; his opinion (a Copy of which I have the honour to inclose) prevents me from complying therewith – I am Sir [&c.]

Basil Keith ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. *Ibid.*, Gayton's endorsement reads: "April 12th 1776 Letter from the Govr Inclosing the opinion of the Attorney General with respect to securing Willm Platt, and the two Witnesses in Kingston Goal during the time the *Antelope* remain'd alongside the Wharf."

13 Apr.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP ¹

April [1776] Sambro Light NNE $\frac{1}{2}$ E 6 or 7 Ls.

Saturday 13 at 7 AM brot too Main Topsl to the Mast at 8 AM hoisted out Longbt and Yawl. sent them onbd the Sloop and set fire to her² at 11 Made Sail –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

2. See journal of the *Lively*, April 9, 1776.

CAPTAIN JOHN LAMBERT TO JACKSON, TRACY & TRACY ¹

Gentlemen

Old York April 13 1776

Jotham Moulton Esqr of York has paid for Small Arms for the Schooner *Diligent* & the Bills for Repairg said Schooner the Sum of Fifty Three Pounds Fifteen Shillings & 1 d – a Particular Acct of which he will herewith Render to you, Which Sum please to pay him or his Order on Acct of this Collony & you'll Oblige Gentlemen [&c.]

£-53..15..1

John Lambert

To Messrs Jackson Tracy & Tracy at Newbery Port.

[Enclosure] Sir Please to pay the above Sum of Fifty three Pounds Fifteen Shillings & 1 d to Mr Edwd Law

Jotham Moulton

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 292, 36.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL TUCKER TO WILLIAM BARTLETT ¹

Sr

Beverly April 13 1776

Please to pay Capt. Joseph Lee thirty five pounds twelve shillings it being Cash recd of him for use of the Schooner *Franklin* –

Saml Tucker

1. Bartlett Papers, BHS.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Saturday April 13th. 1776

On the Petition of James Furze and Thomas Thompson of the Snow *Industry*,² read and ordered that said Petitioners with the rest of the Crew belonging to said Snow unless their conduct should appear suspicious to the Committee of Cohasset have liberty to return Great Britain the West Indies or elsewhere each giving his parole of honor not to act offensively against the United Colonies of America in their present contest with Great Britain.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 18, 87.

2. See *Boston Gazette*, April 15, 1776.JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, April 13, 1776

A Bill for amending an Act intituled an Act for the encouraging the fixing out of Armed Vessels for the defence of America – having passed the House of Representatives to be Enacted –

In Council Read a Second time, and passed a Concurrence to be Enacted –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 758.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] Saturday April 13th 1776

The Committee of Both Houses, appointed to Take under Consideration a Letter from the Committee of Corrispondence of the Town of Marblehead Informing this Court that there Was Sent to Said Town twenty two persons Who Where Taken on Board the Brigantine *Sally* by Capt John Manley (in the Continental Service) from Boston Bound to Hallifax the Committee Report by Way of Resolve

Resolved that the Soldiers belonging to the British Army with their Wives and Children, be sent to General Ward and that Caleb Wheaton and others who were taken on the Board the Brign *Sally* by Capt John Manly be sent to this Court for Examination, except the Women & Children, and them (exclusive of the Soldiers Wives & Children) to be disposed of by the Committee of Correspondence of Marblehead in that way & manner that shall be the least charge to Government – And that Brigadr [Michael] Farley be desired in season to collect the Accompts of the necessary Expences attending the support and maintenance of these and all the other persons taken on board the same Vessel, & endeavour to have the same discharged out of the monies arising on the Sales of the Cargo & effects found on Board the said Vessel.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 208, 393; vol. 34, 757, 758.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH ¹

April 1776 So End Nantucket Shoals No71Wt 17 Leagues
 [Saturday] 13 Spoke at 3 AM His Majs Brig *Diligence* Lieutenant [Edmund] Dodd Comr from Halifax, out 7 Days, and Inform'd us he had Orders to Send all Men of war to Halifax

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

COLONEL HENRY BABCOCK TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Rhode Island Head Quarters 13th April 1776

Sir I propose sending a Flag on Board the *Scarborough* to settle a Cartel for the Exchange of Prisoners as we have several hope it will meet with Your Approbation – Once more must beg you would send down the 24 W Shot & some Cartridge Paper I have the Honour to be [&c.]

H. Babcock

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 317.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

Aprl 76 Moor'd in Rhode Island Road.
 Saturday 13th A M the Carpenters empd fishing the Main Mast, a Boat came on board from the Rebels; saw them moving three pieces of Cannon from Brinton's point, the Rebels empd on their Battery at the entrance of the Harbour, empd in repairing the Rigging & sails came in a Sloop one of our prizes ² opened a Cask of Beef & supplied the *Symetry* with a Cask of Beef & 2 Firkins of Butter, found the Ship to drift, Let go the spare Anchor under foot, bent another Mizen Topsail.
 First & Middle part fresh Breezes & Hazy, Latter Modte & Clear; P M empd as above, at 4 came on board a Boat from the Town with a flagg of Truce, at 9 the Rebels began to fire at us from a Battery on Connanicot Island, close to the water side behind a Rock, they Continued firing at us 'till 11 oClock

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. *The Greyhound*, taken April 5, 1776.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1776

Providence, April 13.

Sunday night last Admiral Esek Hopkins, in the *Alfred* Man of War, with six others of the Continental Fleet, very deeply laden with Cannon and warlike Stores from New-Providence, arrived at New-London. On Thursday the 4th instant they fell in with and took the Bomb Brig, Capt. Steeds [Edward Sneyd], one of the piratical Fleet that has long infested our Bay; she mounted 8 Carriage Guns, 2 Howitz, and had on board a considerable

Quantity of Stores. The next day they took another of the Pirates, an armed Schooner, mounting 6 Carriage Guns, commanded by one Wallace, a Nephew to the Villain who has the chief Command on this Station. ¹ And on Saturday morning, the 6th instant, at Four o'Clock off Point Judah, the Admiral, Capt. John Hopkins in the *Cabot*, and Capt. [Abraham] Whipple in the *Columbus*, fell in with the *Glasgow* Ship of War, of 24 Guns, and her Tender, the latter of which was taken; the *Glasgow*, after an Engagement of three Hours, in which she was much damaged, bore away for the Harbour of Newport to join Capt. [James] Wallace, and our Fleet being so heavy laden with their valuable Cargoes, she unhappily escaped. On board the Admiral's ship 6 Seaman and a Midshipman belonging to the Bomb Brig, who was in the cockpit, were killed, and 6 or 7 wounded; – Capt. John Hopkins of the *Cabot* was wounded in the Head; the Master (Mr. [Sinclair] Seymour of Philadelphia), a Lieutenant of Marines and 2 Seamen killed, and 4 wounded – on board the *Columbus* one man was wounded. 'Tis not yet known what loss the *Glasgow* sustained, but it must have been great, as before she got off her Quarter Deck was observed to be entirely [deserted]. The Continental Fleet the same Day proceeded up the Sound for New-London, where we hear they are landing their Cargoes, and will soon be in a Condition to attack the ministerial Fleet. Besides the Prizes above mentioned, they carried in a Brig and Sloop from New-York, laden with Wheat and Flour, supposed to have been destined for the Supply of our Enemies. The Officers and Men on board the Continental Vessels behaved with the greatest Bravery, and had the Engagement happened a few Miles further distant from Newport, the *Glasgow* must have fallen into their Hands.

As soon as the *Glasgow* got in, the *Rose*, Capt. Wallace, the *Nautilus*, Capt. Collins, the *Swan*, Capt. Ayscough, with several Tenders and pirated Prizes, stood out to Sea, leaving the *Glasgow*, a large Snow, and two small Sloops, at Anchor, about three Quarters of a Mile from Brenton's Point. – The ensuing Night, a Party of Troops carried one 18 Pounder, one 9, one 6, and two 4 pounders on said Point; and early next Morning saluted the *Glasgow* with such Warmth that she slipped her Cable, and pushed up the River, without firing a Gun, under all the Sail she could make, and the others followed with great Precipitation. By the terrible Cracking on board the *Glasgow*, the Noise and Confusion among her Men, it is thought the Cannon did some Execution. – The Wind shifting to the Northward about Noon, those Vessels ran down the Back of Conanicut and stood out to Sea, supposed to have gone in Quest of Capt. Wallace, to make a woeful Complaint of the Incivility of the *Yankies*!

A number of Negroes belonging to the Town of Newport were found on board the Vessels taken from the Enemy.

On Thursday last [April 11] Capt. Wallace, of the armed Schooner above mentioned arrived here from New-London, properly escorted, and is now safely secured in Gaol.

Sunday last [April 7], in the Forenoon, as a Company of American Regulars were getting up the Cable and Anchor the *Glasgow* had a little before left in her great Fright, a large Prize Sloop came in (Capt. [William] Wall, of this Place, from Maryland, loaded with Flour, &c.) which Wallace had carried out with him the Day before; and it being a very thick Air, and she expecting to find the *Glasgow* lying where she was left, got close in with the Boat before they discovered her, when the Boat immediately laid her aboard, and brought her into Newport. She had on board 7 Men, and one Woman.

Thursday Evening the *Scarborough* Man of War of 20 Guns, from Georgia, a Snow of 16 Guns, and a Brig and Sloop, came to Anchor in the Harbour of Newport. – The same Night the two Row Gallies from this Town boarded and took the Brig and Sloop, and attempted to board the Snow; but she having a great Number of Marines on board, they were obliged to quit her. –² A Battery at the North End of Newport, and the Gallies, afterwards played so effectually on the *Scarborough* and Snow, as obliged them to slip their Cables, and run under Cananicut, where they remained Yesterday. – Mr. Daniel Jenckes Tillinghast was wounded on board one of the Gallies. – The Brig Taken is loaded with Bread and Flour, the Sloop with Salt.

The Anchors and Cables of the *Scarborough* and Snow, which they so hastily left, have been since taken up by our People, with one or two others belonging to the Pirates.

Tuesday last Capt. Packard arrived here from the West-Indies; he sailed from this Port the 12th of February last, and on the 11th ult. off St. Eustatia, was taken by the *Pomona* Frigate, of 22 Guns, and carried to St. Kitts. – He informs that the *Argo* of 28 Guns cruizes off St. Eustatia with the *Pomona*; that an armed Pilot Boat is stationed between St. Eustatia and St. Martins, and that a Number of Frigates are cruizing among the Windward Islands.

Capt. Packard left St. Kitts in a Vessel bound to Barnstable, the 14th of March, at wick Time 9 Sail of Transports from England, with Troops, which had been blown off the Coast last Winter, lay there; 11 other Transports, and 5 Vessels laden with Rum and Sugar for the ministerial Army, were at Antigua; the whole were to sail in a few Days for Boston, under Convoy of the *Experiment* and *Hind* Frigates. – The Transports had taken all the 4 Pounders out of the Fort at St. Kitts, to defend themselves against the American Cruizers. A Transport Snow, mounting 16 Guns, and two Brigs, laden with rum and Sugar, bound to Boston, sailed from St. Eustatia the 15th of March.

Between 20 and 30 Sail of American Vessels had been taken and carried to Antigua, 17 of which had been condemned the 13th of March. Among the latter were three Vessels from Virginia, which had on board Certificates signed by Lord Dunmore, setting forth that the Owners were Friends to Government, also another from New-York, having a like Certificate from Capt. [George] Vandeput, of the *Asia* Man of War. The Masters were told

that the Colonies were in a state of Rebellion, and that no Distinction would be made between the Property of Whigs and Tories.

1. This account transposes the dates of the capture of the Bomb Brig *Bolton*, and the armed schooner *Hawke*.
2. The two prizes recaptured by the Rhode Island galleys were the brig *Georgia Packet*, and the sloop *Speedwell*; see libels against both advertised in the *Providence Gazette*, April 27, 1776.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir,

Saratoga April 13th 1776.

We have been here some days waiting for Genl Schuyler's Orders to proceed, which we have just received, & shall accordingly leave this Place tomorrow. Tho by the Advices from Canada communicated by him to us, & as we suppose sent forward to you, I am afraid we shall be able to effect but little there. We had a heavy Snow here yesterday, and the Waters are so out, as to make Travelling difficult by Land, & there is a strong Fresh in the River agt the Boats, but we shall endeavour to get on as well as we can. We join in Respect to the Congress, & to yourself in particular. I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

B Franklyn

1. John Hancock Papers, LC.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Sabbati, 4 ho.P.M. April 13th, 1776

A letter from Major-General Schuyler to General [William] Thompson was read, of which the following extract is the last sentence, to wit:

Will you be so good as to request the New-York Congress that the sailors may be sent up without delay?

Capt. Jacobus Wynkoop, on request, attended the Committee, and agreed to accept of and execute the following order:

Ordered, That Capt. Jacobus Wynkoop do enlist the number of mariners desired by Major-General Schuyler for the service at the lakes, with all possible despatch; that Capt. Wynkoop proceed to Albany with the said mariners to General Schuyler, and take his directions as to the vessels on the lakes until the Honourable the Continental Congress shall have appointed him to that command, or some other gentleman shall arrive at the Lakes, authorized to take the command.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 408.

CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR., R.N., TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON ¹

My Dear Sir You will Doubtless be much Surprized At the Movement of his Majesty's Troops. I am most exceedingly hurt at the unfortunate Necessity there was for their Steering to the Northwd; For I am sure had it been possible for them to come here, Success would have been easy; a Month hence will be very Different, having now in our Neighbourhood General [Is-

rael] Putnam and about fifteen Thousand, these are Indefatigable in fortifying, a great deal has been done already as you will see by the Enclosed Paper, besides which they are now at work upon Governors Island, and at the Narrows; From my being under a Necessity of moving down towards the Hook for want of water, Not that I could possibly flatter myself with a Hope of preventing their carrying on those works, yet think they might have been retarded

I am much Afraid My Dear General you are also greatly disappointed, for if the News Papers say true, you are returned to Virginia our prospect does not appear so Clear at [*sic as*] when we were last together, may we meet in better Times is the Sincere Wish of Dear Sir [&c.]

H^d Parker

Phenix New York
April 13th. 1776

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, April 13, 1776

Resolved, That the Marine Committee be empowered to build two galleys, capable of carrying each two 36 or 42 pounders, to oppose the enemy's vessels in bays and harbours.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 276, 280.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a., 13th April, 1776.

The Commodore or Commanding officer at Fort Island, was this day directed to suffer all River Vessels not having Pilots on Board, to pass the Chevaux de Frize, and was a few days since directed not to suffer any Sea Vessels to pass without a permit from this Board.

Resolved, That Doct'r Matthew McHenry be & he is hereby appointed Surgeon to the Provincial Ship *Montgomery*.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 540, 541.

CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE BRITISH SLOOP *Edward* ¹

Port of Philadelphia }
in the Province of } TO ALL whom it may concern
Pennsylvania, ss. }

Notice is hereby given, That a Court [of Admiralty] for taking cognizance of, and trying the justice of captures of vessels made pursuant to the Resolves of the Honorable the Continental Congress, and brought into this port of Philadelphia, will be held at the court-house, in the city of Philadelphia, on the 29th day of April instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to try the truth of the facts alleged in the bill of John Barry, Es-

quire, Commander of the brigantine of war called the *Lexington* (who as well &c.) against the armed vessel sloop or tender called the *Edward*, burthen about fifty tons, mounting six carriage guns, and lately commanded by Richard Boger, Esq; – To the end and intent that the owner of the said vessel called the *Edward*, or any person concerned therein, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the said vessel with her appurtenances should not be condemned according to the prayer of the said bill.

By order of the Judge.

Andrew Robeson, Register.

[Philadelphia] April 13, 1776.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 13, 1776.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK ¹

Remarks On Saturday the 13 of April [1776] [Under Cape May]

8 [A.M.] Saw the *Robuck* Came two By the Light Houes Histed out the Boot to go one Bord the Sloop ²

2 [P.M.] Thes 24 hours Bignes with Light airs
at 4 p m wade & Saild With the Ships & Scooner from Cape may one a Cruss

At Sun Sat Cape may Boar W N W Dist about 3 Leaugs
the *Robuck* in Cheas of Us,
at Dark Lost Sight of her

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

2. The sloop in which Silas Deane was a passenger.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Saturday 13 April 1776.

Ordered That the said Treasurer pay to Mr Thos Contee (for the Use of Mr William Allain) seventeen Pound thirteen Shillings for Boat Hire for *Hornet* and *Wasp*.²

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

2. The Continental sloop *Hornet* and Continental schooner *Wasp* which were outfitted in Baltimore in January and early February 1776.

THOMAS LUDWELL LEE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Wmsburg April 13th 1776

Dear Brother . . . The last accounts from [North] Carolina mention that Clinton landed on an Island in Cape Fear with about six hundred men, where he is chiefly employ'd in teaching his soldiers the street firing. – General [James] Moore watches his motions with an army of 3000. – General [Robert] Howe, in a letter I reced yesterday from Halifax, N.Carolina, speaking of the Convention which now sits there, says “they have raised three new regiments, and are contemplating on[e] more; – they loose all thought of expeuce in their ardor to promote the common cause” & further, “Independence seems to be the word, I know not a dissenting voice” The last certain

intelligence of the continental fleet left them in Charles Town S. Carolina An express was sent to [Esek] Hopkins there, from N.Carolina, to inform him, how sure a prey G. [Governor] Martin, Clinton, & all the immense naval and military stores at Cape Fear would be to him, if he moved with his fleet to that place. This event has been since constantly expected with great impatience. General Lee has held up to the Council of safety at Newbern a noble object of Naval enterprize at Norfolk & has urged them to propose the affair to Hopkins, if he comes this way; with this additional inducement, that should it be imprudent to return to sea on account of the number of british ships of war which may be expected on the american coast, he can, by a battery erected on an Island, at the mouth of the river leading up to Norfolk, make for himself a safe harbour against the Navy of G.Britain: The committee have returned the General an answer that they think the matter of great importance, & will inform the Admiral. . . .

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

ROBERT CARTER NICHOLAS TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Williamsburg 13th Apl 1776

. . . Our Enemies are prosecuting their Vengeance, particularly against our Traders, with a relentless & unremitted fury. . . . We are in hourly Expectation of the Fleet from Britain. It seems their immediate Destination was for [North] Carolina, with a View, no doubt, to aid the Insurgents of that Province. Clinton's Disappointment in that Quarter will probably be the Means of altering the Plan & it is very likely that Virginia will be honor'd with the first Visit. [William] Howe's Desertion of Boston was shameful indeed; but I wish some of the Southern Colonies may not feel the bad Effects of it. Perhaps it might have been better for the united Colonies in general, if he could, without Danger, have been kept pent up, at least some time longer & until the rest of their forces had been Weakend by their Division. . . .

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1776

Williamsburg, April 13.

On Sunday the 30th ult. the sloop *Liberty*, of Perth Amboy, from St. Eustatia, with 83 barrels of gunpowder, 21 bales of dry goods, and two hogsheads of medicines, was taken by a tender, off the capes of Philadelphia, and carried into Norfolk. The Captain, and three passengers, are made close prisoners. The mate escaped; he says he was an Antigua, where were 7000 British troops, making preparations to sail for some part of the continent; that the *Roebuck*, and another man of war (which he supposed was the *Mercury*) at the time he was taken, lay in Delaware bay; that there were so many tenders cruising upon the coast, and the caiffis on board so very vigilant since the proclamation came over directing the distribution of the prizes, that it was almost impossible for any vessel to escape them.

We were informed yesterday that the Governor had taken a French sloop (probably it is the same we mentioned in our last) from Martinico, with two engineers on board, a considerable quantity of gunpowder, and 150 or 200 stands of arms.

Two of the Negroes who mistook one of our armed vessels at James-town for a tender, and expressed their inclination to serve Lord Dunmore, are under sentence of death, and will be executed in a few days, as an example to others.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Maidstone*, CAPTAIN ALAN GARDNER ¹

[April 1776] W end Tortuga E $\frac{1}{2}$ S 4 or 5 L[eagues]
 Saturday 13 AM 2 Clos'd reefd Miz Topsl – In 2d reefs Main and fore
 Topsls At 5 gave Chace to a Sail to the Eastwd – Out 2 reefs &
 Fired 2 Guns and brot to the Chace a Sloop from Casco Bay.
 Made Sail and gave Chace in Shore. Fired two Guns, and
 brot to a Schooner from Cape Nichola to Newfoundland.
 Brot to Main topsail to the Mast. –
 Found the Sloop Loaded with Lumber from New Falmouth in
 New England sent a Petty Officer and three Men (having
 seizd her) to take Charge of her.² At 6 In 2 reefs and made
 Sail – the Sloop parted Company for Jamaica.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/572.

2. Sloop *Lovely Lass*, James Bodrick, master, Gayton's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO COUNT D'ARGOUT ¹

(A Copy) English Harbour Antigua 13th April 1776.

Sir I have this moment had the honour of receiving your Excellencys Letter of the 20th March past, by Monsieur De Marigny Commander of His Most Christian Majesty's Frigate the *Cerein*, notifying to me that His Most Christian Majesty had been pleased to appoint you to succeed the Count De Noziers (who returns to France) as Governor General of that Island and its Dependencies; I have great pleasure in receiving this notification and beg leave to Congratulate your Excellency on the high honour conferred on you by the King your Master. I am at the same time very happy to perceive your Excellency expressing such an earnest desire to maintain a friendly intercourse of mutual Good Offices among our respectives Colonies; and I entreat the favour of you to rest assured it is my full intention, at all times to exert my best endeavours to cultivate the same.

The Account your Excellency has inclosed me in Answer to the written Intelligence I did myself the honour to transmit the Compte de Noziers the 9th March last, concerning the Shipping Gunpowder Arms &c. to His Britannic Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in North America, shall be transmitted to the British Court by the first opportunity for England, and I wish the same may give a reasonable Satisfaction in that matter as I flatter myself your Excellency will Rigourously exert your Authority to prevent for the fu-

ture any Supplies of that kind being Shipped from any part of your Government to the North American Rebels.

I am also to apologize to your Excellency for a mistake which happened at Roseau, in the Island of Dominica, by the Second Officer on board His Britannic Majesty's Frigate the *Argo*, firing some Shot at your Frigate the *Cerein*, when coming into that Bay, it happened it seems in the night and the *Argo's* Officers not perceiving any Colours mistook her for an American Vessel endeavouring to make her escape from them: this Captain [William] Garnier and his Lieutenant (who are now here) assure me was really the Case; and the Lieutenant says He had not the least Intention to Insult his Most Christian Majesty's Flag, and is exceeding Sorry for his mistake therein. I have the honour to be [&c.]

Jam^s Young

His Excellency the Compte Dargout
His Most Christian Majesty's
Governor General of the Island Martinique &c.&c.&c.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

JACK THOMPSON TO S. BURLING ¹

St. Eustatia, 13th April, 1776.

Sir - I wrote you the 9th instant, via Maryland, to the care of Mr. Clem. Biddle, merchant in Philadelphia, in whose hands I begged you long since to keep letters for me, as he would have more frequent opportunities to forward them than you from New-York, they having four pilot boats in this trade, and they outsail every ship they meet with. The sloop [blank] Whar-ton, and Capt. Porter, are out from this nine weeks; no account of them. David Morris and two others, who sailed three weeks after them, are safe arrived in Philadelphia. Am very uneasy about Mount, and still I am very certain he was not taken in the West Indies. We have daily advices from most of the islands; but in case she is arrived, and not in your power to send her out again in safety, which I should be very sorry for; in that case you and T.G. must be mindful of the remittance, and believe it would be as easy to make from Philadelphia, if not more so, than from New-York. The merchants there have large sums owing them at St. Kitts and Antigua, and the factors want to remit, and T. and A. no doubt would think hard of a disappointment, particularly at this time, when they have fathered so many American vessels, and they all want cash.

I apprehend you will have a warm summer, as all the troops have quitted Boston for New-York, and the preparations you are making, I hope, will enable you to give them a warm reception. I am astonished the merchants at New-York, Philadelphia, and other places on the Continent do not fit out privateers as last war, with commissions from Congress to take all vessels coming from or going to Europe, from any part of the world whatever, as English bottoms; the Admiral has given two commissions at Antigua and one at Dominica, to vessels fitted out by the merchants and planters, to take all American vessels they can meet with; and I must say I do wish the Amer-



(Top) Port Royal, Jamaica. (Bottom) St. Eustatius.

icans would return the compliment. If two or more privateers did once appear in the West Indies, all kinds of produce, particularly sugar and rum, would fall 25 per cent. Since we had advice of the fleet sailing from Philadelphia, the shippers to Europe offer 10 per cent premium against American privateers only, and many of the merchants that have wrote for insurances expect to be disappointed. By a vessel from Madeira, we are advised that three outward bound Indiamen were laying there waiting for convoy, with large quantities of wine on board, and I am very well convinced if a few privateers were sent into these seas, it would prevent any sugars being shipped this season, they are so damnably frightened since these few vessels sailed from Philadelphia.

Twenty-nine sail transports, under convoy, passed here last Saturday from Antigua, with troops and stores for the army that was at Boston. Rum is very plenty in every island, 18d. and 20d. per gallon; the transports have taken in a large quantity at St. Kitts and Antigua, which kept the price at 2s. 6d. Lumber is £40 per M. and in making sugar hogsheads every second stave is made out of boards brought from Egg Harbour, and they will not have hogsheads for rum nor molasses; and the Congress would do right to forbid any lumber being shipped from any part of the Continent; and a few privateers to pick up the Irish vessels with beef and pork, would be the plan, and 20 or 30 sugar ships convoyed in safe to any part of America, would be glorious prizes, and then to sell the cargoes on reasonable terms, would enable the Congress to carry on a war for seven years. If these vessels were constantly kept cruising, I am very well convinced every English island in the West Indies would be ruined in three years; and you may be assured if some such plan is not adopted by the Congress, America is ruined. The army at Boston is constantly supplied with bread, flour, wine, rum, molasses, gin, beef and pork, from the West India islands, and that will continue to be the case let the army go where they will, unless they receive a check from the privateers. The great Mr. [John] Burke, who was taken last winter going into Boston with a cargo of rum and sugar,² is returned to Antigua, and is now fitting and loading three vessels for the same purpose. I am exceedingly sorry he made his escape, or was suffered to leave the Continent, as he is concerned in the two privateers that are fitted out there.

No beef nor pork at market; butter £12 per firkin, tobacco £5 per cwt. rice 40s. corn 16s. pease none, flour £12 per barrel and plenty, hams 18d per lb. cheese 18d. sheep and poultry any price you may please to ask.

My compliments to friend Helen and family, Captain [Anthony] Rutgers and others. I am,

Jack Thompson.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 185.

2. Taken by John Manley December 8, 1776. Burke was listed as a passenger on board the brig *Little Hannah*, bound from Antigua for Boston with a cargo of rum.

14 Apr. (Sunday)

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA ¹

Sunday, April 14th, – My brother Jabez arrives from Antigua, and Turk Island with some salt, rum, and molasses. He was seized by His Majesty's Ship *Pomona*, and carried into Antigua, and condemned. A gentleman bought his vessel for him, and she is registered there. He is obliged to go to Halifax to enter. He tells me my brother Hezekiah, he heard in the West Indies, was safe arrived at Norwich.

1. Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary*, I, 118.

MAJOR JOHN GIZZARD FRAZER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Boston April 14th 1776 –

Sir I now enclose you a more particular Accot of the Vessels, left by the Enemy at Boston; also an Inventory of the Ordnance and Ordnance stores. I have not included those that are at the Castle Island, because General Ward informs me, that the Province claim the whole of them. we have found within this week, Anchors and Cables, worth at least £3,000 Sterling. they weigh from 35 hundred weight, down to 500 Wt (meaning the Anchors.) taken out in three or four fathom water, at low tide. I hope the Continental Congress, will allow us, salvage, upon these as well as other things, which we have secured. I have had only 12 Men employed constantly, in clearing the Docks &c, which do not belong to the Army. On thursday last [April 11], the people at Cohasset observing a Brigg coming up the Bay, armed themselves, and mann'd three or four whale boats, went off and found her to be a merchant-man, boarded and took her. she was from the West Indies, laden with Rum & Sugar, Rum 300 Hhds, for General [William] Howe's army, which they expected to find here. On friday morning last, ran away from the *Renown*, ship of war now lying in Nantasket Road, 8 british seamen, that belonged to her; who brought off the Cutter & landed at Point Shirley, and are now in this town. Commodore Manly's crew, that he took in the last rich prize, are in close prison in this Town. Mr [William] Jackson, [Crean] Brush and 3 others, were examined by the General Court, who were all committed to prison Yesterday, Brush in Irons. I expect to settle all my Accots and finish all matters in my late Department this Week; and shall be much obliged to you, to give me leave to come to New York, to have a final settlement with Colo Mifflin, and deliver up the Books &ca.

[Enclosure]

Inventory of Stores belonging to the King & left in Boston, taken the 18th & 19th March 1776, by Order of Thomas Mifflin, Esqr Quarr Mast-General of the Continental Army –

a Briga about 120 Tons loaded with Oyl and Pearl Ash
a Schooner, abt 80 Tons, scuttled with 200 Hogshead
of Salt on board 150 do in a Store 100 Bundles Iron
Hoops

Long Wharf	157 Pack Saddles		
	123 Water Casks		
	a Brig. Scuttled, about	140	Tons
	a Sloop do	70	do
	a Schooner do	40	do
	1000 Chaldron Sea Coal		
	52 Iron Grates		
	Gen Gages Chariot taken out of the Dock, broke		
	a Quantity of Cordage & old Cable		do
	5 Anchors		
Greens Wharf	abt 200 Blanketts		
	42 3/2 Jarrs, (large) of Sweet Oyl -		
Hatch's Wharf	3 Cannon dble Charg'd & Spiked		
Hancocks Wharf	a New Ship about	300	Tons, Scuttled
	a Schooner	70	do do
	abt 1000 Bushs Salt		
	3000 Blanketts		
	30 Water Casks		
Tudors Wharf	a Ship about	350	do do
Dummets Wharf	5000 Bushells Wheat in Store		
	a Sloop abt	60	do do
	a fishing Boat		
Webbs Wharf	a Sloop About	60	Tons Scuttled
Fullers Wharf	abt 500 Bushlls Salt		
Fitch's do	do a Schooner	70	do do
B M Genls Office	abt 1000 Bushells Sea Coal		} also Lumber
	& one Clock		
	abt 150 Hogsheads Lime		
	4 BB flour		
	100 Empty Iron Bound Casks - Carr'd to fort Hill		}
	by Order of General Putnam		
	10 24 lb Cannon Cartridges		
Tilestons Wharf	300 Hogsheads Salt		
	3 Brigts 1 150 tons 1 120 tons & 1 130 Tons		}
	the Brigg <i>Washington</i> , commd by Capt Martindale		
	with all her Guns in the Dock		
	1 & 1/2 Hogshead Sugar		
	A Quantity picketts, fascines & Gabeons, in Store		
	abt 5000 feet Boards		
Griffins do	a number of Iron Grates		
	abt 1500 Ruggs & Blanketts		
Hubbards do	50 water Casks, Iron bound, carr'd to fort Hill.		
	by order of Genl Putnam		
	1 Cask Deck Nails		
	abt 200. Cord Wood		
	abt 200 Chaldron Sea Coal		

South Battery or Laboratory	52 ps Cannon, trunnions broke off & spiked 600 feet Boards abt 30 Iron Bound Casks Car'd to fort-Hill by Order of Genl Putnam A Number of Ball & empty Shells a Brigtn 120 Ton a Schooner 60 Tons
Wheelrights Wharf	14 Anchors 3½ Hogsheads Brimstone 300 Hogsheads Salt A Quantity Log wood 3 Hogsheads Sea Coal 1 13 Inch Mortar with an Iron Bed, a Numbr of Shells Carcasses, & Cannon Shott in the Dock 600 Bushells of Corn & Oats
Halls Wharf & in his possession	100 sacks Bran 8 Hogsheads Molasses 100 Empty Iron Bound Casks 2 Schooners, abt 60 Tons each 1 Sloop 40 do 10 Horses Teams & Harness
Hutchinsons Wharf	a New Ship abt 350 Tons, Scuttled 2 Briggs do 120 do each, do 2 Sloops do 60 do do
Winisimet do	a new Ship, building, thrown off the Stocks 200 Ton Donation
Pecks Wharf	abt 100 Bushells Salt, Store pulld down abt 100 Hogshds essence of Spruce 10 Hogsheads Beef 6 do Molasses not quite full 5 Barrells do a Sloop abt 50 Tons, ¾ full Molasses - Gen Gages Coach a Phaeton & Harness compleat 20 Iron potts & Kettles
Joy's Yard	a Parcel Lumber Tools & Joice
Hills Bake House	20 Barrells flour
North & South Mills	10,000 Bushls Wheat & flour not bolted 1500 do Bran
King's Brewery	13 Empty Iron Bound Butts 14 Hogsheads Spruce Beer 2 Iron Tier'd Trucks.
Town Granary	1000 Bushells Bran 100 do Horse Beans
Vincent's Stable	10 Ton Hay
Lows Lumber Yard	50,000 Shingles 35,000 feet Boards

1000 Clap boards
 20 Hand Barrows
 Henderson Inches abt 6 Tons Hay
 Store near
 Beacon Hill
 Stables at the abt 10 Ton Hay
 Rope walks 110 Horses, by return this day

Boston, March 20th 1776.

Jn^o G. Frazer DQMG. ²

1. Washington Papers, L.C.

2. This inventory superceded preliminary one made by Frazer on March 18, 1776 which is also in the Washington Papers.

MAJOR JOHN GIZZARD FRAZER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Honble Sirs

Boston April 14th, 1776

I have taken the liberty to inclose you, Copys of the Lists of Vessells,² and Ordinance & ordinance Stores, left by our Enemy in this Town; all of which I have properly secur'd since they evacuated it, A More particular Account of the Cargo's foun'd in the Vessells, with an Account of all other Kings Stores, will forward as soon as I can ascertain the amount of each article; I was order'd in here by the Quarter Master General the same Day the Enemy left the Town, in Order to take an Account and Secure all Kings Stores which I've been constantly employ'd about ever since, and hope to finish in about two Weeks, when I shall Render an Account of the Whole of my Proceedings to Colo Mifflin, Q M G. The amount of Kings Stores alone will I am sure be worth upward of Fifty Thousand Pounds Sterling, besides a Number of Cables and Anchors, taken up out of the Harbour in three & four fathom of Water, the Anchors weight from Thirtyfive Hundred down to five, some very large Cables almost new. The Value of these two articles that I have already got, is computed by good judges to be worth Three Thousand Pounds Sterling. I've only had twelve Hands employ'd in this Work two Weeks, they are Men that I hir'd belonging to the Town, who are very well acquainted with the Harbour. I hope in two Weeks more to Clear the Harbour, and get out a number more Anchors & Cables, &c. the Men expect to be allow'd Salvage besides their pay for every thing taken beyond low water mark, as well as for the Cargoes of Salt, which wou'd all have been lost, had not we us'd the greatest industry to have got it out, as the Vessells were all left scuttled - Your Honours will judge whether this demand is Resonable, and please to let me know your determination: If you think my Extraordinary trouble is worth any more, than my pay as Assistant Qr Master General, you'l please to make me what allowance you think proper.

His Excellency has been pleas'd to give me a Majority in the 6th Regiment of Foot, which I shall join as soon as I finish the above Business, which I am Order'd to do - and am Your Honours [&c.]

John G. Frazer, A Q M G

P S The Quarter Master General has fix'd upon Jonathan Williams Esqr of

Boston, as Agent to dispose of all Stores found here, except what we want for our Army, he has already sold to a large amount, Horses, Wheat, Coal Flour &c

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, IX, 17-19, NA.
2. See next entry.

LIST OF VESSELS REMAINING IN BOSTON AFTER THE BRITISH EVACUATION ¹

1. A Brigantine Privateer, commanded by Captain Martindale, taken by the *Fowey*, man-of-war, burden one hundred and ten tons; at Tileston's Wharf.²
2. A Brigantine loaded with Salt, one hundred and twenty tons, owned by Major Peddrick, of Marblehead; at Tileston's Wharf, scuttled.
3. A Brigantine loaded with Salt, one hundred and forty tons, owned by Robert Hooper, Esq., of Marblehead; at Tileston's Wharf.
4. A Brigantine from Jamaica, belonging to Providence; no cargo on board; one hundred and twenty tons; at Tileston's Wharf.
5. A Brigantine loaded with Lumber, one hundred and forty-five tons, Captain Pike master; masts cut away.
6. A small Fishing-Boat, ten tons, owned by Moses Pitcher; at Gardner's Wharf.
7. A Brigantine loaded with Lumber, but taken out by the enemy, one hundred and fifty tons; at Rowe's Wharf, owned at Portsmouth.
8. A schooner, forty-five tons, formerly belonging to Pickering, sold at vendue; and purchased by John Rowe, Esq; at Rowe's Wharf.
9. A Sloop, seventy-five tons, belonging to this Province, taken by a man-of-war; at Hall's Wharf.
10. A Schooner, *Sophia*, owned by Thomas Bishop, Esq., Commander of the *Lively*, forty tons; at Hall's Wharf.
11. A Schooner, thirty tons, owned by Mr. Shimmear, Commissary-General of the King's Forces; at Peck's Wharf.
12. A Sloop belonging to Rhode-Island, loaded with condemned Stores of the King's ships, masts cut away, and she scuttled; at Peck's Wharf.
13. A Schooner, thirty-five tons; at Peck's Wharf.
14. A Sloop, formerly belonging to Rhode-Island, taken with Wood, seventy-five tons; at Hallowell's Ship-Yard.
15. A Brigantine, one hundred tons, Jewet master, belonging to Newbury; at Hallowell's Ship-Yard.
16. A Fishing-Boat, owned by Mandamus Councillors; in Oliver's Dock.
17. A Boat, ten tons, from Rhode-Island, owned by Homans, a tailor; at Oliver's Dock.
18. A Schooner, owned by Mr. Williams, of Boston, one hundred and ten tons; at Oliver's Dock.
19. A Schooner, cut out of Stonington Harbour, loaded with Sugar, Molasses, &c., sixty tons; at Phillips's Wharf, masts cut away.
20. A Sloop, seventy-five tons, belonging to Nantucket, now the property of N. Ray Thomas; at Phillips's Wharf.

21. A Schooner, ninety tons, owned by Samuel White, of Marblehead; at Phillips's Wharf.
22. A Schooner, twenty tons, owned by William Perry; at the Long Wharf.
23. A Schooner, seventy tons, with some Salt on board, owned by Major Peddrick, of Marblehead; at Minot's Wharf.
24. A Brigantine, belonging to Marblehead, one hundred and forty tons; at the Long Wharf.
25. A Sloop, belonging to the eastward, ninety tons; at the Long Wharf.
26. A Brigantine, loaded with Oil, owned by Colonel Hancock, ninety tons.
27. A Schooner, ninety tons, owned by Captain Cobb; at Treat's Wharf.
28. A Schooner, forty-five tons, owned by Conner, a butcher; in Town Dock.
29. A Schooner, loaded with Salt, owned by Captain White, of Salem; at Phillips's Wharf.
30. A Schooner, ninty-five tons, owned by Webb; at his Wharf; masts cut away.
31. A Schooner, at Noble's Wharf, forty-five tons, owned by John White, of Boston; masts cut away.
32. A Ship, three hundred tons, owned at the Grenards, bound to Portsmouth, loaded with Rum, Sugar and Molasses; had sixteen Guns in her hold; brought in here by a man-of-war.
33. A new Ship, belonging to the Honourable John Hancock, Esq.; at his Wharf; masts cut away, and otherwise much damaged.
34. A Schooner, called *The Hope*, one of the King's Armed Tenders, sold by the Admiral to one Breed, of London; at Hancock's Wharf.
35. A Schooner at Hutchinson's Wharf, seventy tons, owned by Captain Vernon.
- 36, 37. Two small Sloops, belonging to the King, employed as Tenders – one formerly taken at Philadelphia, the other from Rhode-Island; at Clark's Ship-Yard.
38. A Ship, three hundred tons, owned by Captain Vernon; masts cut away.
39. A Brig, one hundred and ten tons, owned by Captain Vernon; masts cut away.
40. A Sloop, seventy tons, owned by Captain Vernon; masts cut away.
41. A Schooner belonging to Enoch Tiley, of Casco-Bay, and others, one hundred and ten tons; at Vernon's Wharf; no masts.
42. A Schooner owned by Captain Dodge, of Salem, sixty tons; at New-Boston.
43. One Sloop drifted on Dorchester-Flats; names of owners not known.
44. A Sloop, drifted on Dorchester-Flats; names of the owners not known.

45. A Schooner, drifted to Chelsea, loaded with Oil, belonging to Benjamin Jepson.

John G. Frazer
Assistant Quartermaster General.

Boston, April 14, 1776.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 934-35.

2. The former Continental brig *Washington*.

ABIGAIL ADAMS TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

[Braintree] April 14 1776

The Fleet lay in the Road allmost a fortnight after the Town was evacuated; in that time Major [Benjamin] Tupper came with a Body of Men to G[e]r[man]t[ow]n and procured two Lighters, (one of them was that of which you are part owner) and fitted them with every sort of combustable Matters, Hand Grenades &c. in order to set fire to the Fleet, but the very day he was ready they saild and it was said that they had inteligence from Boston of the design. However he carried the Lighters up to Town for the next Fleet that appears.

Fort Hill is a fortifying I suppose in the best Manner, committes have been appointed to survey the Islands &c. but we are scanty of Men, tis said we have not more than 2000 Effective Men left, and the General thought it necessary to take the Heavy cannon with him. We have many peices spiked up which they are imployed in cleaning, about an 100 peices I have heard was left at the Castle with their trunnels broke or spiked. The Castle you have no doubt heard was burnt by the Troops before they saild, and an attempt made to blow up the walls in which however they did not succeed any further than to shatter them. . . .

The Works upon the Neck are levelling. We keep Guards upon the Shoars yet. — Manly has taken a vessel Load of Tories. Among them is Black the Scotchman and Brasen head Jackson, Hill the Baker &c. What can be done with them. I think they ought to be transported to England. I was advertize for tory transports . . .

All the Tories look crest fallen. Several deserters from on board the commodore[']s ship say that tis very sickly on board. We have only that and two or 3 cutters beside's. We fear that a Brig laiden with 70 tons of powder which saild from Newbury port has fallen into the enemys hands upon her return.³

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 378-81.

2. Captain Francis Banks in the *Renown*, flying a commodore's pendant, was in command of the British ships trying to block the harbor, and lying in Nantasket road.

3. Abigail's sentence construction is at fault. The brig for Newburyport was bringing in seventy tons of powder, not carrying it out.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

Aprl 76

[Rhode Island Harbor]

Sunday 14th at 5 A M the Rebels began to fire at us again; one of their

shott struck the Mn yards, & carried away 2 of the Main Shrouds at 8 finding the shott struck us often shifted our birth farther to the NE, & came too with the small Br in 22 fms water, & veer'd to $\frac{2}{3}$ of a Cable, the Fort SE Connanicot ferry Wt & the Dumplins SWbW; at 9 the Rebels began to fire at us from a Battery behind a Hill on Brintons point, at 11 the Rebels firing so brisk at us, & the Tide of Ebb setting so strong, to avoid the Tide sitting us Close to their Battery's, Cutt the Cable, $\frac{2}{3}$ from the Anchor, made sail, & Run Close under the So Shore, the *Symetry* & Sloop in Co the Rebels kept a continual fire at us from their 2 Battery's, which we return'd all the way going out, one shot struck the Middle of the fore Mast & several struck the Hull & Lower Rigging at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 got out of Gun shott, at noon the light house NW 3 miles.

Modte Breezes & fair wr P M empd knotting the Shrouds, and repairing the Rigging that was Cutt away by the shott, at 3 Rhode Island light House NbW distance about 5 Leagues, the *Symetry* and Sloop in Co ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. The sloop *Greyhound*, taken April 5, 1776.

LIEUTENANT JOHN PAUL JONES TO JOSEPH HEWES ¹

[*Alfred*, New London Harbor, April 14, 1776] ²

When I Undertook to write you an Account of our proceedings in the Fleet I did not imagine that I should have been so Stinted in point of time I owed you a much earlier Account but Since our Arrival here the repairs and Bussiness of the Ship has required my Constant Attention. – I will endeavour to be more punctual Hereafter – in the meanwhile hope you will excuse this Omission 'till I can Account for it personally – I pass over wha[t was] prior to our Arrival at the Capes of Delaware – when we were met by the *Hornet* Sloop & *Wasp* Schooner from Maryland. –

On the 17th of Feby the Fleet put to Sea with a Smart North East Wind. In the Night of the Ninteenth the (Gale having Increased) we lost Company with the *Hornet* and *Fly* Tender – We Continued Steerned to the Southward without Seeing a Single Sail or meeting with any thing remarkable 'till the first of March when we anchored at Abaco (one of the Bahamia Islands) having previously brought too a Couple of New Providence Sloops to take Pilots out of them – By these People we were informed that there was a large Quantity of Powder [with] a Number of Cannon, in the two Forts of New Providence – In Consequence of this Intelligence the Marines and Landsmen, to the number of 300 and Upwards under the Command of Captn [Samuel] Nicholas were Embarked in the two Sloops. – It was determined tht they Should keep below Deck 'till the Sloops were got in Close to the Fort – and they were then to land Instantly & take possession before the Island could be Alarmed. – This however was rendered Abortive, as the

John Paul Jones.



Joseph Hewes.

Forts Fired an Alarm on the Approach of our Fleet – We then ran in and Anchored at a small Key 3 Leagues to windward of the Town and from thence the Comodore dispatched the Marines with the Sloop *providence* and Schooner *Wasp* to Cover their Landing – They landed without Opposition and soon took possession of the Eastern Garrison (F. Montague), which, (after Firing a few shot) the Islanders had abandoned – The Next mornng the Marines marched for the Town and were met by a Messenger from the Govr who told Captn Nicholas that “the Western Garrison (F. Nassau) was ready for his reception and that he might march his Force in as Soon as he Pleased.” – This was effected without firing a Gun on our Side – but the Govr had Sent off 150 barrels of Powder the Night before. – Inclosed you have an Inventory of the Cannon, Stores, &ca which we took Possession of and brought off in the Fleet – we Continued at Providence ’till 17th Ulto and then brot off th[e] Govr and two More Gen[tn] Prisoners. – our Course was now directed back for the Continent and after meeting with much bad Weather on the 5th Inst off Block Island we took one of Captn [James] Wallace’s Tenders, the *Hawke* Schooner of 6 Guns – and the Bomb Brig *Bolton* of 8 Guns & 2 Howitzers &ca – the Next mornng we fell in with the *Glasgow* Man of War and [a] Hot Engagement Ensued – the particulars of which I cannot communicate better than by extracting the minutes which I entered in the *Alfred’s* Log Book as Follows –

At 2 A.M. Cleared Ship for Action. At ½ past do the *Cabot* being between us & the Enemy, began to Engage and soon after we did the same. at the third Glass the Enemy bore away, and by crouding Sail at length got a considerable way a head made Signals for the rest of the English Fleet at Rhoad Island to come to her Assistance & steered directly for the Harbour. The Comodore then thought it Imprudent to Risque our Prizes &ca by Pursuing further therefore to Prevent our being decoyed into their hands, at ½ past 6 made the Signal to leave off Chace & haul by the Wind to Join our prizes. The *Cabott* was Disabled at the 2d broadside The Capt being dangerously Wounded; the Master and several Men killed – the Enemys whole Fire was then Directed at us and an unlucky Shot haveing carried away our Wheel Block & Ropes, the Ship broached too and gave the Enemy an Oppertunity of Rakeing us with several Broadships before we were again in Condition to steer the Stick & Return the Fire. In the Action we Received Several Shot under Water which made the Ship Verry Leaky we had besides the Mainmast Shot thro’ and the Upperworks and Rigging verry considerably damaged – Yett it is Surpriseing that we only lost the 2d Lieut of Marines & 4 Men, one of whom (Martin Gillingwater) a Midshipman Prisoner, who was in the Cockpitt and had been taken in the Bomb Brig *Bolton* Yesterday – we had no more than three Men dangerously & 4 Slightly wounded

~~I leave in your province to make the natural comments you see arising from the Subject – I wish to avoid Censuring Individuals. – the Utmost delicacy is necessary and highly becom[ing] in my Si[tuation] I therefore content~~

~~myself with relating Facts Only and leave wiser heads the privilege of determining their propriety~~

I have the pleasure of Assuring you that the Commr in Chief is respected thro' the Fleet and I verily believe that the Officers and men in general would go any length to execute his Orders. it is with pain that I Confine this plaudit to an individual I should be happy in extending it to every Captain and Officer in the Service – praise is certainly due to some – but Alas! there are Exceptions. it is certainly for the Intrest of the Service that a Cordial interchange of Civilities should Subsist between Superiour and Inferiour Officers – and therefore it is bad policy in Superiours to behave towards their inferiours indiscriminately as tho they were of a lower Species. – ~~Such a Conduct will damp the [ardor] of any Man – would to heaven it were otherwise! – but in sad truth this is a Conduct too much in Fashion in our Infant Fleet the ill Consequences of this are Obvious.~~³

Men of liberal Minds, who have been long Accustomed to Command can Ill brook being thus set at naught by others who pretend to Claim the monopoly of Sense. – the Rude ungentle treatment which they experience creates Such heartburnings as are no wise consonant with that Cheerful Ardour and Spirit which ought ever to be the Characteristick of an Officer. and t[hen] whoever thinks himself hearty in the Service is widely mistaken when he Adopts such a line of conduct in order to prove it – for, to be Obeyed it is necessary to be Esteemed.

the Fleet having been re-inforced with 200 Men lent from the Army is now in condition for Another Enterprize and we expect to embrace the first Wind for Rhode Island where I hope we shall meet with better Success as we understand that the *Scarborough* is now there – it is Proposed to clean the Ships at Rhode Island or Providence so that our detention there will admit of a return of letters from Philadelphia – Meantime with a grateful Sense of past favors I have the honor to be with much Esteem Sir [&c.]

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6475–6478, LC.
2. The autograph draft of this letter, from which this entry is taken, contains neither place, date, salutation nor signature. In a subsequent letter to Hewes of May 18, 1776, Jones refers to his former letter of "14th ult."
3. The sentences through which Jones drew lines, of course, never reached Hewes. They are retained here as pertinent to the affairs of the Continental fleet.

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

April 1776 [New London Harbor]

Sunday 14th At 1 A M hove up, with a fresh Breeze from the South & run in, with the Light house, & came too abrest of the Comodore,

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO CHRISTOPHER LEFFINGWELL, NORWICH ¹

[New London] April 14th 1776

Dear Sir

The foregoing is a Copy of what the Admiral this moment Recd – ²

I think no time should be lost, but forward the Artillery, that is with you down hear as soon as Possible – I am [&c.]

N Shaw Junr

Forward the Inclos'd to the Governour Imediately from the Admiral

N S

1. Shaw Papers, YUL.

2. George Washington's letter of the same date to Esek Hopkins.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir:

New York, April 14, 1776.

I have just received Information that the *Nautilus*, Sloop of War is arrived here from Newport, said to be sent Express from thence for the *Asia*, *Phoenix* and *Savage* and that they are intended for New London in Order to block up your Squadron in that Harbour. I thought it my Duty to give you Notice of this by Express,² that you might take your Measures accordingly. The *Phoenix*, *Savage*, and *Nautilus* sailed this Morning. The *Asia* still remains in the Harbour.

I should be much obliged to you, if you would forward the Cannon and Stores, I left a List with you for, as soon as possible; and as the Men of War are now out, I should be extremely glad if you would keep a good Look out to see that the Coast is clear before any more of the Continental Troops embark from New London. I am, etc.³

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 476.

2. From Washington's account with the United States: "1776 April 15 To Jno Phillips for Riding Express to Commodore Hopkins at New London [£] 3.-.-," *Fac-simile of Washington's Accounts during the Revolutionary War* . . . (Washington, 1833), 13.

3. Hopkins sent copies of this letter to Governors Cooke and Trumbull, Hopkins Papers and Letter Book, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT ¹

April 1776

Moor'd in Graves End Bay.

Sunday 14

A M at 5 Up Yards & Top Masts. at 6 Unmoor'd & hove short on the Bt Br at 10 Weigh'd & drop'd further to the So ward at 11 came to with the small Br in 7 fm Water Veer'd to $\frac{2}{3}$ of a Cable. Ships Co put to $\frac{2}{3}$ Allowance of all Species Moderate & fair P M at 2 hove up & came to Sail at 4 in coming thro' the Narrows was fired at with Muskets by a Number of Rebels, fir'd at them 2 eighteen pdrs at 5 came to with the Bt Br in 16 fm in Gravesend Bay Veer'd to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable Coney Island ESE Gravesend Church NE & the point of Long Island NbW

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

GENERAL ORDER FROM CONTINENTAL ARMY HEADQUARTERS ¹

Whereas the *Asia* having quitted her station, and left the harbour, the navigation between this city and New-Jersey, by the Kills, is become quite

safe; the troops upon Staten-Island and Bergen Neck, are to let all boats coming to New-York or returning to Jersey, to Pass and repass, without molestation.

Given at Head-quarters, in New-York, 14th of March [*sic* April], 1776.

Horatio Gates, Adjutant General.

1. *New-York Gazette*, April 15, 1776.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK

[Remarks on] Sunday the 14 of April 1776 [Off Delaware Capes]
 Fresh Breezes & Clear Weather Sat the F:T:S:
 at 9 A M Hauld the Wind Down the F:T:S: Dubel R:M.S:
 Tuck the Bunet off[f] of the gibb & F:S:
 10 Saw a Schooner Standing to the westward
 Tk & gave Chass
 2 [P. M.] Latt Obs 38:09No
 Modret Breezes & Clear Wethear
 4 out oars & Rode aftar the Schooner
 at 3 P M feard 2 guns & Broght her two
 at 6 P M Speak the Schooner Capt Samul Williams fom St Ustatia
 Bound for philedphia

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

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

April 1776 At a single Anchor in Hoar Kill Road Delaware bay
 Thursday 11th at 6 in the Morning Got up [yards and topmasts] and
 weighed and made Sail after Several Sail of Vessels coming
 down Cape May Channel; At Noon they returned back;
 Tacked & Stood to the Eastward.
 Fresh gales and cloudy weather, at 4 in the afternoon
 Tacked and brought too, at 6 made Sail, at 8 Anchored in
 9½ fathoms, Cape Henlopen WbSo 5 Leagues.
 Friday 12th at Noon, hove Short, converted the Spritsail Course to mend
 the Topsail.
 Fresh gales and clear weather, at ½ past Noon endeavouring
 to weigh the Anchor, the Cable parted at about 20 fathoms
 from the Anchor, made Sail and gave Chace to a Sail coming
 down the Bay, at 3 fired Several Guns Shotted and broght
 her too, found her to be called the *Chance*, a Ship from
 Philadelphia Laden with flax Seed ²
 Saturday 13th at 8 in the morning Anchored with the prize in 7 fms the
 light house WbN 3 Miles, Sent the Barge and Cutter to
 examine if possible, Several Vessels under Cape May, it
 being partly moderate weather.
 at 5 in the afternoon observing five Sail of Small Vessels,

Steering out to Sea, thro' Cape May Channel, weighed, made Sail, and gave them Chace, at 9 Lost sight of the Chace, thro, the extraordinary darkness of the night, and Close Reefed the Topsails; lost a Wood Buoy.

Sunday 14th

Moderate and fair weather at 7 in the Afternoon Anchored in 7 fathoms water the Lighthouse SbEt, distant 1 Mile the *Chance* in Company; at 9 Sent a Petty Officer and Seven Seamen, victualled for Eighteen days on board, to Navigate her to Halifax, and she proceeded to Sea accordingly.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. *Chance*, Thomas Rose, master, Messrs. Curson, of Philadelphia, owners, from Philadelphia for Cork, with flaxseed and staves, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Comme 14 April 1776 – 9 oClock P.M.

Present – Saml Purviance Chn Wm Lux Depy Chn –

B. Nicholson	J. Smith	J. Calhoun	
W. Buchanan	J. Boyd	J. Sterrett	T. Harrison –

An Express is just arrived from Virginia with a Packet directed to this Committee Inclosing a Letter to the Honble Council of Safety of this Province, with a Letter to The Honble John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, and a Letter from the Honble Council of Safety of Virginia to this Committee, of which the following is a Copy –

Gentlemen

Williamsburgh 6 April 1776

We could not suffer a Moment to pass before we transmitted the inclosed Copies of intercepted Letters, address by the Secretary of State to the Governor of your Province, which open the Schemes of Administration to us in a more explicit Manner, than any other Intelligence we have been able to procure – We wish you to transmit Copies of these Letters to Congress without Delay –

I am, For & by Order of the Committee of Safety of Virginia,
Gentlemen – Your most Huml Servt
John Page – Vice Presd

B. A certain Mr Alexander Ross, who was refused a Permission from this Committee, has been onboard of Lord Dunmore's Ship, and was the Person entrusted with the Care of the Inclosed Letters; he has escaped from us, but as we think him a Person inimical to the American Cause, he ought to be apprehended –

J. P. V. Prd

[Here are inserted Lord George Germain's letter of December 23, 1775, and the General Letter to all Governors of the same date]

The Committee maturely considered the forementioned Letters, and,

esteeming the Information contained in them as highly interesting to American Freedom, Unanimously Resolved, That they be sent off by Express to Congress, and that Major [Mordecai] Gist be requested to permit an Officer to carry them – Major Gist, being accordingly applied to, ordered Lieutenant David Plunket on that Service, and directed him to attend the Committee for their Orders, who delivered to him the preceding Letters, and one to the Honble John Hancock Esqr, of which the following is a Copy – viz

Honble Sir

In Committee Baltimore 14 Apl 76
10 oClock P.M

The Inclosed Copies of Letters were just now received by our Committee by Express from the Council of Safety of Virginia, with Desire, that they might be forwarded to you instantly – Indeed they contain Matters, we think of too much Importance to have been delayed a Moment – In consequence wherof we have prevailed on our Commanding Officer here to appoint Mr David Plunket, on whose Prudence & Industry we can depend, to wait on you with this, and if your Honl Body should think it necessary to take any Steps, or give any Instructions to the Council of Safety on the Occasion, he will wait your Commands – We have the Honor to be with greatest Respect –
Honble Sir Yr most obed Servt

(signed by all the Members present.)

To The Honble John Hancock Esqr
President of the Congress Philadelphia

The Committee then resumed the Consideration of the Letter from the Council of Safety of Virginia, and thereon Resolved, That Messrs John Smith, Benjamin Nicholson & John Sterrett, three of their Members, do wait on the Council of Safety at Annapolis, early tomorrow Morning with the Packet directed to them, as they think it of too much Importance to be trusted by a common Express, and that they carry with them the Letters above referred to, in order to lay them before the Council of Safety, lest their Packet might not contain the same Intelligence, And that they take with them Mr Jeremiah Townley Chase, one of the Committee, who is now at Annapolis –

Attestd Geo Lux Secry

I. Baltimore Committee, LC.

CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON TO LIEUTENANT JOHN NICHOLSON ¹

Sir.

You are immediately to proceed with the *Defence's* Tender off the Harbour of Annapolis and there to Land Captn [Samuel] Smyth; while he is ashore, you are to stand off and on the Harbour and examine every Boat, that comes out Annapolis or thereabouts (taking Care to distress no Boat unnecessarily) and if you find Governor Eden and Secretary Smyth, or either of them, you are to make them Prisoners – if Captain Smith has Orders to

deliver them to the Council of Safety, you'll in that Case deliver them to him for that Purpose; if not, bring them on Board the *Defence* – If upon Capt'n Smith's Return you find they are not at Annapolis, you are then to proceed down to Colonel Fitchew's and assist Captain Smith if necessary, in examining the Colonels House in making them Prisoners; Provided they are not to be found in either Place, and you have Reason to think you can over take them in standing further down the Bay, in that Case you'll proceed as far as Prudence will direct you – You must be particularly careful in your Watch while off Annapolis – take Care to consult Capt'n Smyth in all Cases – Given from under my Hand this 14th April 1776 at Fell's Point Baltimore.

James Nicholson

To Mr John Nicholson Lientt of the Ship *Defence*

N.B. If you find Mr [Alexander] Ross, you'll likewise make him Prisoner.

1. Red Book, I, Md. Arch.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL SMITH¹

Sir

[Baltimore] 14 April 1776

You are requested by the Gentlemen of the [Baltimore] Committee to proceed in Capt Nicholsons Tender with any Officer he may send to assist you and such a Number of Armed Men as may be necessary, and therewith proceed as Speedily as possible for Annapolis – Should you, before you get there, meet the Governor's Barge or Boat, you must by all means endeavour to board her, & in case Governor Eden, his Secretary Mr Smith, or Mr Alexander Ross are found onboard you are by all means to seize their Persons & Papers, and instantly return with them under the strictest Guard to Baltimore, for doing which you may depend on being protected & justified by the Committee & held blameless – in case you should not meet such Boat or Persons, you'l please to proceed Immediately to Annapolis and use every Precaution to prevent an Alarm by obliging the Men not to appear in Number on Deck, and causing the Boat to lye at a Distance, while you go on shore with the Letter delivered you for the Gentlemen of the Baltimore Committee, who may be at Annapolis, whose Directions you'l please to follow after your Arrival there – You'l please to take Blunderbusses and any Quantity you see necessary of Arms out of Capt Nicholson's Vessel which he will readily furnish – please to consult in every Thing with the Officer, which Capt Nicholson sends with you, and let your Measures be kept as secret as possible from the Men at least, until it comes to the Execution – I am in behalf of the Committee [&c.]

Sam^l Purviance Junr Chn²

1. Red Book, I, Md. Arch.

2. Major Mordecai Gist placed an endorsement on the back of Smith's orders wishing him "a pleasant and prosperous Voyage." William Hand Browne, ed., *Archives of Maryland* (Baltimore, 1892), XI, 374. Hereafter cited as Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.* These orders to seize the governor and the actions of the Baltimore Committee created a sizeable furor. Alexander Ross, "a great Scoundrel," was stopped in Virginia while returning³ to

Maryland after meeting with Lord Dunmore. Letters found on Ross, several from Lord Germain to Governor Eden, were copied and sent by the Virginia Committee of Safety to the Baltimore Committee (see under April 6). The Baltimore Committee dispatched the intercepted letters to the Continental Congress. The Maryland Council of Safety was indignant at being by-passed and expressed resentment at the insult offered by the Virginia Committee of Safety and the Baltimore Committee. Purviance, William Lux, George Lux, Captain James Nicholson, Major Mordecai Gist, and Captain Samuel Smith were ordered to appear before the Council to explain their conduct.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. TO THE BALTIMORE MEMBERS AT THE
MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen:

Balti[mo]re 14 Apl 1776

Captn James Nicholson having returnd yesterday eveng with his Tender, We have dispatched her for Annaps under the Commd of Lieutt Nicholson & Captn Samuel Smith with a Number of picked Men well Armd to be at your & the Councils Command in Case the Govr should have escaped before you get down. As this Boat can both row & Sail, we Judge her much fitter for the Pursuit than any Vesl that could be found at Annapolis. And we are of Opinion that it may still be possible to overtake the Govr before we may leave Coll Fitzhugs [Fitzhugh] where it is probable he may call -

Captn Smith has directions to use every Precaution that no Allarm may be given by the Boats going down, & we confide in his Prudent Managemt of the matter; in Case theres no Occasion for his Service the Vesl can instantly return back. This Measure has been detmd on by General Buch[ana]n, Mr Lux, Wm Buch[ana]n Doctr Boyd Mr Harrison & myself, but they being now all gone to Dinr cant find them to Sign this - I am Gentn [&c.]

Sam^l Purviance Junr

1. Red Book, I, Md.Arch.

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

April 1776 Moor'd off Brunswick in Cape Fear River No Carolina.
Friday 12 AM up Yards & T. Gt Masts fir'd 3 Six pounders at the Rebels
Saturdy 13 Fresh Gales and Squally fir'd 1 Six Poundr with Round & 1
with Grape and Canister at the Rebels Empd Barrocading the
Ship
Sunday 14 light airs with Thunder Lightning & Rain Empd Barrocading
Fir'd several Volleys of Small Arms at the Rebels.
PM Fir'd a Six pounder a Swivel & several Musquets at the
Rebels.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Raven*, CAPTAIN JOHN STANHOPE ¹

April 1776 Moor'd off Cockspur, Savannah river.
Sunday 14 (A M) Washd betwn Decks
These 24 Hours mode breezes and Clear Saw a Vessel without
the Bar man'd and Armed the pilot boat and sent her out at
11 (P M) came in the Pilot boat with a brig from Savana La mar

[Savanna-la-Mar], Jamaica bound to Sunbury with rum and Sugar &ca on board took her people out put on board an Officer and 5 hands.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/771.

2. The prize was the brig *Live Oak*, Foster, master, with 29 puncheons of rum and sugar, according to the master's log of the *Cherokee*, which adds, "the *Raven* detained her." PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. John*, LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT¹

- April 1776 In St Mary's River
- Thursday 11 Fresh Breezes and Squally the People empd in filling Water & Cutting fire Wood, Loosed Sails to dry, Cleared Hause, Cut up the old Topsails for Sundry Uses.
- Friday 12 Fresh Breezes & clear Weather at 6 A M saw the *Betsy* Sloop on Shore found she had parted her Cables in the Night Sent the Boat to sweep for the Anchor got it up sent the Stream hauser on Board her & moor'd her, saw from the Masthead 3 Sail standing in for the Bar, proved to be the snow and One Sloop they had taken at Sea² in the said Snow in Company with the Pilot Boat
- Fresh Breezes and Variable Weather at 8 pm the Master returned with the Cutter & brought with him the Captain of the Sloop Do fird a Gun & made the Signal for sailing - Weighed and dropt down a breast of the point & came to Anchor Sloop in Company - Discharged the Pilot Boat and gave him a Certificate
- Saturday 13 Fresh Breezes & Calm at 8 p m . . . fired 1 Gun p Signal for sailing at 9 pm . . . sent Mr. Lolley & 5 men to take Charge of the Sloop to proceed to St Augustine sent Mr Wright & some Seamen to take charge of the Snow - Sent provisions on board both with some ammunition.
- Sunday 14 At 4 [A.M.] Weighed & came to sail - Recd on board fresh Beeff 451 Wt discharged Macredie's Small Schooner
- Fresh Breezes & Clear Weather, Weighed and came to sail Sloop & Schooner in Company at 6 p m got over the Barr - Got the Boats in, Reef'd the topsails Main sail, all the Vessells in sight -

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

2. Sloop *Neptune*; identified by subsequent journal entry.

GOVERNOR GEORGE JAMES BRUERE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

No 1

Bermuda April the 14th 1776

My Lord I was honored with Your Lordships circular letter, of the 10th of Novemr; with the pleasure of being Informed of Your Lordships Appointment. I have likewise received Your Lordships Dispatch of the 23d of December, with the Act of Parliament inclosed: both those letters, were

forwarded to Me, by His Excellency Governor Hay from Barbados, and reachd my hand, the 10th of the present month (of April) .

I hope that His Majestys, and the British Parliaments, determin'd Resolution, to bring the Colonies to a due Sence of their Duty, and Obedience to the Imperial Sovereignty of great Britain, will have the desired Effect, and that the Deluded People, may be brought into a regular Mode of Government, which hath been wanting, these Several Years past, from this place included, to all those, to the Northward of Bermuda &c

I am in expectation every day, to receive Your Lordships Commands, in answer to the several dispatches, that have been Addressed to my Lord Dartmouth; those of the months of August, and September last. And likewise other letters, committed to the Care of the Revd Mr Lyttleton, who I hope arrived Safe in England, in January last.

As soon as I had any hopes, of the North West Winds being moderated, on the Coast of North America, I despatched a little Sloop to Boston, on the 3d Instant, with fifteen or twenty thousand oranges and lemons, Six or Seven dozen of Poultry Ducks &c. all we could get at the beginning of the Season and my Youngest Son sent thirty Eight large Hogsheads of Molasses for the use of the Navy and Army, with some Eggs and other live Stock &c. which I imagine will be Acceptable to General Howe, and my Brother officers at Boston. I was obliged to Man the Sloop in part with some of my own House Negroes.

I have had the misfortune to lose my Second Son Lieut John Bruere a very promising Youth, doing duty as aid de Camp to Genl Howe; was Killed on Bunker Hill in the Battle on the 19 of June last.

I have had the Honor to Serve, in the 14th Regiment and here, thirty Six years: and was under Your Lordships Command, in Genl Princes Regiment; all the North Campaign to Culloden with the late Duke of Cumberland. I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect [&c.]

George Ja^s Bruere
Govr of Bermuda

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 37/36.

GOVERNOR SIR BASIL KEITH TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

(No 3)

My Lord,

Jamaica 14th April 1776

I did myself the Honor to write to your Lordship on the 27th of March, since which I am Credibly informed that the French Government in Hispaniola Offered by Public Proclamation a free Trade to the North Americans.

As I have hitherto understood the North American Trade with that Island was tolerated only from Motives of necessity and conveniency, consequently that the risk of Seizure and Forfeiture hung over it; the giving the Royal Sanction to it at this time I conceive to be a Matter of such consequence that it is my Duty to give your Lordship the earliest advice thereof

By the *Grantham* Packet Admiral Gayton sent the original Letter to the Lords of the Admiralty of which I have the Honor to send you a Copy for

fear of accident to the *Grantham*: and at the same time, explain to your Lordship why tho' this Letter was not addressed to me, it did not accompany my Dispatch by that packet: fearing for a moment to be suspected of the least Negligence in reporting by the first opportunity every thing that comes to my knowledge in which His Majesty's Government and the Interests and safety of His Subjects in any part of His Dominions may be concerned.

The Post Master by His Official Letter to my Secretary on the 14th March informed him of the Arrival of the *Grantham* and that she was to sail on the 29th of the same Month, my dispatches were delivered on board the 28th and I concluded she would sail on the day appointed, and from my inland Situation knew nothing to the Contrary till the Morning of the first of April I received a Letter from the Admiral inclosing a Copy of that sent him from New Providence, and telling me that the Packet did not sail before the Morning of the 31st by which means he luckily had the opportunity of transmitting this Intelligence to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I do not hear that any more Troops are arrived at Hispaniola since Lieutenant Cobb left it, but the report still prevails that more are expected there.

Your Lordship will observe by that Officers Letter to me, which I transmitted with my dispatch No 2, that in his conversation with the Count De Ennery he amuses Him with an Account of His own framing of the Strength and Situation of this Island.

Nothing but the most imminent Danger or the most pressing Necessity, shall force me in these times to complain of either; for the present, contenting myself with giving the best and earliest information in my power of every thing that can make my Superiors perfectly acquainted with both.

The Admiral having favoured me with a Copy of Captain [Andrew] Barkley's Letter to him, as also of Mr Andrew Bredon's information, and a Discription of the Rebel Vessels fitted out from Philadelphia, I think it my duty to inclose them to your Lordship.²

The Ship with our supply of Gunpowder on board is not yet arrived; but my mind is much relieved with regard to her as a report prevails here which I think very probable that she was detained for Convoy. I Have the Honour to be My Lord [&c.]

Basil Keith

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

2. *Ibid.*, part III, Andrew Barkley's letter from Savannah River, March 21, 1776, and Andrew Bredon's declaration of March 20, 1776 with a description of the "Rebel Fleet" fitted at Philadelphia and "ready to sail on the 12th of February 1776."

15 Apr.

LIST OF MEN WHO RETOOK THE SLOOP *Hannah* ¹

Mount Desart april: 15:1776

the Copy of the names of the men Consarned in taking mr Richard fisher in the sloop *hannah* ²

Ebeneazer sallsborough	Job stanwood
Jabez sallsborough	Daniel Rodiar
Ruben sallsborough	Elisha Cosens
siles parker	John hamor
Levy higgins	Caleb finney
Ezra Young	John thomas

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 299.

2. See memo of James Wallace to Fisher, April 2, 1776.

JOSHUA WENTWORTH TO STEPHEN MOYLAN ¹

Sir,

Portsmouth April 15, 1776

With inexpressable pleasure I rec'd the news of the formidable Fortress of Boston & its environs, being precipitately evacuated, by the Savage Enemies to America; Let the cause they have Engag'd in, be ever a terror, & a flight with disgrace – perpetually attend them, is my Ardent wish. –

Your favr of 25 Ulto & 2d Inst I have recd the former by Cap [John] Frasier; ² the latter this day & shall pay due attention to your direction in payment of his, & his Mates Loss when properly ascertain'd – I made Strict enquiry of the Pillage when Comr Manly bro't the prize to Town from New Castle, who Manly-like dispised the Act, but cou'd not then find out the egressors. – The Charge of three pounds you advanc'd for expences on the *Rainbow*,³ I have debted to that Captor & Credt you. The Uniform proceedings of the Continental Congress, is Conspicuous in every resolve yet pass'd, & more particularly so in their late determination of makg reprizals on Brittish Interest, it is Noble, Firm & Sperited – wch (as you observe) Leads on to the Grand Point in Exertion; Shall we be free from a Negitive of any Crown'd head on earth or not – I daily expect to receive that News – And in Gods Name, let us all, with one voice say Amen. –

The 3d Inst Com Manly bro't in the Brig *Elizabeth*, One of the 3d Division wch Sailed from Nantasket, with a Valuable Cargo of English Goods & a few hhds Rum & Sugar – A Mr [William] Jackson who was Passenger & part freighter, and a verrie Tory supposes the Cargo worth Twenty Thousand Pounds Sterlg Those Goods are the greater part owned by the late Inhabitants of Boston, & by some that were Inhabitants, when the Troops left it, The residue by this Mr Jackson & others of the same cast. The Complicate state of this prize, required my Immediate setg off for Boston Expectg I might find some Directions for my Government thare, when I waited on General Ward who, was obliging enough to give me his opinion (but not able to direct, havg receiv'd no Instruction to the point) that the Vessel & Cargo must be libled, & a dividend to the Captors wou'd follow, of all such

Goods as might be legally claim'd by the friends to America, & those that was the property of them Enimical, might be decreed forfeit. Upon further enquirery I was inform'd a resolve pass'd in Congress, That all Vessels & Goods retaken Previous to a Condemnation by a Brittish Court of Admiltry were liable to a partial decree (by every Colony Judge) to the Captors not more than One Third nor less than a Quarter the Present Prize falls under this resolve; and any other that may be property of our Internal Enemies liable to a full Confiscation may be necessary for my Government – Therefore shall be much oblig'd by your full direction, of this Capture & a Copy of the Continental resolves thereon. This Brig is owned by a Mr Richard Hart of this Town, taken on her return from the West Indies last Octo & carried into Boston, not condemn'd, the Rum on board are Sevente[en] hhds & four of Sugar, not removed out of her from the time of Capture. – The other Cargo, was in general stolen, by virtue of General How's Proclamation (wh undoubtedly you have seen) appiontg one Crean Brush Superintendant, who by the way was taken in the prize, & is now Confined in the Massts Colony, wth Mr Jackson & Sund[r]y others, by order of the General Court to whom General Ward delivered them –

There were a Sergent & twelve privates of the 4th or Kings owne Reg't taken prisoners on board wth the others making Sixty Three Souls, among whom are four Negros (two men & two women) wch I have Confined in Goal here concluding they may be Esteem'd a part of the prize –

There appear'd from the Pillage of this Cargo by many of the Passengers, the Property was in him that cou'd secret the most, for when examining the Chests & bedg of the Prisoners, I found great Qty's of Goods that they had Collected while on board, wh were taken out of Ware houses without packing, & hove promiscuously on board the Vessel, even the Sailors had provided for their disposal at pleasure, In fact the distruction of Property (under Cover of General Hows Proclamation) is unparrel'd – I tho't it my duty to be Critical in examing for Cash wch render'd it necessary to Insist on a Close Scrutiny, and found about one hundd Pounds L My (vizt) £36.18.7d on Mr Jackson & £62.16s. on a Mr Keighley likewise One hundd & fifty nine pounds 1/9d Stg of Mr Jackson in five Sets of Exchge, wch I now have in Possession, considering, that a man so enimical to his Country ought to be disposs'd of any Interest, whereby he cou'd be benifited, added to which they are Navy Bills except £60. which was the draft of Gov. Wentworth; On this point shou'd be oblig'd by your opinion & direction.

I am now dischargg the Cargo as it is in a perishing situation, and when Selected, and the regular course persued th[r]ough the Admiltry, shall advertize agreeable to His Excellencys Instruction to General Ward, who was obligg eno. to give me an abstract. The General Court of this Province findg a difficulty in makg a Code of Laws for the Admiltry Court, did not compleat that Institution their last Session when, they adjourn'd to June, which elapse of time will not admit my ficialitating the disposal of the Prizes under my care, so early as I cou'd wish for the safety of part of the Interest of the *Susanna* (vizt) the Po[r]ter, wch I fear may be spoiled by laying, it not

having equal Body, to that commonly imported for Sale, which enduces me to desire your direction for a disposal of that Article, either at Private or Publick Sale –

Capt Burk⁴ is now here, touchg in for a few Stores, Sails again this day – I shall advise you of their proceedings &c when within my Knowledge.

This Letter shall Suberscribe to His Excelly General Washington, agreeable to yr Desire remaing with much Esteem & regard Sir [&c.]

Josh^a Wentworth

please to excuse the course paper, as none other Comatable, & this the manufacture of France, much more of their producg may be the tradg of this Country in my opinion

[Endorsed] Sent Copy of this Le[tter] from Jos. Wentworth dated 15th Apl at Por[tsmouth] 25th Apl to Congres

1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. Captain of the ship *Susannah* taken March 6, 1776 by John Manley's squadron.
3. The schooner *Rainbow* taken by Winborn Adams in the schooner *Warren* and sent into Portsmouth November 25, 1775.
4. Captain William Burke, commander of Washington's armed schooner *Warren*.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1776

Watertown, April 15.

Thursday last arrived at Newport, the *Phoenix* Man of War, and a Snow of 16 Guns from Georgia, and carried in with them a Brig laden with Flour and Bread, and a Sloop with Salt. About half after 10 o'Clock at night, a small Battery of 3 guns begain firing on the *Phoenix* and Snow; at the same time the Row Galleys that lay in the harbour, attack'd the Ships for 3 or 4 hours, when the Ship and Snow slipt their cables and ran off under Conannicut Island; and the Galleys retook the above Prizes and sent them safe to Providence.¹

Last Thursday three Boats with 26 Hands, took a Snow bound from Grenada to Boston, James Fuz, Master, and carried her into Cohasset. Her Cargo consists of 354 Puncheons of Rum, 49 Barrels Sugar, 10 Barrels Coffee, 3 Tons Hay, some Wood, and about ten Barrels of Pork and Beef, a valuable Prize.

It is an undoubted fact, that between 8 and 9000 wt. of gunpowder is just arrived at Virginia, from one of the French islands, with a number of field pieces, four and six pounders, some muskets &c. Several French Gentlemen likewise came in the vessel, one of whom, shortly after their arrival, set out for Philadelphia.

1. The *Scarborough*; not the *Phoenix*.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Watertown, April 15, 1776]

Resolved. That the Honbl Council or such part of them as they shall appoint for that purpose are desired and hereby impowered to give Orders,

in case they should think most for the Interest & Safety of the Colony, that the Armed Vessels at present under the command of Capt Obrian [Jeremiah Obrien] & Capt [Luke] Lambert be hauled up and the Officers & Men discharged untill the further Orders of the General Court –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 299.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO WILLIAM BARTLETT ¹

Sir

Boston 15 April 1776.

Yours of the 14th Inst I have received, & would inform you that I have represented the circumstances of the armed Vessels & Sailors to General Washington, and can do nothing further in this matter until I have an answer from the General.

With regard to Col [John] Glovers Regiment marching from Beverly, I never heard such a thing mentioned before, and that Regiment is not to march until I order it, which I have no thoughts of doing at present I am Sir [&c.]

Artemas Ward

P S. Since writing the above I have received a Letter from Genl Washington touching the pay of the Privateers Men, & if their Captains produce their Rolls upon Oath, I can grant Warrants for their pay.

1. Joseph Ward Papers, ChHS.

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

[Providence] Monday Evening 15th April 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment.

Voted. That there be an Examination among the Calkers and that a Sub-committee with a Master Calker of each ship fix the prices that each one shall have and that the Boys Wages be particularly consider'd and Settled that Mr John Brown be the Committee. –

Voted. That the Assistants that work with the Head Rigger that are not particularly agreed with have not more than 4/6 p Day for their Work.

Voted. That this Committee agree to take all the Ravens D[uck] that Messrs Clarke & Nightingale and Capt Jos. Cooke have to sell at 14 Dollrs p piece suppose One Hundred Bolts:

Meeting adjourned to Fryday Evening. –

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

Constitutional Gazette, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1776

Newport, April 15.

Thursday last, towards night, the ship *Scarborough* of 20 guns, a transport ship of 200 tons, and 16 guns, a brig loaded with provisions, and a sloop loaded with salt, came into this bay, and anchored between Goat-Island and Connanicut. In the evening two row galleys, commanded by Captains

Grimes and Hyer, with a number of volunteers from the army on this island, took the brig and sloop; after which a battery at the North part of the town, a battery at Brenton's Point, and the gallies play'd so briskly upon the ships, that they were soon obliged to move out of the reach of the batteries, and went under Conanicut. Capt. Hyer, in one of the gallies, lay within musket shot of the *Scarborough*, firing upon her, while Grimes boarded and sent off the brig and sloop.

The *Scarborough* did the galley some damage in her hull and rigging, and the musketry from her tops wounded one of Capt. Hyer's people, which was all the injury received on the American side. This bold action, of taking two vessels close under the stern of a 20 gun ship, may possibly convince our enemies that the Yankees are not such dastards, as the Tories in this country have represented them.

There were 17 hands taken in the above vessels, who inform that the ships were from Georgia, the transport having on board 140 soldiers; that the *Scarborough* was commanded by Captain Barclay, and had on board James Wright, Governor of Georgia, his family, and some other Tories of that place: That the brig was from Philad[e]lphia, taken going into Georgia; that the sloop was from some of the islands, commanded by Capt. Gregory Cozzens of this place, and taken near Georgia; that they were bound to Boston, and had parted with several other prizes, one of which, a sloop, arrived here on Saturday, and anchored between the two ships.

Saturday night and yesterday morning a battery at Connanicut so disturbed the quiet of the *Scarborough*, the transport ship and the sloop, that they took advantage of a fair wind and pushed out to sea; but as they passed the mouth of the harbour, a battery on the east side near Castle Hill, hulled the *Scarborough* twice, and sent one 18 pounder through the sloop. The *Scarborough* returned a very heavy fire on both the batteries, without doing the least damage. Our bay is now free from pirates.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] April 15, 1776.

On the memorial of Messrs. D'Oraison, Gourrige & Co., granted them liberty to purchase some convenient vessel capable to carry forty horses and load the same with horses and stores for them, fifteen barrels of pork, thirty barrels of flour, forty barrels of beef, forty firkins of hog's fat, and the residue of the cargo in lumber, of staves, heading and hoops, and proceed with the same to Cape Francois; that they have liberty according to their own undertaking and engagement, to bring into this Colony as soon as may be every kind of military and naval stores, molasses, sugar, sulphur, blankets, linen, and any kind of coarse cloths. and the Governor is desired to grant them a permit accordingly.

Voted, That an order be drawn on the Pay-Table in favour of Capt. Robert Niles, for four hundred pounds for the use of the schooner *Spy*, and to render his account when required. *Order drawn April 15th, 1776, and sent by Mr. S. Gray.*

Nathll Backus and Benj. Huntington, Esqrs, are appointed to liquidate the schooner *Spy's* accounts, and make return as soon as may be.

To Seth Harding, Esqr. Captain of the armed brig *Defence* belonging to the Colony of Connecticut:

You are hereby ordered forthwith to inlist as many men as you can at N. London for the service, to compleat the complement of one hundred and twenty men.

You are further ordered on request of Admiral Hopkins, to join the American fleet under his command and proceed with him on a short cruise against our enemies, observing such orders as shall be given by the admiral, under the same regulations as the rest of the continental fleet during the time for which the admiral may make such cruise: always subject to the orders of the General Assembly of this Colony or the further orders of the Governor and Council of Safety.

A copy of the above was sent as orders to Capt. Harding April 15th, 1776, by the hands of Mr. Simeon Gray.

To Robert Niles, Captain of the armed schooner *Spy*:

You are hereby ordered on request of Admiral Hopkins, to join the American fleet under his command and proceed with him on a short cruise against our enemies, observing such orders as shall be given by the admiral, under the same regulations as the rest of the continental fleet during the time for which the admiral may make such cruise; always subject to the orders of the General Assembly or the further orders of the Governor and Council of Safety.

If the admiral has no occasion for your service, you will go on to pursue the orders you have already received.

The above order was sent by Mr. S. Gray April 15th, 1776.

Voted to furnish Capt. [John] Grinell, Thaddeus Burr, Esqr, Capt. Samll Broom, and Major David Dimon, of Fairfield, with five hundred pounds weight of powder, to set forth an armed vessel against the enemies of America. Said powder to be by them replaced or paid for in cash at the election of the General Assembly or the Governor and Council of Safety, in a-reasonable time.²

Voted, That Mr. David Brooks of Haddam be and he is hereby appointed Lieutenant of the row-galley under command of Capt. [Jehiel] Tinker.

Voted, That Col. Jedh Elderkin and Nathll Wales, junr, Esqrs, be and they are hereby appointed a committee to take care of and provide for the continental prisoners brought into this Colony by Admiral Hopkins and ordered to be kept in Windham county goal, and to order, direct and govern said prisoners in the most prudent manner they can until further orders from the Continental Congress, the General Assembly, or the Governor and Council of Safety.

Voted, That each of the row-gallies belonging to this Colony be pro-

vided with twenty lances and poles and twenty tommy-hocks or hatchets by the persons who furnish said gallies for service.

Voted, That Col. Elderkin and Nathl Wales junr, Esqrs, be a committee to take care of and provide for Governor [Montfort] Brown and Messrs. [Thomas] Irving and [James] Babbage, lately brought as prisoners from New Providence, and treat them with that humanity and kindness which is shewn to other continental prisoners of their rank or quality who are kept in this Colony.

Voted, That Prosper Wetmore, Esqr, sheriff of N. London county, forthwith transport to the town of Windham all the prisoners committed to him by order of Capt. Hezh Bissell and Mr. Jonathan Trumbull Junr, a committee appointed by his Honor the Governor and his Council of Safety to take care of the prisoners lately brought to New London by Admiral Hopkins, and that said sheriff deliver said prisoners in his custody at and within the county goal in Windham in the county of Windham to the sheriff of said Windham county. And said Sheriff of said Windham County is hereby ordered and directed to receive all said prisoners at the hands of the said N. London county sheriff, and them hold and keep in safe custody and confinement in said Windham county goal until further orders from the General Assembly or his Honor the Governor and his Council of Safety.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 261-63.

2. Probably the sloop *Broome*, William Nott, commander, commissioned July 2, 1776.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS¹

Sir

Lebanon 15th April 1776 -

On Representation from the Committee who were directed last Week to attend you respecting the Prisoners taken in your late Cruise &ca - that you would be glad to have our Armed Brigg *Defence* now in the Harbour of N London to attend & assist you in any further Operations you may think proper soon to Effect - We have considered your Desire & fully comply with the same - & have given Orders to Capt [Seth] Harding accordingly - Copy of which are enclosed -

Att same Time we render you our Thanks for your favourable Acceptance of our Request respecting the Cannon & Military Stores - I am in Behalf of the Governor & Council of Safety [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

P S Capt [Robert] Niles in the *Spy* is also ordered to attend your Directions provided you shall have any Occasion for his Services -

[Addressed] On the Service of the United Colonies

To the Honble Esek Hopkins Esqr Admiral of the Continental Fleet

On Board the Ship *Alfred*, now in the Harbour at New London

P Express Mr [Simeon] Gray -

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. ¹

Sir

Lebanon 15th April 1776.

Please to send an Inventory of the Cannon & their Sizes – with the places where landed for Use & of the Warlike Stores for them – Those for Mamacock must be mounted & you'll please to be preparing & getting in readiness Timber & Necesaries for that Purpose – & look out and employ Workmen that no Time be lost – There is one M Lol at Norwich is a Workman for the Business & who will come down for Employment he is tho't a proper person –

Please to send me an Account of the Powder you have lately received for the Colony – & for the Continent – & any other matters you may think proper – Mr Gray the Bearer will bring your answe[r] – I am sir [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

1. Shaw Mss., Force Transcripts, LC.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM HUNTER, R.N., TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN ¹

Wethersfield, Connecticut April 15th 1776.

If the Bearer of this Mr. [Silas] Deane should be taken by any of his Majesty's Cruiser's, I think it incumbent on me, to recommend him to any of the Officers of the said Cruiser's, for the Civilities received by Gentlemen of this Place since I have been a Prisoner, particularly his Brother Mr Barnabus Deane, and flatter myself should he fall into the hands of any of my Brother Officers that they will treat him with as much Politeness as the Gentlemen Prisoners here has received from his Friends

W^m HunterLate Commander of His Majesty's Brigg *Gaspee* taken Prisoner at St. Johns.1. "The Deane Papers," *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, XXIII, 19–20.COLONEL GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN TO REV. JOSEPH FISK ¹

[Extract]

Fairfield April 15th 1776.

. . . there being between 9 & 10,000 Men there [New York] beside our two Regts and the New York Militia. The Fortifications go on very fast, and I have no Doubt but that the Fortifications in & near that City will be in such a Condition by the End of this Week, that it will not only be impracticable for the Enemy to land An Army at the City but I think that even the Approach of Men of Warr within Gunshot of the City will be so hazardous to the Ships, that I dont think they will Dare attempt it; nor indeed do I think they would even now, for last Monday [April 8] a Person was sent over, on to the Governour's Island, to mark out the Ground for a Fortification; this is about a Mile from the City or near it and within Cannon Shott of the *Asia*, on seeing this she immediately hove up her Anchors, and fell down 2 or 3 Miles further untill she was out of the Reach of Cannon from the Island; at Night we sent over 1,000 Men & took Possession of the Island, hove up Lines & fortified it. . . .

1. Silliman Papers, YUL.

GUNNER JAMES THOMAS TO LIEUTENANT JOHN PAUL JONES¹

sir

as I have bin for Sum time Confined Very Justly for Ill Behaviour towards you and Am Very Sory I Should Ever to give any Gentleman Any Displeasure I hereby Ask Pardon if you Will Vouchsaife to Graint it I will for the Futer Endeavour to Avoid Giving any Ofence to you or Any Officer Ship *Alfred* Apr 15 1776

James Thomas

To Lieutent Paul Jones

[Endorsed by Jones] *Alfred* April 15th 1776 New London letter from Mr Thomas the Gunner when under Confinement. Exd²

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6480, LC.

2. "Exd" probably indicated "Accepted" as Thomas continued as gunner until transferred to the *Columbus*, August 7, 1776.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

[Extract]

New York, April 15, 1776

Sir I am now to Inform you that on the 4th Instant I set out from Cambridge and arrived here on Saturday last [April 13]—I came through Providence, Norwich and New London in order to see and expedite the embarkation of the Troops—The third Brigade under the command of General Green [Nathanael Greene] was at New London when I left It, where there was a sufficient number of Transports to embark them, and most probably wou'd have arrived here before this, had It not been for a Severe Storm which happened the night they sailed which dispersed them, and I fear has done them some Injury. . . .

All the Ships of War besides the *Asia* moved out of this Harbour on Saturday, and the *Asia* yesterday, some of which are now below the Narrows and the rest gone to Sea.

Having received Information from hence before my departure from Cambridge that Thirty peices of Heavy Cannon were wanting essentially necessary for the defence of this place in addition to those already here, I took the liberty of applying to Adml Hopkins, whom I saw at New London, for that Number with the Mortars & Stores he brought from [New] Providence, a List of which he had Transmitted you. he told me that as many were wanting for the defence of Providence river & the Harbour at New London It was uncertain whether I cou'd have all I wanted, But that he wou'd send me all that could be spared.

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 587–89, NA.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-YORK, APRIL 15."¹

Since the arrival of the provincial troops the men of war here are not allowed provision nor water, and they, in their turn, are driving back all boats from the Jersies, and cutting off our supplies of provisions from thence . . . We are well supplied with Dutch goods, and soon shall with French; it is impossible the men of war can watch all our vessels, though they lie at the

Hook on purpose; we have so many creeks and harbours that they know nothing of, that they cannot ruin us.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 6 to June 8, 1776.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1776

New-York, April 15.

We hear his Majesty's Ships *Phoenix*, *Savage* and *Nautilus* now on this Station, will fall down to Sandy Hook this Day or To-morrow.

CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY TO CAPTAIN TIMOTHY SHALOR ¹

Sir/

Little Eggharbour April 15th 1776

You are hereby desired to take with you to Philadelphia and there deliver the prisoners which I have taken out of the Sloop *Edward*, and to supply them with sufficient meat Drink & Lodging during their journey to the place aforesaid, for which Mr Robt Morris will satisfy you, he or any of the Marine Committee at Philadelphia –

19 in No

John Barry ²

1. FDRL.

2. Journal of the Continental Congress, April 18, 1776 reads: "The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due . . . To Timothy Shalor, for expences in bringing prisoners from Egg Harbour, the sum of £14.1.1 – 37.5 dollars. *Ordered*, that the same be paid." Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 293.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, April 15, 1776

Resolved, That the Committee on fortifying ports, be Empowered to write in the name of the Congress to General Washington, and request him to send a proper person to examine such ports on the coast of New England as they shall direct, and report thereon.²

That the said committee be empowered to employ proper persons to examine the several ports and harbours on the coast between New York and Delaware bay, and between Delaware bay and Chesapeake, and to the southward.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to bring in a Resolution, whereby persons resident, having property in America, who assist any of the enemies of these United Colonies in the captures of vessels or goods, may be made liable to make good the damages to the sufferers:

The members chosen, Mr. [Carter] Braxton, Mr. [John] Jay, and Mr. [George] Wythe.

A petition from Moses Kirkland, a prisoner, was presented to Congress, and read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to the Committee on Prisoners.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 283–85.

2. Washington named Colonel Richard Gridley to view the works at Cape Ann, and Colonel Henry Knox to report on those at New London.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, 15th April 1776.

. . . The Marine Committee have assigned this evening for the appointment of officers for the ships but I shall get the appointment for your ship put off till I hear from you, I have wrote you several times on this subject and hope soon to have a long list and that it will contain something more than is necessary, that I may have a hand in the choice . . .

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety,

[Philadelphia] 15th April, 1776.

Capt. Pitt has permission from this Board to hire any Seamen Confined in Gaol by order of this Committee.

Upon application of Colo. Roberdeau for Pilots to carry down the Privateers' Sloops *Congress* & *Chance*.

Resolved, That a Pilot be allowed the Sloop *Congress*, provided the Captain of her will Promise and engage to go down the Cape May Channel and land his Pilot there.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 542.PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO COMMODORE ANDREW CALDWELL ¹

Sir,

[Philadelphia, April 15, 1776] ²

We are informed that the intention of this board has been misunderstood respecting the passage of such vessels as are not Sea Vessels by the Cheveau Du freze, which has occasioned the stoppage of divers small craft contrary to our said intention, this is therefore to inform you that we had only in intention to prevent Sea Vessels from going down unless they had a permit from this board, our reason for making this regulation, was an apprehension that a pilot might be induced to go down in some of them, contrary to our regulations, and thereby be exposed to the Men-of-War below, who might be with their assistance more easily got up to this city, of course you will conclude that it was not intended to interrupt any other Vessels from passing, you are therefore desired to allow them to pass without any delay according to former usage.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 717.

2. The date is approximated. The order referred to was passed by the Committee of Safety on April 4, 1776, and it probably took sometime for the misunderstanding, with its results, to come to the attention of the committee.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR DESERTERS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA GALLEY *Ranger* ¹

Philadelphia, April 15, 1776

RUNaway from the *Ranger* Armed Boat, James Montgomery, Esq; Commander, two Men, viz. John Vint, by Trade a Shoemaker, a tall well

made Man, stoops a little, very much pitted with the Smallpox, wears generally a blue Jacket, or a Great Coat of the same Colour, and very slow of speech, a Native of Ireland, about 5 feet 10 Inches High.

James Wilson, Trade unknown, a tall slender Man, about 5 feet 10 Inches high, wears a brown Coat, is smooth faced, and very pale, a Native of the North of Ireland. Whoever takes up either of them, and secures them, so that they may be brought on board the said Boat again, shall have Four Dollars reward.

James Montgomery

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, April 17, 1776.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK ¹

Remarks on Monday the 15 of April 1776

at 8 A M Sat Capt [John] Barrey pepel on Shoar at Cape May ²

9 A M wade & sailed up the River
the Latter part Rane

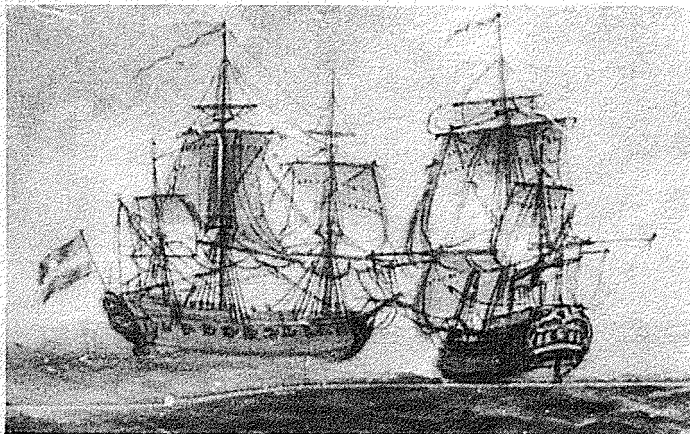
Latts Obs 39.08 No

Thick Rane Wathear

at 10 P M Came two at Chastar

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

2. The prize crew which had brought in H.M. Sloop *Edward*, taken by Barry in the *Lexington*.
April 7, 1776.



CAPTAIN THOMAS CONWAY'S ACCOUNT WITH THE PROVINCE OF MARYLAND¹

Dr The Province of Maryland In Account with Thomas Conway as Master of the Sloop <i>Molly</i>				Cr
1776		Va Curry	177[5]	Va Currency
April 15	To Wages for myself from 13th December 4 Months & 2 days a 130/ P Month	} 26..8..8	Decr 23d 1776	By Cash of J & Hooe. 9.12..-
	To ditto for Extra Service & risk		March 26	By Cash of ditto 2..-..-
	To Wages for Stephen Stiles from 2d Jan- uary to 15th Aprill as Mate a 4 £ p Month	} 13.14..8	April 8	By ditto of ditto 5..6..-
	To ditto for ditto's Pilotage		15	By ditto of ditto 57..5..4
	To ditto for Benedict Tarr from 20th } December to 15th Aprill a 60/ }	11.10..-		
	To 1 Months Wages to 3 Men that left the } Vessell in Martinicoe a 40/ }	7..4..-		
	To Wages for Jno Stoops from 22d De- } cember to 8th April at 30/ }	5..6..-		
		<u>£74..3..4</u>		<u>£74..3..4</u>
			E[rrors] E[xcepted] and Contents Rec'd	
			P Thomas Conway	

1. Revolutionary Papers, Box 1, Accounts, 1775-1776, Md. Arch.

JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Liberty Hall 15th Apl 1776

... I am now to acknowledge yours by post of the 24 March, which contain'd a confirmation of what had been before rumored about, that Boston was in our possession which I am very glad to hear, as at any rate the driving the British Army from a place, that they had been in possession for near two years, and had rendered us stronger the nature of its situation would admit of, must necessarily give the powers of Europe an high opinion of our Spirit, Strength, & Military abilities – what these vanquished troops may do next I know not, but am apprehensive that they will throughout the Colonys do every injury they can, to all such Towns, [Citi]es &c as are within reach of the Cannon of there [ships] as to their land forces, even if they are augmented to the full number that Administration expect, I donot see (provided America keeps firmly united) any great things that they can do, all the injury however they can do they will, for instead of any prospect of accomodation, such as America, would, or should consent to, it is plain to me that Great Britain would crush us to attoms if she were able, and if that is the case, I do not see what it is we should hesitate about I assess I could wish to hear that it was determined to set them at defiance and declair for a free Trade, which in all probability might ingage the powers of Europe to push for part of our trade, this might be productive of a quarrel, and furnish the British fleet with better employment then blocking up our harbours – ...

My House standing within point Blank Cannon Shott of the Shiping, I thought it advisable to remove my family and most valuable efects, we are now living in the House where Mr Ballentine formerly kept store Just below Nomony Ferry – (Baptized Liberty Hall) I am with much respect Dr Sir [&c.]

J. A. Washington

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM VIRGINIA, DATED APRIL 15." ¹

It is certain Mr. Archibald Govan's vessel, and a number of Scotch passengers, are stopped, and the property seized, chiefly consisting of specie, to the amount of fifty thousand pounds, which, if condemned, will be no bad first fruits of your resolution of reprisal. The vessel being Govan's, I suppose will be considered as American property, but the cash, I take for granted, was mostly collected for the principals in Scotland.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, May 1, 1776.SAMUEL JOHNSTON TO JOSEPH HEWES ¹

[Extract]

Halifax [North Carolina] 15 April 1776

Dear Sir Your Brother Delegates [William] Hooper and [John] Penn got here yesterday, I this day got your Letter but have only had time to glance it over. I am much disappointed in not seeing you here, We are going to

the devil [in a] hurry without knowing how to help ourselves, and tho many are sensible of this, yet they would rather go that way than to submit to the British Ministry – It seems a matter of uncertainty whether the French will join us or risque a quarrell with Great Britain on our Account could we keep our Ports open for Exports and procure supplies of Military Stores we would do great matters, otherwise we must inevitably fall thro, this however is a language I speak only to you and a few such

Our people are full of the idea of independance and are very busy in forming a Constitution but there are so many to consult on the Subject that it will be a strange piece of patchwork – it would be easy for one man to form a Constitution, but it requires great Judgment to adapt it to the Genius of the people

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAAH.

16 Apr.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir,

Chatham in Halifax Harbour 16th April 1776.

I am to inform you that I left Nantasket Road on the 27th March with the *Centurion*, *Lively*, and *Tryal* Armed Schooner, the Transports with the Troops and other Vessels; and that the whole Fleet arrived at this place on the 2d April; and I have much satisfaction in acquainting you that not the least accident or loss happened during the passage.

Captain Hamond of the *Roebuck* having by his Letter of the 3d March (an Extract of which I sent you with my last) acquainted me that the *Liverpool* and *Otter* were in want of sundry Stores, and short of Provisions, I have sent a Supply for them by the *Fowey*, and have Ordered Captain [George] Montagu to continue under the direction of Captain Hamond; I have also added the *Glasgow* to the Ships under his Command, so that with the Force he will now have, I hope he may be able to effect some, if not all the Services in the Delaware, pursuant to their Lordships directions. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldhham

[Endorsed] R-6 June

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir,

Chatham in Halifax Harbour 16th April 1776.

I am to inform you that His Majesty's Sloop *Viper* belonging to the Squadron under my Command which had been blown off the Coast and forced to bear away to the West Indies, arrived here yesterday from Antigua; and the *Hawke* Sloop having lost her Masts and forced to that Island by stress of Weather, Admiral Young has transmitted to me the Dispatches which were to have been brought out in her; but as Duplicates of those Or-

ders and letters have been already received and acknowledged, I omit particularizing them.

The Packets for several of the Southern Governors, as mentioned in Captain Cooper of the *Hawke's* Order, (a Schedule of which is therein inclosed) I have also received, and shall forward them by the first Opportunity.

Admiral Young having transmitted to me an Account of such Ships and Vessels as were destined to America, and had been driven to Antigua I have the pleasure to inform you that the *Layton*, *Killingsworth*, *Resolution*, and *Manners*, Victuallers are among the number, with several other Ships laden with Coals, Porter, Vegetables, &c. – The *Layton* is Arrived here with the *Viper*, and the others Admiral Young informed me would be ready to Sail from thence by the first of March, and would come under Convoy of the *Experiment*, which Ship has also been forced to Antigua.

I have the further pleasure of acquainting you, that the *Albion*, on board which Ship you inform me by your Letter of the 21st November were Vegetables for the use of the Fleet, is among those, of which I have received information from Admiral Young. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir,

Chatham in Halifax Harbour 16th April 1776.

I am to inform you that pursuant to their Lordships directions to me, I have Ordered the *Nautilus* to Bermuda for the protection of His Majesty's Stores on that Island. The *Saint-John* Armed Schooner has been for a considerable time at the Island of [New] Providence, but as I am informed by Lieutenant [William] Grant who Commands her, that she is very much out of repair and in want of Stores, I intend to relieve him as soon as it is in my power; But as the safeguard and protection of the Store Ships and Victuallers which are hourly and impatiently expected upon the Coast, is an object of so great importance, it is impossible for me at present to dispense with the want of any one of the few Cruizers I have for that purpose; and I must further add that the *Milford* is the only Ship which has joined me from England since this Command has devolved upon me, except the *Orpheus* which I found here, and not yet ready for Sea, so that I have not Ships to appropriate to the various Services that demand my attention. Captain [Francis] Banks in the *Renown* remains in Nantasket Road, and has the Command of the Cruizers in Boston Bay, to intercept and send to this place the Ships with the Supplies ordered to Boston, and which will consequently be ignorant of the removal of the Fleet and Army.

You having by your Letter of the 11th November communicated to me their Lordships desire that I should send a Reinforcement to Sir Peter Parker; in answer thereto I am to acquaint you, the *Experiment* which you mention, having been drove to the West Indies is not yet Arrived, but is daily expected, and I have left with Captain Banks Orders for her to proceed immediately on her Arrival upon that Service, and it is my intention agre-

able to their Lordship's recommendation, to send another Ship to him as soon as the Arrival of the Victuallers and Storeships will permit me to alter the present disposition of the Squadron.

Mr [George] Jackson by his Letter of the 8th January informing me of several American Armed Vessels Cruizing in the Bay of Canso, and one in the Gulph of St Lawrence, I have to acquaint you that I have not as yet been able to send a Ship to either of these places, but I intend the *Orpheus* for that Service, the moment she can be got ready, and I mean to send another as soon as it may be in my power.

Their Lordships will observe by the State and Condition of the several Ships sent herewith, how much short of Complement some of them are; and they will be pleased to consider the impossibility of Supplying in this Country the losses Sustained by Deaths and Desertion, the total cessation of commerce, rendering Press Warrants very ineffectual for that purpose. I am [&c.]

M: Shuldham.

[Endorsed] 16 Apl 1776 Halifax V.A. Shuldham R 6 June

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE BRIGANTINE *Juno* AND CARGO¹

Nova Scotia Court of
Vice Admiralty [Halifax] }

Tuesday } Court open'd as usual by makeing Proclamation –
April 16 } The Memorial & order return'd by the Marshall as on file

Proclamation made for all claimers as usual none appeard Information exhibited by James Monk Esqr Solicitor General now read as on file. Alexander Graeme Esqr Commander of his Majestys Ship the *King Fisher* being duly Sworn declares that on the twenty eighth day of February last he took the Brig *Juno* off[f] the Cape of Delaware Standing in for Philadelphia he took Possession of her that morning one of the men gave Information that there was Powder on Board and upon Searching afterwards he found 24 Hogsheads Salt Petre 12 Barrels of Sulphur, 20 Barrels Gun Powder, he carried the Vessel into Hampton Road

The Gun Powder he put on Board the *Roebuck* the Sulphur and Salt Petre he brought to Halifax and that he also brought the Master Captn [William] Keith and several of his hands and that the Papers produced by him were all the papers he found on Board the said Brig –
Papers filed No 1 to 3 –

Richard Roe Midshipman being duly sworn Confirms the above –

1. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769–1777, N.S. Arch. See also March 23, and May 3, 1776.

MAJOR DANIEL ILSLEY TO CAPTAIN JAMES PURINTON¹

Falmouth April 16th 1776

You are Dyrected forthwith to take Charge of the Boats Belonging to the Provence and See that they are in good Repair – You are Likewise to Ex-

amin all Vesels Coming into this harbour or Els where – Demand their Papers and make Report to the Comd officer You are Likewise to go without the Islands with your Boat when the weather will Permit and on the Discovery of any Vessel that you may in the Least Suspect to be an Enemy to make the Best of your way to the Comd officer and make Report of Such Discovery – you are Likewise to assist with your Boats Crew (wich will Be 5 in Number) in the movement of the Cannon at the upper Battery or Els where as Your Superior officer Shall Dyrect –

Your Crew to appear and attend Roll Call if not otherwais on Dutey Every Day that the Boats are not on Dutey – Your Self Excépted –

Daniel Ilsley Comdg officer

1. Daniel Ilsley Orderly Book, MeHS.

CONDEMNATION COSTS OF SHIP *Jenny*¹

Essex – Ipswich ss. April 16. 1776

Court erected to try and condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the Sea Coast of America and brought in either of the Counties of Suffolk, Middlesex, or Essex.

Proponants Costs in the Trial of the Ship *Jenny*
William Foster Master

Judge's Fees for receiving & filing the Libel	0..6..0
for notifying the Trial	0..8..0
for Expençe of notifying	0..3..1½
for 4 Warrants for Jurors	1..0..0
for Travel 15 miles	0..7..6
for Attendance	1..0..0
Constables for warning Town Meetings drawing Jurors, Sum[s] & returning Warrts }	0..2..7
Sheriff for Attendance	0..4..0
for ringg the Bell &c	0..0..10
Jury's Fees	3..7..6
Clerks Fees for Attendance 5/ for recording the Proceedings of Court 2/ for taxing Bill 5/ }	0.12..0
two Witnesses (Jere[h] Proctor, Saml Green) }	0..6..8
Travel 20 miles each	
	<hr/>
	7.18..2½
[page two] Brought over	7.18..2½
2 Witness[es] attendance one Day	5..4
	<hr/>
	8..3..9

Tax'd by Isaac Mansfield Clerk
a Copy examind by Isaac Mansfield Clerk

1. Bartlett Papers, BHS.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO THE SPEAKER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

Sir

Boston, April 16, 1776

As I am left in Boston with the command of the Continental troops In this Colony; I think it my duty to acquaint the Honorable house with my situation. Five Regiments are in this Colony, Two in Boston, one at Dorchester Heights, one at Charlestown, & one at Beverly. These Regiments were stationed by Genl Washingtons orders. In Boston there is not Seven hundred men fit for Duty, at Beverly not three hundred. I by no means think it prudent to take any men from Beverly, as all the prizes, taken from the Enemy, remain there, uncondemned, & considering near fifty of that regiment are on Board the Continental Privateers. The troops that marched to the Southward were hurried off, Chief of the cannon then fit for service, were ordered away, that we had not many if any Cannon in our most advanced posts to anoy the Enemy with, if we had been attacked. And the Stores scattered from Medford to Dorchester, the teams so drained off that we are not able to procure teams to move the Ordnance & Ordnance Stores, as I could wish. The harbour is now open to our Enemies, the men of War have it in their power to cannonade the town of Boston. If the Enemys should return, is it not possible for them to Carry the town of Boston, & the lines we have occupied for ten months, & scatter destruction in all the adjacent towns? Nay is not proba[b]le? If such should be the case they would get to themselves more honor, And more advantage than by vanquishing any other Colony in New England, and our disgrace & dishonour would be in proportion. I would not willingly Exaggerate matters; and fear when there was no occasion for fear, this matter has lain heavy on my mind ever since they evacuated the town. It appears to me Indispensibly necessary that the Channel should forthwith be stoped in whole or in part, so as to render it impossable to strangers with large ships. There is nothing to hinder the men of wars men from landing, in Braintree, Squantum or Dorchester in the night, & spreading destruction all around them & geting off without much difficulty, provided they know our state, & we have reason to fear that many among us would readily give them information of the same. I would by no means pretend to dictate to the Honorable house, I mention them with submission & with a mind full of anxiety, for the future well being of my Country. And am Sir [&c.]

Artemas Ward

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 347, NA Photocopy.

MAJOR BARACHIAH BASSETT TO THE COMMANDER OF THE CONTINENTAL
FORCES AT BOSTON¹

Sir

I have sent you under the Care of a Sergeant four prisoners taken aboard the Schooner *Valent*,² at Martha's Vineyard bound for Boston - Viz:

Edward Marsh, Master the Mate, & two passengers in the employment of the Ministerial Forces I am Sir [&c.]

Bar^h Bassett

Majr in the Provincial Forces

Martha's Vineyard – April 16th 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 349, NA Photocopy.
2. Actually the schooner *Violenti*, bound from Marblehead for Georgia, taken at sea February 1, 1776 by H.M.S. *Scarborough* and one of the prizes under convoy of that ship to Boston. On April 20, the prisoners, John Loring, Basil Cooper and David Lang were ordered to Concord jail. Mass. Arch., vol. 34.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO LIEUTENANT ELISHA HINMAN ¹

Ship *Alfred* at New London April 16, 1776

Sir You are to take Charge of the *Cabot* and proceed with her directly to Newport and land the ten Guns there to General [Henry] Babcock – but in case you cant get into Newport harbour then you are to go into the River Eastward of Rhode Island and land your Guns at Howlands Ferry and send an Express to Brigadier Babcock with it as soon as possible – if you cant get into either of the above ports go up to Providence and deliver the Guns to Governor Cooke Yours &c

E.H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

ALEXANDER McDUGALL TO JOHN JAY ¹

[Extract]

New York April 16th 1776

. . . We have two sloops and a peteauger armed on account of the Colony, ready to Saile on a Cruze. They have been detained for want of a regulation for the Seamen's pay. one of the sloops carries Six four Pounders, & the other four, of the best Guns of their Denominations I ever saw; and the largest Sloop is very well calculated for the Service. The Peteauger mounts Swivels on the Combing of the Hatches, as she is decked; carries about twenty men, Designed to scour in inland Navigation.

1. John Jay Papers, CUL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

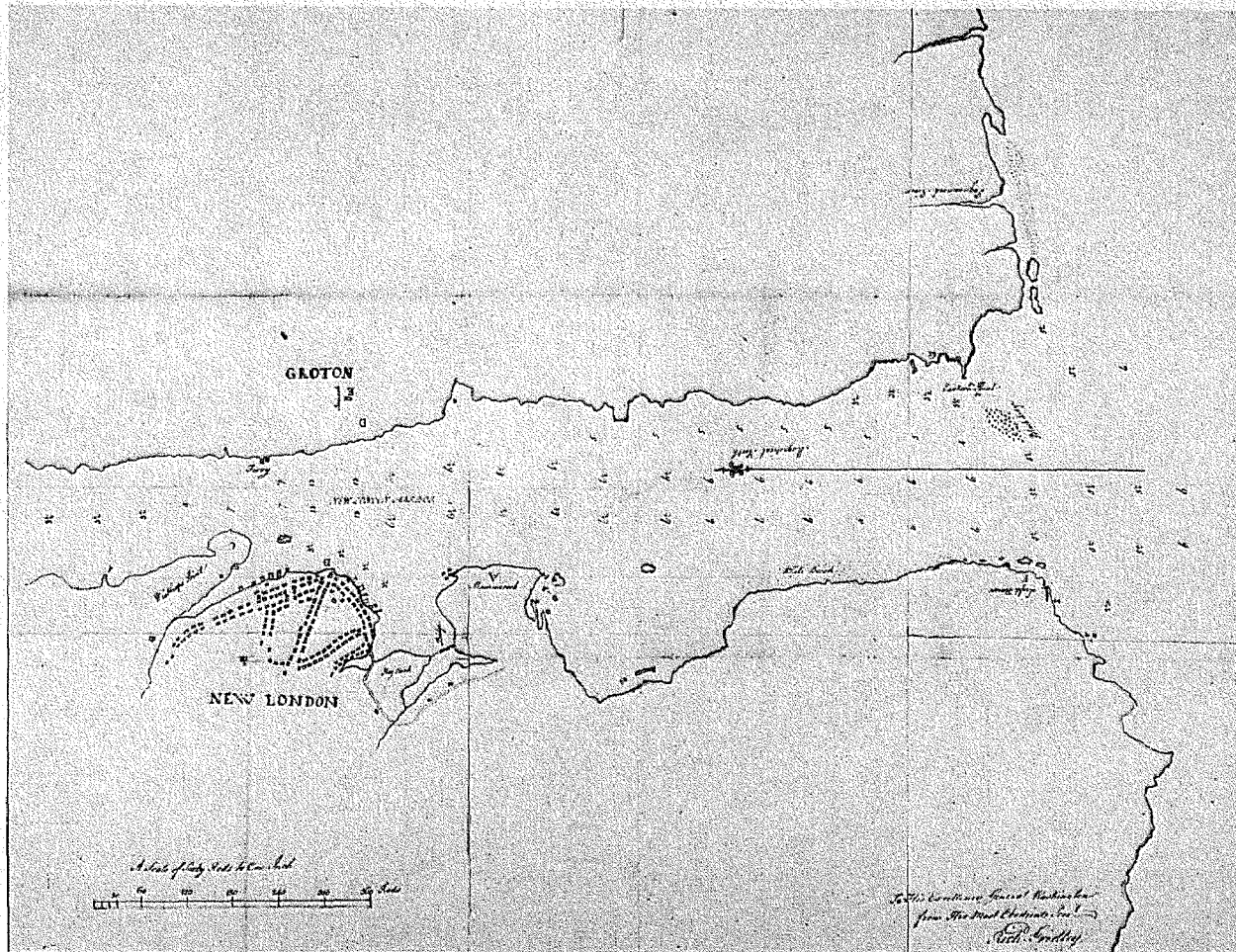
[Philadelphia] Tuesday, April 16, 1776

A letter from [Commodore] E. Hopkins, Commander of the fleet from New London, of the 9th, enclosing a list of the cannon and stores brought from [New] Providence;

A letter from the committee of Baltimore, of the 14th, enclosing copies of intercepted letters from the Secretary of State to governor Eden;

A letter from General [John] Thomas, of the 8th, being received were laid before Congress, and read.

Ordered, That the secretary publish an extract of Commander Hopkins letter.²



Manuscript chart of New London, Connecticut.

The Congress, taking into consideration the letter from the committee of Baltimore, and the papers enclosed, came to the following resolutions:

Whereas information has been this day laid before Congress, from which there is great reason to believe, that Robert Eden, Esqr governor of the colony of Maryland, has lately carried on a correspondence with the British ministry, highly dangerous to the liberties of America;

Resolved, therefore, That the council of safety of Maryland be earnestly requested, immediately to cause the person and papers of Governor Eden to be seized and secured, and such of the papers as relate to the American dispute, without delay, conveyed safely to Congress; and that copies of the intercepted letters from the Secretary of State, be enclosed to the said council of safety.

Resolved, That the council of safety of Maryland be requested to cause the person and papers of Alexander Ross to be immediately seized and secured, and that the papers be sent safely to Congress.

And to prevent the said Alexander Ross having any opportunity to escape,

Resolved, That the like request be made to the committees of observation for Baltimore and Frederic counties in Maryland, in one of which counties the said Alexander Ross probably now is.

Resolved, That the president write to Commodore Hopkins and direct him to send a complete list and state of the stores taken and brought from [New] Providence, with the sizes of the cannon &c. and, in case he should have left New London, that Governor Trumbull be desired to order a list of the stores left at New London by Commodore Hopkins, to be made out, and transmitted to Congress.

Resolved, That the cannon and such other of the stores as are not necessary for the fleet, be landed and left at New London, and that such of the cannon and wheels as Governor Trumbull shall direct, may be employed for the defence of that harbour, during the pleasure of the Congress.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 285, 286, 289.

2. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, April 17, 1776.

JOHN HANCOCK TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia April 16th 1776.

By the Letters of Lord Germaine to your Governour, Copies of which you have enclosed, it evidently appears, that Mr Eden has been carrying on a dangerous Correspondence with the Ministry of Great Britain, who seem desperately bent on the Destruction of America. The Congress therefore have come to a Resolution that the Person and Papers of Governour Eden be immediately seized, from which there is Reason to believe, we may not only learn, but probably defeat, the Designs of our Enemies.

The Congress also being informed, that there is one Alexander Ross in your Colony, who has lately been with Lord Dunmore, and is represented as a dangerous Partizan of the British Administration. him also the Congress

are desirous of apprehending, and for that Purpose, have passed a Resolution, which you have enclosed with the other.

The Congress, relying on your Zeal, confide that you will exert your best Endeavours in executing said Resolutions.

1. Red Book, I, Md. Arch.

JOHN HANCOCK TO THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

Gentlemen,

Philada April 16th 1776.

I received, & immediately communicated to Congress, your Letter of the 14th, with the important Papers enclosed. In Consequence of which, the Congress have resolved, that the Person and Papers of Governor Eden be immediately seized by the Committee of Safety, to whom I write by this Opportunity. The Person mentioned in the enclosed Resolution (Mr Alexander Ross) is represented as a dangerous Partizan of Administration, who has lately been with Lord Dunmore, and, it is suggested, is on his Way to the Indian Country to execute the execrable Designs of our Enemies. I have no Doubt, but you will exert your utmost Endeavours in seizing & securing him. I am with respect, Gentlemen [&c.]

John Hancock Presidt

[P.S.] You will please not to make public Mention of the Resolution respectg Govr Eden, untill the Come of Safety have executed it –

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS. Purviance, chairman of the Baltimore Committee, sent copies of the Congressional resolve to the Virginia Committee of Safety.

JOHN ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] April 16, 1776

You will learn the Exploits of our Fleet, before you get this. They have behaved as all our Forces behave by Sea and Land. Every day convinces us that our People are equal to every Service of War or Peace by Sea or Land.

You say the Sigh's for Independence are universal. You say too what I can scarcely believe, that *Moderation* and *Timidity* are at an End. How is this possible? Is *Cunning* at an End too – and *Reserve* – and *hinting* against a Measure that a Man dare not oppose directly or disapprove openly? Is *trimming* at an End too? and *Duplicity*? and *Hypocrisy*? If they are, I give you Joy, sir, of a group of Tyrants gone. But I have not yet Faith in all this. You deal in the Marvellous like a Traveller. As to the Sighs, what are they after? Independence? Have We not been independent these twelve Months, wanting Three days?

Have you seen the Privateering Resolves? Are not these Independence enough for my beloved Constituents? Have you seen the Resolves for opening our Ports to all Nations? Are these Independence enough? What more would you have? Why Methinks I hear you say, We want to compleat our Form and Plan of Government. Why don't you petition Congress then for Leave to establish such a Form as shall be most conducive to the

Happiness of the People? But you say, Why don't the Southern Colonies Seize upon the Government? That I can't answer – but by all We can learn they are about it, every where. We want a Confederation, you will say. True. This must be obtained. But we are united now, they say, and the Difference between Union and Confederation is only the same with that between an express and an implied Contract.

But We ought to form Alliances. With Whom? What Alliances? You don't mean to exchange British for French tyranny. No, You don't mean to ask the Protection of French Armies. No, we had better depend upon our own. We only Want commercial Treaties. Try the Experiment without them. But France and England will part the Continent between them. Perhaps so, but both will have good luck to get it.

But you will say what is your own opinion of these Things? I answer, I would not tell you all that I have said, and written, and done in this Business for a shilling, because Letters are now a days jumpd after. Why don't your Honours of the General Court, if you are so unanimous in this, give positive Instructions to your own Delegates, to promote Independency. Don't blame your Delegates untill they have disobeyed your Instructions in favour of Independency. The S[outhern] Colonies say your are afraid.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 227–28.

JOHN ADAMS TO JOSEPH WARD¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia April 16, 1776

Dear Sir, – Upon the receipt of your favor of the third of April, I showed your recommendation of Capt. [Gustavus] Fellows to several gentlemen; but it had been previously determined that Captain [John] Manley and Captain [Isaac] Cazneau should have the command of the two ships building in the Massachusetts.

It is a great work to fortify Boston harbour, and will require many men – But however, I am not sufficiently informed to judge of the propriety of this measure – if there is the least reason to expect that Howe's army will return to Boston, it was wrong to remove so many men so soon, but it is hard to believe that that army will very suddenly return to that place. The Militia of that Province are tremendous to the enemy, and well they may be, for I believe they don't know of such another.

Every motive of self-preservation, of honour, profit, and glory, call upon our people to fortify the harbour so as to be impregnable. It will make a rendezvous for men of war and privateers, and a mart of trade.

You seem to wish for independence. Do the resolves for privateering and opening the ports satisfy you, if not let me know what will? Will nothing do, but a positive declaration that we never will be reconciled upon any terms?

It requires time to bring the Colonies all of one mind but time will do it.

1. *Papers of Col. Joseph Ward, Force Transcripts*, LC.

ELBRIDGE GERRY TO JAMES WARREN ¹

Dr Sir

Philadelphia April 16th 1776

I have just Time to send You by the post a News Paper in which is inserted the Resolves of Congress for opening the American Ports to all Nations excepting such as are Subject to the King of Great Britain – ²

As it is a Matter of Importance that these Resolves should be published in all the papers & sent to every Part of Europe & the West Indies not inimical to the Colonies, I doubt not the Committees of Correspondence or other Suitable persons will be desired by the honle Court to attend to such a Measure & cause the same to [be] republished in foreign Papers – I hope by the next Post to send some Blank Commissions & Instructions for Letters of Marque & of Resolves of Congress relative thereto, they being now in the press I remain [&c.]

Elb Gerry

Hona James Warren Esqr or in his Absence William Cooper Esqr
[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives April 28th 1776
Read & committed to the Committee on the State of the Colony

Sent up for Concurrence

J Warren Spkr

In Council April 18th 1776
read & concurred

John Lowell Dpy Secy P T –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 324, NA Photocopy.

2. The resolutions of April 6, printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, April 10, 1776.

BENJAMIN MARSHALL & BROTHERS TO JEREMIAH WADSWORTH, HARTFORD ¹

[Extract]

Philada April 16th 1776

. . . There is a 40 Gun Ship now within our Capes with her tenders which have been troublesome, but as several Cruizers are now fitting out hope at least the Tenders will be taken. One of the *Liverpool* Tenders of 8 Carriage Guns & Swivels wt 35 Men was taken & sent in here by Capt [John] Barry in a fast Sailing Brig a few days past. – Thou desires to know the price of Flax, its seldom well dressed in Connecticut, but if thou Can gett such as is dress'd well, Neat & Clean it would fetch here from 15d a 16d p lb. should thou think proper to send any we will do the best we can for thy Interest We are [&c.]

Benjamin Marshall & Brothers

1. Jeremiah Wadsworth Papers, ConnHS.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

[Philadelphia] 16th April, 1776.

Resolved, That Jacob Hans be and he is hereby appointed Captain to one tier of Fire-Rafts.

Committees.

Committee for importing Powder, Arms &c.

Robert Morris,	Robert Whyte.
Tho's Wharton, jun'r,	

Fire Raft Committee.

Samuel Howell,	James Biddle.
Owen Biddle,	

Floating Battery Committee.

Samuel Howell,	George Clymer.
Robert Whyte,	

Ship Committee.

Mr. [John] Nixon,	Tho's Wharton, jun'r,
Robert Whyte,	Mr. Howell,
John Nixon [<i>sic</i>],	Mr. Clymer.

Cheveux-de-Frise Committee.

Robert Whyte,	Sam'l Morris, jun'r.
Owen Biddle,	

Committee for fitting out 4 Guard Boats
to Cruize at Cape May.

Mr. Nixon,	Mr. Whyte.
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Fort Island Committee.

George Clymer,	David Rittenhouse,
Owen Biddle,	Samuel Miles,

Barrack Committee – Fort Island.

Owen Biddle,	Dan'l Roberdeau.
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Armed Boat Committee

Robert Whyte,	John Nixon.
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Committee for further Defences.

Geo. Clymer,	S. Miles,
D. Rittenhouse,	Mr. [John] McNeill.
O. Biddle,	

Committee for fitting out two of the Armed Boats.

James Mease,	S'l Howell,
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Committee for building two Gallies for the Bay
Service.

Sam'l Howell,	Thomas Wharton, jun'r.
Owen Biddle,	

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen,

Lewistown, April the 16, 1776.

Before now I doubt not but you have heard of a small Brush that we had with the tender belonging to the *Roebuck*, on Esther Sunday [April 7] – the same day the ship took a small sloop and brought her into our Road, where she guted and turn'd her on Drift, it being thick and hazy wether, we could not tell where she drove. On Thursday [April 11] the wind being to the Westward, the ship hove up and stood out to sea, in quest of her tender as we suppose, for she has not been seen since Tuesday last; on Thursday night she anchored of about East from the light house, on Friday came [down under] Cape May. A ship which I take to belong to Sam Fisher and Andrew Bunner, (of your Place,) when the *Roebuck* hove up and stood over towards her and took her; the same Evening I saw from the light house five sail comeing down from under Cape May, which I took to be the *Hornet* and *Wasp*, and three New England Schooners, they all anchored there that night. On Saturday morning the Ship *Roebuck* came into our Road, with the other ship her Prize, and in a very short time man'd two of her boats, and sent them over towards Cape May, as I judged to cutt some of them vessels out, very luckily for them the ship hove out a signal for them to come aboard again, which they did, or they would have caut a Scotch Prize and be Damn'd to them. On Saturday Evening, the five sail under Cape May, made sail and stood out likewise, the *Roebuck* after them, and on Sunday afternoon the ship returned into our Road, after an unsuccessful Cruise, where she now lies, without her tender; some People to the South of our Cape, says that they saw her tender taken by a Sloop, some days agoe. I have rec'd some orders from you and from Capt. Richards & [Leeson] Simmons, which I shall strive to comply with. Having no more to add, I remain [&c.]

Henry Fisher.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st, IV, 732–33.ADVERTISEMENT FOR A DESERTER FROM THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

Baltimore, April 16th, 1776

Deserted from Ship *Defence*, Patrick Corbett, twenty-four years of age, fair complexion, five feet five inches high, has a scar on his left hand, by birth an Irishman. – Twenty Shillings reward if brought to the ship, or Messrs. Lux & Bowley.

1. *Dunlap's Maryland Gazette*, April 23, 1776.MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Tuesday 16th Ap[r]il P. M.

In consequence of Intercepted Letters received from the Commee of Safety in Virginia Copyes of which are hereafter inserted – the Commee of Safety appointed a Deputation of two of their body Messs Carroll and Hall and requested W. Paca Esqr to wait on the Governor with them and

desire a sight of his Letter of the 27th of August to Lord Dartmouth – and in case the same could not be procured to Ask his parole that he would not leave the province till the meeting of the Convention – The Gent report that they waited on his Excellency accordingly and desired a sight of the Letter, to which he answered that he had sent away the Copy of that Letter with all his papers of consequence last fall and could not remember the particulars, but observed we might be convinced there was nothing of a nature unfriendly to the peace of this province because the Troops going to the Southward were not ordered here – he asserted also upon his Honour that he had not endeavoured to enflame the Ministry by traducing the Characters of Individuals, some he had spoke well of, others he had recommended as sufferers – the Gent of the [Continental] Congress he had spoke of as acting in the Line of Moderation.

That they then Informd his Excellency they were Instructed to ask his Parole that he would not leave the province till the meeting of the Convention; the Governor complained of being unjustly Suspected gave them his Letters from Wm Eden Esqr his Brother one of the Under Secretaries of State – also from Lord Dartmouth – Copies of which he gave leave to take and are hereafter inserted – he desired time till Wednesday 12. O'Clock to give his Definitive Answer.²

1. Red Book, I, Md. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, Eden replied the next day: "I find it incumbent on me to tell you that I will not accord to it, nor can I, whilst I act, in any degree, as Governor of this Province, give my parole to walk about in it, a prisoner at large, . . . I shall persevere in my Line of Duty by what I think the Rule of Right, but not without some Chagrin at knowing myself unmeritedly the Object of Suspicion, altho' I have the Satisfaction to think that a considerable part of the most respectable persons in the Province entertain a very different Opinion of me, than is to be inferred from your proposed Arrest."

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

April 1776	St Martins So 105 Lgs
Monday 15	at 7 [A. M.] fired two 12 Prs Shottd to bring too a Sloop from Philadelphia wth Flour b[oun]d to the Spanish Islds in the West Indies wch we detain'd & sent a Mate & 5 Men on bd her Modte & fair Wr P M Sailmrs making a Mn Sail for the Prize out of an old lower studdg sl ½ past 3 brot too fir'd a 12 Pr a signl for the Convoy to come under our stern, at 6 spoke a sloop from [New] Providence to St Christophers –
Tuesday 16	A M at 6 Brot too bent the Mn sl on bd the Prize, at 8 parted Co with her ½ past Wore & made sl in Co 19 sl Modte Breezes & fair Wr P M at 5 fir'd one 12 Pr a signl for the Convoy to bear down under our Stern, at 6 in 1st reefs Topsls

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/331.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Argo*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM GARNIER ¹

April 1776 Moored in English Harbour Antigua.
 Tuesday 16 Delivered to the Ship *Enterprize* a transport, Geo. Silby
 Master, two Small Boxes, one Directed to Mr Willm Robinson,
 Tower Hill London with the Captains Books and Papers for
 the *Hind*, and the other to the Principal Officers and Commis-
 sioners of His Majestys Navy with the Compleat Muster Books
 for the *Argo* from the 22d of November 1775 to the 29 Feby
 1776 Inclusive as also a Letter to the Commissioners of the
 Victualling Office with the Quarterly Account of Provisions for
 Novr & Decr 75 and Jany 1776. - ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/19.

2. Ship journals rarely disclose the details with which various home departments of the Royal Navy were kept informed quarterly of personnel and supplies. The above is a rare example of the method used.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BARBADOES, APRIL 16." ¹

Yesterday the schooner *Granby*, of 10 carriage guns and 14 swivels, in the service of government, brought into this port three American sloops and a snow, all laden with corn, rice and flour; they were bound for Cape Francois.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 6 to June 8, 1776.

17 Apr.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir, *Chatham* in Halifax Harbour 17th April 1776.

I have the pleasure to acquaint you I have received information that the *Brownhall*, laden with Naval Stores, and destined to this place, is safe at Antigua, where she is said to have arrived the 13th of February last, and I hope this Ship may be ready to avail herself of the Convoy of the *Experiment*.

The arrival of that Ship will be a very seasonable Supply to us, although I fear by no means adequate to our wants; for I must beg their Lordships to consider, that added to the Demands from the numerous Squadron under my Command, I have many applications from the Transports for Pitch Tar and Sundry Articles of Naval Stores, which cannot be by any means Purchased in this Country; and as the good Condition of these Ships (which already amount to a very great number and must necessarily be more) is of the greatest consequence to His Majesty's Service, the method by which they may be Supplied deserves the most serious Consideration. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldhham

[Endorsed] 17 Apl 1776 Halifax V. A. Shuldhham R 6 June

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

TRIAL OF THE PRIZE SLOOP *Charming Polly* AND CARGO ¹

Nova Scotia Court of Vice Admiralty	}	Cause Commodore [Francis] Banks Commander of his Majestys Ship of War the <i>Renown</i> vs
-------------------------------------------	---	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The Sloop *Charming Polly* and Cargo.

Tuesday 16 April 1776	}	Libel fil'd & entred and Order made thereon as on file – Examination Orderd to be taken before the Register – Mr Richard Shruckburg Midshipman (appeared) of his Majesty's Ship <i>Renown</i> and Produc'd his Orders from Commodore Banks for bringing the Sloop <i>Charming Polly</i> to Halifax and declar'd that the said Sloop was taken by one Captn Dun Captain of a Transport Ship and deliver'd over by him to Commodore Banks – The Deposition of James Dunn Master of the of Sloop <i>Charming Polly</i> [corrected to read] transport ship <i>Pacific</i> taken as follows
Wednesday 17th April 1776	}	

James Dunn Master of the Transport Ship called the *Pacific* being duly Sworn declares that he took the Sloop *Charming Polly* off of Cape Cod the 4th of March last, that he found the Master had no Papers on Board and therefor he the said Dunn detain'd the said Sloop and deliver'd her up to Commodore Banks ²

James Dunn

Halifax, April 17th 1776

Sworn before me, Chas Morris junr Regr –

1. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769–1777, N.S. Arch. *Charming Polly* was declared a legal prize and awarded to Commodore Francis Banks and crew on May 4, 1776.
2. "Came in the *Pacific* Indiaman," extract from journal of H.M.S. *Renown*, March 5, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 51/776. The prize sloop *Charming Polly* had arrived in Nantasket road the day before.

JOSHUA ORNE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Marblehead April 17. 1776

May it Please your Honrs –

The Committe of Correspondence upon a ReExamination of the Prisoners, (taken by Capn Manly on board the Brig *Sally* bound to Hallifax) have made a Discovery of Joseph Wheaton & his Brother Caleb Wheatons Stealing & Carrg away a Fishing Boat in the night of the 28th Feby last, from Eleazer Ingalls of this Town, & then made their Escape to one of the Men of Warr Station'd here – An Acct of the Boats amount with stores &c, Will be forwarded by the Owner who also Attends to Wait your Honours

Determination respecting what Steps He shall pursue in the Recovery of his Intrest Again – We are with the Greatest Respect [&c.]

In behalf of the Committee

Joshua Orne Chairm[an]

P S Phineas Jones one of the Prisoners & who was also concerned in the above Theft Eloped the 10th Inst – notwithstanding he was under the Care of the Guards –

[Endorsed] In Council April 19th 1776 Read & orderd that Wm Sever, Jos. Garrish & Benja Chadbourn Esqrs be a Comtee to Examine sd prisoners & report thereon John Lowell Dpy Secy P T –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 313. Orne was chairman of the Marblehead Committee of Correspondence.

SILVANUS HUSSEY TO STEPHEN COLLINS ¹

Respected Kinsman

Lynn 4 mo. 17, 1776

Stephen Collins

After My Love To thee wife Nansey & famuly, theas may Inform that I this day Recd A Letter from Nantuckett which gave mee an acct of A Sloop I had Saled from their for Baltimore Seth Paddack Master, (the Sloops Name *Mayflower*) and that they have taking the Sloop priz'd & Sunk hur in the Channil with A Number more to Stop up the passage,² and I hear that Capt Paddack is Bount to Phelidelphia, I thaught I would trouble the[e] with an Order on him for money Putt into his hands £ 40 – LMoney to Purchase Flour for mee in Baltimore and as the Vessel is Sunk I Suppose the Capt Has the Money with him, and Likewise A Sum to the amount of £ 16 [2] Lawful Money which I Lett him have at Nantuckett he ows mee on Note of hand, all of which shal be glad [thou] would gett and if aney Opertunity this way thou will please to Lay out in Flour and Ship Mee, Prohabs Capt Had Purchased the Flour Before his Vessel was taking away from him in that Case thou will pleas To Send it this way or if No Opertunity To Sell it for the Most it will fetch, I heard Capt Paddack Recd the Freight Equal as though he Carried the Flour and was A Going to Leave it in John & Clemment Bittels³ hand Shall Be glad thou would ask them and acquannt mee if he has and How Mutch the Sum. I have Likewise Drawn an Order on A Blank person for the Amount of what the Above Vessel was priz'd at and thou will when the[e] Knows who is To Pay for the Vessel Putt his or their Names Down, and Receive the Mony and Send it to Mee By Land, if aney thing Else is Nessery in Order To Obtain the mony for the Vessel pleas To Let Mee Know as Soon as Thou Can. I Suppose Capt Paddack told the Committee who Prizd the Vessel who his owner was if so I Should think this Order would Be Sufficnt, Prohabs thou may hear of Capt Paddack By applying To Frankling⁴ as he is A Kinsman of his, I Should not have Troubled thee with this Busines Butt I Knew of no person So will acquainted as thy Self, of my acquaintance To Transackt Such A peace of Busines as it Requires Cor-respondance in Baltmore as I Suppose, and I thought thou would undertake

it if thou Dont make A Busines of Doing Busines on Commission – am
thy [&c.]

Sil^{us} Hussey

1. Record Group 45, NA.
2. Sunk along with a number of other vessels in March 1776, when it was feared the British sloop *Otter* intended to attack Baltimore.
3. The firm of John & Clement Biddle of Philadelphia.
4. Benjamin Franklin.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday April 17th 1776

Resolved That the Select men & Committee of Safety &c. for the Town of Truro, be and they hereby are directed to deliver to Capt James Holmes, late Master of the Ship *Friendship*, Stranded on the Shoar at Cape Cod the 29th day of Feby last, The remainder of his Private Property that is yet in the hands of the Said Selectmen and Committee of Safety of Said Town of Truro –

In the House of Representatives. The House made Choice of Simeon Sampson as Captain of the Armed Brigantine Building at Kingston for the Service of this Colony.

In Council Read & Concurred –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 764, 765, 769.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO CAPTAIN REMEMBRANCE SIMMONS ¹

Sir

Providence April 17, 1776

You being Master of the Sloop *Sally* and Ready for the Seas, My orders & Directions are that you Imbrace every Good Oppoty to Gain your Passage in the Most safest way you Can According to the best of Your Judgment, To St Croix & There Dispose of your Cargo to the Best Advantage & take a few hhds of the very best Sugar not to Exceed 10 hhds and fill up your Vessel with Good Rum, which you will Indeavour to purchase without Cask and put the same in your Own Casks wch you are to get Made Out of the White Oak Shaken hhds you have on bord and the remainder of your Cargo you Will lay out in $\frac{3}{4}$ Cannon & $\frac{1}{4}$ pistle Powder If to be had Cheep enough to Ansr wch you Will not Exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ pr 8 P lb – but expect it will be for much less if So you Will layout all the Money you have more than to purchas the Sugar & Rum as Aforesaid In Powder, and Small Arms, wch you are to pick up wherever you Can & May buy any part of a Gun locks or Barrels or any Parts You Can get, if Reasonable, If yu find the Island in Grait Want of any thing you have, you Must Demand Powder & arms for it – You must Take Grait Care to Imploy the very best of Coopers who will be Carefull to make your Cask Tight, If the Powder & arms is not to be had reasonabbly You have Liberty to lay out the remdr Your Money in Any Sorts of Goods wch you May think will Answer best – According to the best You Judge as Steel, Course Linnen, (but not fine Linen) Checks, Hanker-

chiefs, pins, paper, pepers, nutmegs, Cotton, Ravens Duck &c &c You are to be exceeding Cautious About getg home & fall in to the Back of Nantucket or Vinyard & after you get in to Some Safe Harbore to give Me Notice if you find you Cant Come with Safety into this Colony – Your Commissions for doing the Buisness is to be 5 pCt for Sales & 2½ for Returns, be sure to make no bad Debts, or leave none behind – Your Priveledge Out is to be 2m. of Hoops wch you are to take the Chance of with All on Deck as well as those in your hold & to loose a proportion as yours: Bears to the Whole if any loss & 8 hhd's of the Common size with Cargo [blurred.] If Anything Shod happen with you to Render you Incapapable of doing the Buisness Your Mate is to take the Command & follow these My Orders – If your Ves-sel wont Load with Rum & Sugar As Aforsd you'l take Some Smaller, as Beer Casks &c filled with Rum to fill up – Wishing a Good Voyage & safe Return, Am yr [&c.]

N Brown

[Endorsed] Recd a Copy the foregoing wch I promis [to] Observe & do my best to follow – Rembr^r Simmons

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

“MEANIFEST OF THE CARGO BROUGHT FROM HIGHSPANOLI IN THE SCOONER
Polly ISAAC BROWN MEARSTER – APRIL 17 – 1776”¹

20 Cask of Powder
10 Bags of Shot
14 Bolts of Duck About 650 Yards
20 Reame of Papor
3 Peacis of Coars Linnen
19 Guns
10 Pair Pistols
2 Sord & Cutlas
3 Dozens of Hankerchiefs

1. Maritime Papers, Manifests Import Cargos, R.I. Arch.

APPOINTMENT OF NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. AS AGENT FOR COMMODORE
ESEK HOPKINS¹

Know all Men by these Pressents that I Esek Hopkins (Commandr in Cheif of the Arm'd Vessells belonging to the United Colonies) do Constitute and Appoint Nathl Shaw Junr Mercht to be my Agent and in my Name and behalf to Appear in all Causes WhatsoEver and to have full Power to transact any Bussiness for me as though I were Pressent in this Port or Colony – New London April 17th 1776

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE¹

Sr/

New London April 17, 1776

In Closed you have a Copey of a Letter Recd this day from Genl Wasin-

ton I[n] Consequence of which I have Sent out this afternoon the *Cabot* with 10 ps of the heavey gons with orders to Land them at Newpot or Soome whare in your goverment the *fly* Came in this Evening and Saw Some of the Ships off Montoge poin at half past 3 oClock this after noon. I am Extremly Consernd for the Town of Newport make no Dought but you will take the most prudent steps for the public good.

P.S. Should be glad that the Commr. of the *Cabot*² should be assisted with Ballast or any thing else he may want – besides the 10 Cannon sent in the *Cabot* I have 16 more which I will send round as soon as I can with Safety.

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. Lieutenant Elisha Hinman; see Hopkins' orders to him, April 16, 1776.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY BABCOCK¹

Sir

New London April 17th, 1776

I this Moment receiv'd an Express from General Washington the Contents are inclosed – Have sent the *Cabot* with ten pieces of Cannon with Orders to deliver them to you as soon as possible – have given the Captain Orders to land them in Newport if possible – if not at Houlands Ferry – Your own prudence will Suggest what Steps may be necessary for the Public Safety. I am [&c.]

E.H.

To Henry Babcock Esqr

Brigd General & Commandr of the Troops on Rhode Island

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, A.M.

April 17th 1776.

Mr. William Mercier, (who is appointed to superintend the fitting out the armed sloop *Montgomerie*, whereof Wm. Rogers is commandant,) applied for an order on the store keeper for 6 pr. pistols, 200 lb. musket balls, 20 cartridge boxes, 600 lb. gunpowder. Mr. Mercier also applied for the sum of £200, to be applied towards defraying sundry expenses accrued in fitting out said sloop.

A draft of a Letter to His Excellency Genl. Washington was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

Sir – The Committee of Safety of this Colony, having been requested to apply to your Excellency to obtain a release of seven citizens now detained on board the ships *Phoenix* and *Asia*, as prisoners; they are well informed an exchange may be effected if your Excellency would be pleased to give the Committee the benefit of a number of your prisoners of equal rank. Should either of the ships depart with their prisoners on board, their respective families must labour under additional misfortunes. Some of them have been detained a long time. The Committee enclose a list of their

names; and beg leave to assure you, that they are, with the greatest esteem, [&c.]

His Excellency Genl. Washington.²

The names of the prisoners alluded to in the foregoing letter, are as follows, to wit: William Mount, master of a vessel; Robt. Johnson, mate; Wm. Berwick, pilot; Jacob Germaine, pilot; Charles Galatian, Wm. Dillon, boatmen; Wm. Bicker, hatter, - *Asia*.

Die Mercurii 4 ho. P.M.

April 17th, 1776.

Mr. [Comfort] Sands produced the following letters, which were read, in order to support his request for an order on the treasury for the sum of eleven hundred and fifty pounds, to pay for the sloop *Sally* and the schooner *Polly*.

St. Eustatia, March the 2d, 1776.

Sir - I am sorry to relate to you the sad misfortune that I have met with on the high seas. On the 10th day of February, in the lat. 23°09', long. 63°00, I met with the *Portland* ship of war of 50 guns. In spite of my endeavours, she brought me to, and took all my people and sent the sloop to Antego, with two officers and 5 men. I had the good fortune to save part of my money, which I have lodged in the hands of Samuel Cousens. I expect to sail in 6 or 7 days for New-York, in a fast sailing sloop belonging to Amboy. I have enclosed a bill on Mr. Curson & Seaton, and do intend to bring a copy of the same myself.

Sir, I still remain, yours,

Wilkie Dodge.

A letter from Matthew Van Alstyne, to his brother Abraham Van Alstyne, of this city, merchant, dated St. Eustatia, Feby. 24th, 1776, of which the following is an extract:

I am sorry to inform you of my misfortune of being taken by the *Pamone* frigate. I had been at Martinico, and going to Guardeloop. I was becalmed under the land when he took me.

Also another letter, from Capt. Mathew Van Alstyne, to Abraham Van Alstyne, dated St. Eustatia, Feby. 4th, 1776.

I am going to St. Christopher's, to take charge of Capt. Sanders' brig, rather than come home, for the sea is full of all kinds of cruizers. There is not one vessel in ten that escapes, going or coming. On my arrival here I wrote up to my friends at St. Christopher's, and related my misfortune of being taken.

Ordered, That Peter Van Brugh Livingston, Esqr. as Treasurer of the Provincial Congress of this Colony, pay to Mr. Comfort Sands six hundred and fifty pounds for the sloop *Sally*, whereof Wilkie Dodge was late master. And the further sum of five hundred pounds for the schooner *Pol-*

ly, Mathew Van Alstyne, master, which was insured at that price by Sands, on account of this Colony.

Edward Tylee [Tilley] being examined saith, that he has been a prisoner on board the *Asia* seven months; that he was well treated by Capt. [George] Vandeput during the whole time, and that upon the whole, he did not receive any ill treatment from any of the ship's company. This examinant farther saith, that Lord Rosehill informed this examinant just before he came from on board the *Asia*, that he, Lord Rosehill, had given the information to Captain Vandeput by the way of Amboy, which occasioned his being taken prisoner. This examinant being examined relative to the *Asia's* firing on the city, said that he was not on board at the time, but was informed after being on board, that Captain Vandeput gave orders for the first firing, but that he, Capt. Vandeput, went down between decks to stop the 2d firing; that the next morning, the 1st lieutenant, Mr. Galbreath, had loaded an 18 pounder with grape shot to fire on the inhabitants; that Capt. Vandeput jumped out of his cabin in his shirt to prevent it.

This examinant further saith, that one John Noble of this city, came continually on board the *Asia* with intelligence from this city; that he has frequently heard him give intelligence on board, particularly relative to the troops taking possession of Bedlow's island; that he, the examinant, heard Noble say, he managed and brought about the escape of Capt. Harris, when he, said Noble, was on guard; that the said Noble the week before last brought on board 3 rifle guns; that Lawrence Hartwick was another person who continually brought intelligence; that he was one of the persons who attempted to set fire to the furnace with combustibles made on board the ship *Asia* and gave the information which caused the two boats with iron to be seized; that with respect to the supply of fresh provisions they used to have it brought on board by many persons who he did not know; they refused to take Continental money for it; that a blockmaker, a tall man with a snuff-coloured coat, brown hair, who said he was a committee man, came on board twice some time in the month of November, to the best of his knowledge, in company with on Lawce. Hartwicke; that this examinant gave Hartwicke a letter to carry for him to Nathl. Tylee in New-York, and that in the presence of the said blockmaker; that the said blockmaker told this examinant, "You know you and I are not of the same way of thinking;" that the said blockmaker and Hardwicke broke the said letter open and showed the same to Captain Vandeput, as Captain Vandeput informed this examinant, upon which this examinant was more closely confined, and suffered considerably thereby.

This examinant further saith, that Mr. Bogert, the butcher, one or two nights before the ship *Lady Gage* was cut out, was on board the *Asia*; that two or three nights after the cutting out of the said ship, the said Bogert was on board again, and was invited by the gentlemen of the gun-room to go down with them in the gun-room; that this examinant was in the gun-room; that this examinant heard Bogert say, that when he, Bogert, was coming from Bedlow's island, he saw Mr. Nixen put off from alongside the *Asia*, and

that he, Bogert, lay down in the boat and let a sailor set upon him to prevent Nixcen's seeing him; that the officers in the gun-room on informing Bogert of the expedition in cutting out the *Lady Gage*, and laughing very heartily about it, one of the officers said to Bogert, "We told you of our going upon that expedition the other night;" that Bogert answered, "Yes, you did, but I did not want to hear it;" That one Nicolls, of Connecticut, a friend of this examinant, gave Bogert 16s. to purchase necessaries with for this examinant; that Bogert brought him off 2 gallons of rum, and the remainder of the money he kept for near three months, though often solicited to bring him some necessaries for the remainder, which he never did, till a friend of this deponent came on board to see him, and who he gave an order on Mr. Bogert to receive it and send him some necessaries, which he accordingly did.

James Smith, captain of the armed sloop called the *General Schuyler*, and Colo. Alexander McDougall, of the city of New-York, executed their joint and several bond to the Honourable John Hancock, President of the Congress of the United Colonies, in the sum of five thousand dollars, with condition thereto that the said James Smith, commander of the said sloop shall not exceed or transgress the powers and authorities which shall be contained in his commission as commander of the said sloop, but shall in all things observe and conduct himself, and govern his crew, by and according to the same, and certain instructions therewith to be delivered, and such other instructions as may hereafter be given him; and shall make reparation for all damages sustained by any misconduct or unwarrantable proceedings of himself, or the officers or crew of the said sloop.

Thereupon a commission was filled up and delivered to the said James Smith, as commander of the said sloop, and his instructions were also delivered to him.

Thomas Cregier, commander of the armed schooner *Gen. Putnam*, and Thomas Randall of the city of New-York, duly executed a similar joint and several bond to John Hancock, Esqr. President as aforesaid, in the sum of five thousand dollars, with a similar condition thereto as to the conduct and behaviour of the said Thomas Cregier, and his officers and crew.

Thereupon a commission was filled up and delivered to the said Thomas Cregier, as commander of the said armed schooner *General Putnam*, and a set of instructions delivered to him.

Capt. William Rogers, commander of the armed sloop *Montgomerie*, and Joseph Hallett of the city of New-York, duly executed a similar joint and several bond to John Hancock Esqr. President as aforesaid, in the sum of five thousand dollars, with a condition thereto for the good conduct and behaviour of the said Wm. Rogers, as commander of the said armed sloop *Montgomerie*, and of his officers and crew, in terms similar to the condition of the bond of the said James Smith and Alexr. McDougall.

Thereupon a commission was filled up and delivered to the said Wm. Rogers, as commander of the said armed sloop *Montgomerie*, and a set of instructions delivered to him.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 408, 409, 410, 411.

2. The original letter, signed by William Paulding as chairman of the committee, is in the Washington Papers, LC.

BILL OF SALE OF THE SCHOONER *General Putnam* [*Betsey*]
TO THE PROVINCE OF NEW YORK ¹

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Know Ye, that I Paul Mersereau of Staten Island, owner of the good perreage or Vessel, called The *Betsey* of the Burthen of Twenty seven Tons, or thereabouts, for and in Consideration of the Sum of Two Hundred & forty five pounds Current Money of the Province of New York paid, before the Sealing and Delivery of these Presents, by Mr. Thomas Randal, of the City New York Merchant the Receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, and therewith fully satisfied, contented and paid: Have Granted, Bargained and Sold, and by these Presents do Grant, Bargain and Sell, unto the said Thomas Randall for the use of the province of New York or their Executors Administrators and Assigns, all & every part of the said good Perreauger or Vessel, called The *Betsey*, together with the Mast, Sails & Anchors & cables and all other Necessaries thereto appertaining and belonging. To Have and to Hold the said Perrauger and Appurtenances, thereunto belonging, Unto me the said Paul Mersereau or to my Executors, Administrators and Assigns, to the sole and only proper Use, Benefit and Behoof of the said Thomas Randall in trust for the province of New York or their Executors, Administrators and Assigns, forever. And I the said Paul Mersereau have and by these Presents, do Promise, Covenant and agree for myself my Heirs, Executors and Administrators, to and with the said Thomas Randal, for the use of the province of New York of their Heirs, Executors and Administrators, to Warrant and Defend the said Thomas Randal and all other the before-mentioned Appurtenances, for and during the full Term of one Year and a Day, according to the Laws and Customs of Oleron in such Cases made and provided (Fire, Enemies, Restraint of Princes, Perils and Dangers of the Seas, only excepted) In Testimony whereof the said Paul Mersereau has hereunto set his Hand and Seal this Seventeenth Day of April in the Seventeenth Year of his Majesty's Reign, Annoque Domini, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six

Sealed and Delivered
in the Presence of Hugh Duncan.

Paul Mersereau

[Endorsed] Bill of Sale of the Schooner *General Putnam* (*Betsey*) £ 245

1. Record Group 45, copy, NA, from original destroyed in the New York State Library fire, Albany, New York.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE COST OF THE SLOOP *Schuyler*, JAMES SMITH MASTER¹

1776

Januy 23.	Paid Col M'Dougal for the Sloop	£ 325. . . . -
Febry 26	Paid Capt James Smith his Accot. of Outfit	248. . . . 10
April 17	Paid do portledge bill &c &c	268. 12. . 6½
	Paid do do do	124. . 9. . 2
March 4	Paid do on Accot of Seamen's Wages	50.
12	Paid Chn Duyckink for Sails	17. 19. . -

[Endorsed]

Cost of Sloop *Schuyler*

Armed Vessels Continental

1. Record Group 45, copy, NA, from original destroyed in the New York State Library fire, Albany, New York.

DIARY OF SAMUEL RICHARDS¹

[April 10 to April 17, 1776]

on arriving at New London we found we had to wait for vessells to be procured to transport us to New York, we there waited five days, still enjoying the hospitality of the citizens, but the men drawing their own rations and cooking for themselves. I was hospitably entertained during our stay - at the house of a namesake.²

While at New London went on board Commodore Hopkins' ship, he having returned from his expedition to the Island of New Providence, where he siezed a considerable quantity of millitary stores belonging to the British. the powder taken was particularly needed.³ every thing about the ship appeared in a forlorn condition, having had no repairs since a running fight she sustained with a british ship on her way home; she having succeeded in capturing the ships tender.

the fifth day I went on board a sloop with about 100 of the regiment - on the commencement of a N. East storm and were driven rapidly on through the sound: in passing thro' Hurlgate, or as it is popularly called Hellgate - our vessell ran on *the middle rock*, an unpleasant and dangerous circumstance indeed. As the vessell ran on at high tide, when it ebbed she slid off without our sustaining any injury. On our arrival at New York we were at first cantoned in the empty houses of the citizens, many of them having left the city to be away from the ensuing scene.

1. *Captain, Richards' Diary*, 29-30.

2. Richards at that time was an ensign in the 22nd Continental Infantry.

3. The one item that Hopkins failed to get was powder.

SECRET INTELLIGENCE FROM NEW YORK CITY¹

[Extract]

New York April 17th 1776.

Secret Intelligence.

The two Privateers fitted out here, has not met with such good success as they expected, they cannot get Men to man them as yet - One that carries

Six 4 Pounders is to have 40 Men, and the other that carries Four, 4 Pounders is to have 30 or 35 Men –

NB. Since I wrote the fore part of the above, two Brigs and three Sloops, are coming down the Sound, with the remaining part of Washington's Army about 300 Men. It is a great pity that some method cannot be taken to stop the communication down the Sound to the Town; as it would certainly prevent the Rebels from receiving supplies but by Land.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosed in Shuldham to Stephens, May 20, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹.

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, April 17, 1776

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To John Avery, Junr for riding express from Commodore Hopkins and back, the sum of 40.7 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

Resolved, That the Marine Committee be instructed to recommend to the Congress, proper persons for commission officers for the frigates now building, and that the warrant officers be appointed by said committee; and that they fit the said frigates for the sea with all expedition:

That the Marine Committee recommend to Congress proper persons to be agents for prizes in the several colonies:

That a bounty of eight dollars be allowed by the public to the owner of every American vessel for every able seaman that he shall import into the United Colonies, over and above the number said vessel carried out; and that foreigners importing able seamen over and above the ship's company, and discharging them in the American ports, shall be entitled to the same bounty.

Resolved, That the nomination or appointment of captains or commanders of continental vessels shall not establish rank, which is to be settled by Congress before commissions are granted.

The Congress having proceeded to the election of captains for the two frigates building in Massachusetts bay,

The ballots being taken,

~~William~~ John Manly and Isaac Cazneau were elected captains of the two frigates now building in Massachusetts bay.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be empowered to give orders for the arming and manning abroad any of the ships or vessels employed in the importation of cargoes for the continental account; the expences and charges of such armaments to be paid by the said Committee; they receiving for the public service, on the arrival of every vessel, all the arms, ammunition, and stores.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be empowered to import cargoes of salt on the continental account, in such ships or vessels as they employ to carry outward cargoes, and are obliged to insure on their return.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to supply Mr.

[Thomas] Leaming with 200 lb. of powder, for the use of the militia of Cape May, he paying for the same.

Resolved, That the commanding officer at New York, be directed to order two companies of Colonel [Elias] Dayton's batallion to march to Cape May, there to remain till farther orders.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 289-91.

COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

We are appointed by the Congress a Committee to examine into and report to them the Properest Places for the Building Forts for the Protection of our Trade, our Cruisers, and their Prizes, and we have permission from them to request of you to send some Person in whose judgment you can confide to take an exact Plan of the Harbours of Cape Ann and New London, and the fortifications now erected at those Places, with the Number and Size of the Cannon in them, and give us his opinion what more is necessary to be done to put them in such a State of Defence as will answer the above purposes, with an estimate of the Expense, we also wish to be inform'd the Distance of each of those Ports from the Sea, what Difficulties attend the getting into, or out of them, or whether they may be easily block'd up by the Enemy, in short we would gladly be inform'd of every advantage and disadvantage attending them, and hope you will order as full a Report as possible.—

We congratulate you on your safe arrival at New-York and are [&c.]

Benj^a Harrison John Adams W^m Whipple

Philad: Aprl 17th 1776.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOHN HANCOCK TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir,

Philada April 17th 1776

Your Letter of the 9th of March [*sic* April], with the Enclosure, was duly received and laid before Congress; in whose Name, I beg Leave to congratulate you on the Success of your Expedition. Your Account of the Spirit and Bravery shown by the Men, affords them the greatest Satisfaction; and encourages them to expect similar Exertions of Courage on every future Occasion. Though it is to be regretted, that the *Glasgow* Man of War made her Escape, yet as it was not thro' any Misconduct, the Praise due to You and the other Officers, is undoubtedly the same.

I have it in Charge from Congress to direct, that you send a compleat List and State of the Stores taken and brought from [New] Providence with the Sizes &c and that the Cannon, and such other of the Stores as are not necessary for the Fleet, be landed and left at New London.

The following Extract of a Letter from Antigua, I hope will be of Service to you. With that View I send it.

Antigua, March 26th 1776. The third Division of Transports will leave Antigua in a few Days, it is said for New York, under Convoy of an old East India Ship, mounting 16 Guns. There will be six in Number.

Wishing you the greatest Success and Happiness, I am [&c.]

John Hancock Presidnt

1. Peck Mss., RIHS.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 17 April, 1776.

Richard Boger, Commander of an armed Vessel taken by Capt. Barry, and John Draper, another Officer of the said Vessel, being brought to this City as Prisoners, were agreed to be enlarged on their separately signing the following Parole, which they agreed to, and signed accordingly:

I, Richard Boger the 2nd, & John Draper, being Prisoners in the united American Colonies, and enlarged upon our Parole, do, upon the Honour of a Gentleman and officer, Promise that I will not go further than two Miles from Germantown, where I am ordered to reside, without leave of the Committee of Safety of the Province of Pennsylvania, or of the Continental Congress, and that we will not bear arms against the said Colonies, nor carry on any Political Correspondence whatever on the subject of the dispute between Great Britain and these Colonies, nor give any Intelligence to any Person whatever, relative to American affairs, so long as we remain a Prisoner.

Signed separately by
Rich'd Boger, & John Draper.

Resolved, That the Mariners taken Prisoners by Capt. Barry and brought to this City, be suffered to go at large, upon their promising not to bear arms against the American Colonies, and not to leave this City without the consent of this Committee, or of Mr. Allen Moore, who is appointed to take care of them; and that they will appear before the said Allen Moore once every day.

Upon application of Capt. Thomas Forrest for a sum of Money to purchase Cloathing for his Marine Company, By order of the Board, an order was drawn on John M. Nesbitt, Esq'r, for thirty pounds, in favour of said Forrest. for which he is to be accountable to said Nesbitt.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 545, 546.

MEMORANDUM BOOK OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

17th April, 1776. – List of Men taken by Capt. Barry & brought as Prisoners to this City, out of the Tender Sloop *Edward*, Capt. Boger:

John Johnston, Mid Shipman.

Isaac Burch,
William Fulton,
Seth Bowen,
Jacob Smith,
John Dayton,
John Palmer,
Richard Gibson,
John Doyle,
Thomas Phillips,
John Willson,

Owen Humphreys,
John Henderson,
Robert Oyston,
Thomas Dopson,
James Webb,
James Ogelby,
James Spencer,
Henry Kelley,
John Shad,
John Nesbitt.²

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 479.

2. A second and more complete list, undated, and with the heading "A list of the Sloop *Edward's* Crew," is in *ibid.*, 421, as follows:

Captain, Richard Bowdger,
John Dreaper, Mate.
John Johnston, Midshipman.
Isaac Burch,
William Fulton,
Seth Bowen,
Jacob Smith,
John Nesbit, left at
Capt. Temithy Shler's, sick.
John Deyton,
John Palmour,
Richard Gibson,
John Doyle,

Owen Eumphries;
John Hinderson,
Robert Oyston,
Thomas Dopson,
James Webb,
James Oglbey,
James Spencer,
Thomas Phillips, left at
Meg'r Rich'd Weicot's, sick.
Jno. Wilson, left at Meg'r
Rich'd Weicot's, sick,
Andrew Kelley, in the Sloop.
John Steed, in the Sloop.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK ¹

[Delaware River off Philadelphia]

[Remarks on] Wednesday the 17 of April 1776

Clear Wathear & plesent

Leused the Sails to Dry

Nothin more Remarkable these 24 hours²

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

2. This ends the journal, save for the date "Thursday the 18th of April 1776," with no further entries. On April 18 the Continental Congress elected William Hallock, the captain of the *Wasp*, to command the sloop *Hornet*, and Charles Alexander, of the Pennsylvania navy, to succeed him in the *Wasp*, Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 293.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JOSHUA BARNEY ¹

[April 7 to April 17, 1776]

arriving at Philad I was in manner the Commander, as the Captain immediately left the vessel, April 1776² a few weeks afterwards I embarked on board the Schr *Wasp* under the orders of Capt. Charles Alexander (a brave scotman) we were sent to convoy off our coast the vessel on board of which was Doctr Franklin [*sic* Silas Deane] going to Europe.³

1. Manuscript Autobiography, DARL.

2. Captain William Stone, of the Continental sloop *Hornet*.

3. Charles Alexander was not commissioned captain of the *Wasp* until April 18, 1776. The es-

cort of Silas Deane to sea was performed while the schooner was still under the command of William Hallock, and covered the period from April 9 to April 17, 1776. Hence, if Barney was on board the *Wasp* at that time, he must have entered almost immediately after the *Hornet* reached Philadelphia on April 7, 1776.

Pennsylvania Gazette, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1776

Philadelphia, April 17.

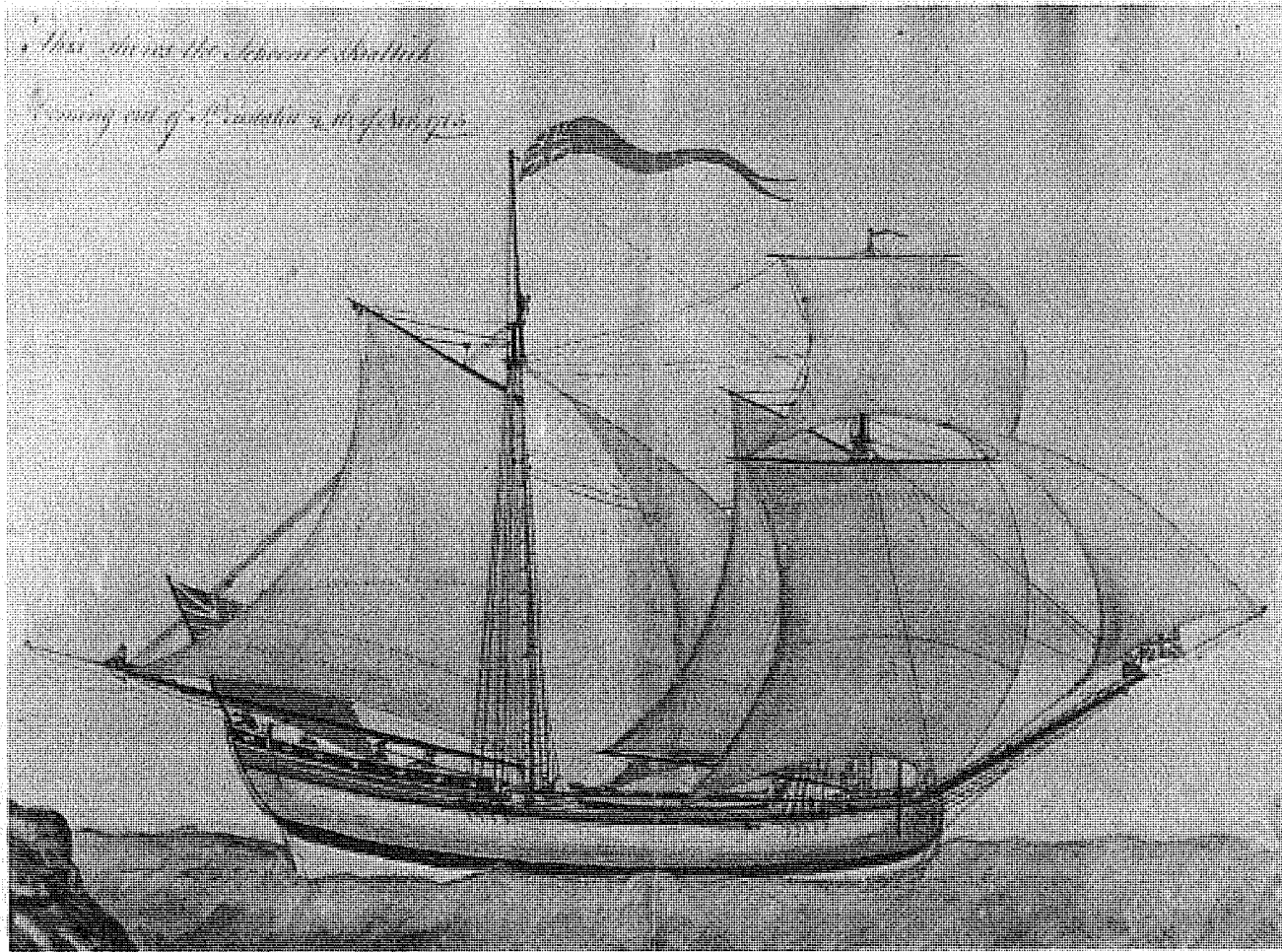
From Sussex County on Delaware we learn, that a small schooner, the property of Mr. Nehemiah Field, of Lewes Town, returning from St. Eustatia with some stores, and having information of the *Roebuck* man of war being in the road, came to anchor a few miles southward of the Light-house, and sent a messenger to Lewes, desiring assistance to discharge the cargo: A Company of Continental Troops (of the Delaware Battalion) stationed at Lewes, were immediately ordered to march to the assistance of the schooner; in the mean time the schooner perceiving the man of war's tender bearing down upon her, endeavoured to get into Indian River, but not effecting it, she run ashore near to Mr. Henry Fisher's pilot-boat (which some time since had been run ashore by the 3d Lieut. of the man of war and three hands, who were all taken prisoners) The company having arrived, got behind the vessels on shore, and waited for the tender, which when within 200 yards distance, fired a broadside; a hot fire from both sides ensued, which lasted near two hours, and the tender was finally obliged to sheer off without having effected her purpose, but on the contrary, with the loss of several men, as many were seen to fall. The cargoe was safely landed from the schooner and secured, without the loss of a man, either killed or wounded. The militia officers at Lewes behaved with that courage and magnanimity which does honour to their country.¹

1. See letter from commanding officer at Lewes, April 9, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM LEWESTOWN, DATED 17th INST. [APRIL 1776]"¹

Lewestown is at this time made up of officers and soldiers, and the people altogether seem determined to defend our little place. As for Tories there are none such among us. That infamous name is quite done away since danger comes so nigh us. The *Roebuck* still remains in our road all alone, and has, I believe, lost her tender; a few days ago some say they saw a sloop take her to the southward of our cape. We have between fifty and a hundred men on guard night and day at the light house, Arnold's, and the creek's mouth; and are determined to watch them closely. They have made application to fish on our beach, we would not let them, but desired them to go to Newfoundland for that purpose. If they should attempt to fish on the beach, we are determined to shew them Yankee play, as we did on Easter Sunday, when we were unloading Capt. [Nehemiah] Field. I do assure you that if you were here you would be pleased with the spirit of the people.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 20, 1776.



Schooner Baltick, of Salem, Massachusetts.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At an Especial Meeting of the Committee on Wednesday Evening 17th
April 1776 –Were Present

Samuel Purviance Junr Chairman

W. Buchanan	T. Harrison	J. Calhoun	J. Boyd –
B. Nicholson	T. T. Chase	J. Sterrett	G. Lux Secry

The Gentlemen of the Committee appointed to go to Annapolis returned and reported, that they had delivered the Packet to the Council of Safety, and also, as was directed, laid before them the Letters from Virginia, and that the Council of Safety had given them the following Copy of their Proceedings –

In Council of Safety Annapolis 17 April 1776

The Governor has given the Council Satisfaction from under his Hand, that he will not leave the Province till the Meeting of the Convention: And that he will use his Endeavours to promote the Peace thereof, while he stays –

(A Copy)

G. Duvall Clk

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Annapolis April 17, 1776]

Gent/ We have had an Alarm here of a very interesting Nature, we think it advisable to communicate the Intelligence by express, at the same time letting you know what we have done therein – and we are induced to expedite our dispatch because we do not know but that the Congress may have taken some steps in the same affair, Copies having been forwarded to them from the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County, to whom the whole Packett was transmitted by the Committee of Safety of Virginia, we think very improperly; as the Address ought to have been made in the first place to us.

Some time past Alexander Ross (a great Scoun[drel] we fear) applied to our board for a permit to Lord Dunmore under pretence of private business, getting some Money that was due to him as he alledged; he brought us a Letter from two Gent of the Congress Messrs [Robert] Alexander and [John] Rogers, which we doubt R.A. remembers. – We Refused to give him any other permitt than to the Comee of Safety of Virginia, thither he went we are told, but could get no permitt to Dunmore, he got a Letter tis said to the Commee of Hampton – they declined giving him any passport; he went to Lord Dunmore without any and on his way back was stopt by Capt [James] Barron, who took from him some Letters to Governor Eden and particularly a Circular Letter also a private Letter from Ld G. Germaine, which we take it for granted you have seen, some of the Commee of Balt Assuring us they forwarded Duplicates to the Congress. – on Receipt of those

Letters Monday afternoon we immediately gave orders to apprehend Ross – and the next Morning a Deputation from our board together with W. Paca Esqr then in Town waited on the Governor, showed him the Copies of the Intercepted Letters, and requested a sight of his Letter of the 27th of August to Lord Dartmouth, – the Governor declar'd to us that he had sent away the Copy of that Letter with all his other Papers of Consequence last fall, and could not remember the particulars but observed we might be convinced there was nothing of a nature unfriendly to the peace of this province, because the Troops going to the Southward were not ordered here. – he asserted also upon his honour that he had not endeavour'd to enflame the Ministry, by traducing the Character of Individuals, some he had spoke well of, others he had recommended as sufferers – the Gent of the Congress he had spoke of as acting within the Line of Moderation. –

The Deputation inform'd him they were instructed to ask his parole that he would not leave the province till the meeting of the Convention; he complain'd of being unjustly suspected gave us his Letter from Wm Eden Esqr his Brother one of the Under Secretarys also from Lord Dartmouth (Copies of which we had leave to take and herewith transmitt you) – he desired time till this day 12. o'Clock to give his definitive Answer – he has given it, and we send you a Copy thereof we look upon it as giving his parol in effect that he will not leave the province till the Convention, and will endeavour to promote the peace thereof; in the mean time. – he wishes to continue in that Line of conduct as long as he can consistent with his station, and will not leave the province, after the Convention, provided they will Assure him that when he finds he can no longer stay with peace and consistency, he may have leave to Depart and carry his effects – this we promised to recommend to our friends in Convention. – W. P. [Paca] agrees with us in Opinion that we may rest satisfyed with this answer and not call the Convention sooner than the 27th of May, unless some thing further should intervene. – You have probably heard that our Convention did not meet agreeable to their late adjournmt on friday Evening 26 Members who were collected agreed to Seperate and that G. Duvall should write a circular Letter informing the Delegates that the Members Assembled recommended the holding a Convention on the 27th of May – we inclose also a Copy of their Circular Letter.

The Indignity Offer'd our Board by the Commee of Safety in Virginia and the want of Confidence in the Balt. Commee to say nothing more harsh we cannot help complaining of – We know of no good cause for this insult in passing us by, nor can we conceive what Motives could induce such treatment. – We send you by Mr Green – who will hand you this – 1372:0.7 Currency in Gold for the Continental service. W. P. has delivered in this Money he brought for the Treasury. – be pleas'd to forward the Money plates by Mr Green if not already sent.

We are Gent with respect [&c.] p order. –

P.S. – the last Ton of Continental powder if not already sent to Chester we

would have orderd to Balto having already sent powder to the Eastern shore –

The Copies of the Governours Letters are sent in confidence and are not to be printed – Our Ansr to his Excy's Letter you shall receive by next Post.

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Wednesday 17 April 1776.

Permit was granted to William Jones, of the Sloop *Sally*, belonging to Mr Robert Cummins Victualler to the Troops, to pass and repass with Provisions to any Part of this Province.

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

WILLIAM HOOPER TO JOSEPH HEWES ¹

[Extract]

There are at Wilmington about 2700 men chiefly Militia & Minute Men. Governour Martin is near Brunswick with 35 Vessels great & small armed & unarmed. Clinton is with him expecting Cornwallis with 4000 men, With a few Musquets & those bad no cannon, little powder must we oppose them – but the spirit of this people is equal to any thing. If they fail be assured the victory of Britain will not be bloodless. The Congress must direct their particular attention to this Colony. Our Strength I am well assured is not equal to our Spirits, and dreadful would it be should we sink in the generous effort to preserve our Liberties. We must be immediately supplied with field pieces and other articles of defence, let the expense to the continent be what it will The negroes are deserting from the Sea Coast to Gov Martin, Three of mine were lately intercepted on their way and are now in Goal – They have burnt one House for me, and every hour I expect to hear that my property in Wilmington and at the Sound are in flames –

The people here are loud in their Clamors against Hopkins certain it is that with his two largest Ships, Martin, Clinton, [Lord William] Campbell the *Cruzer & Scorpion* the only vessels Martin had with him for a considerable time – 20 large Merchantmen 3000 Stand of Arms and all kinds of Ordnance Stores would have been easy prize to him, & this Colony saved the expense of 300,000 £ Where is he . . . When I was at Richmond your Vessel had not sailed, she was full with 200 Hds of Tobacco but from the Tenders being on the Watch would with difficulty escape

Halifax April 17 1776

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH typescript.

NARRATIVE OF SIR HENRY CLINTON ¹

[Cape Fear, March 13 – April 17, 1776]

There I Continued for above a Month, sometimes on Board, sometimes

on shore, casting an anxious Eye every day towards the Cape, in expectation of a signal for the Fleet, but neither that nor any vessel from the northward appeared, so that I had the mortification to see the sultry, unhealthy season approaching us with hasty strides, when all thoughts of military operations in the Carolinas must be given up: while my ignorance of the Commander in Chiefs Proceedings and intentions rendered me incapable of forming any Plan of junction or cooperation, & to add to our apprehensions not a fortnights Provision were left to either men of war or army.

1. Manuscript history of the Revolution by Sir Henry Clinton, CL.

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

April 1776

In Cape Fear River No Carolina

Tuesday 16

at 10 A M weigh'd at 11 Do came too in 3 fm Barnets Creek E N E old town house S W B S fired 6: 4 pounders and 4 swivels at the Rebbels who fired at us from the shore Fresh breezes and Clear Wr at 5 P M weigh'd and came to sail at 6 came too anchor off Newtons Ferry, the old town House W N W the Ferry House S E B E

Wednesday 17

at 2 AM came on Bd 4 Refugees who Escap'd from the Rebbels

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

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

April 1776.

Cape look out Shoal [North Carolina] N E. 2 Leagues.

Wednesy 17.

at 11 am Saw a Sail in the W S Wt gave Chace at Noon Brot her too the Schooner *Martha* from Bermudas Masters Name Joseph Brownlow Salt loaded Sent Lieutt and 3 Men on Board.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

EUROPEAN THEATRE

From February 1, 1776, to May 25, 1776

To London and the story goes
 A lot of them were wroth
 "Child in the great Pacific When
 Could round a Mexican dream at last
 With every Nation of twenty millions
 At present must be long to guide,
 Their doubts was dark for and wide
 What next a little would their pride
 But above all that they might find
 Was a fine house by all supplies,
 At Banzaria to collect
 Who laid such lay an egg of gold
 The made them grow commonly rich
 Gave them an execution that
 The last before to have more

They not content with their own
 Well should be the first and strong power
 To make the Harbinger Bird for them
 The Liberator purpose to obtain
 And sure that Liberty is common
 They bearing upon her Wings all men
 But that had no Effect at all
 Not made her stronger, flatter, nor
 And it what ever they would do
 To make her Liberty, or more
 When one of more distinguished King
 By a Liberator let us let her stand
 They did but not an hour was found
 The blood was pouring from the wound



THE WISE MEN of GOTHAM and their GOOSE

Published by H. W. Gray, New York, 1848

EUROPEAN THEATRE

From February 1, 1776, to May 25, 1776

SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

1 Feb.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE ¹

Sir,

Whitehall February 1st 1776

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Geo: Germain.

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

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

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

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

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

when we got home to England in the frigate *Taughter* [*Tartar*] our Captain patientiand to the Cort that his men ware willing to serve H. M. volontirily which was

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

Franklin Papers, XIII, 123, APS.

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

Public Advertiser, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1776

London [February 1].

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

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

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

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

2 Feb.

LORD NORTH TO GEORGE III ¹

[2 February, 1776.] ²

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

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

Friday mornng

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

GEORGE III TO LORD NORTH ¹

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

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

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

LORD NORTH TO GEORGE III ¹

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

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

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

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London 2 February 1776

News from the Ports.

Plymouth.

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

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

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

Portsmouth.

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

Deptford.

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

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

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

London, February 2.

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

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

3 Feb.

GEORGE III TO LORD NORTH¹

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

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

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

LORD SANDWICH TO GEORGE III ¹

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

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

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

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

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

Sandwich J Buller H Penton

By &c G Jackson D S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 384.

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

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

London, February 3.

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

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

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

4 Feb. (Sunday)

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Bristol Cove of Cork 4 Febr'y 1776

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

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

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

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

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

2. *Ibid.*, the report reads:

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

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

5 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN THOMAS FITZHERBERT,
H.M.S. *Raisnable*, PLYMOUTH¹

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

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

Sandwich J. Buller H. Penton

By &c. G. J. DS.

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

Adm'ty Office 5th Feby 1776

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

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

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

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

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

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

London, February 5.

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

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

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Bristol Cove of Cork 5h Febr'y 1776

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

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

P: Parker

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

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

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

2. *Ibid.*

MARQUIS DE GRIMALDI TO PRINCE MASSERANO ¹

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

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

The Prado, 5 February 1776.

Marquis de Grimaldi

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

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

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 6th February 1776

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

J. Buller Palmerston H. Palliser

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

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 6 February 1776

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

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

J. Buller Palmerton H. Palliser.

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

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir,

Admiralty Office 6 February 1776

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

Commissioned Officers

Non Commd Officers
& Privates

2

27 To go in the *Alborough*

1

18 in the *Martin* Sloop

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

Geo. Jackson

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

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

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir,

Admiralty Office 6th Feby 1776

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

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

Geo. Jackson D.S.

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

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 6th February 1776

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

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

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

Geo. Jackson D:S:

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

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

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

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

London, Feb. 6.

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

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

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

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

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

Public Advertiser, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1776

London [February 6].

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

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

1. Crew of the armed brig *Washington*.

MARQUIS DE GRIMALDI TO PRINCE MASSERANO¹

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

The Prado, 6 February 1776.

Marquis de Grimaldi

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

7 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN MAXIMILIAN JACOBS,
H.M.S. *Amazon*, CHATHAM¹

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

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

Given &c. 7th February 1776 ²

Sandwich Palmerston H. Palliser

By &c. G Jackson D S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 390.
2. These orders to ready "for Foreign Service" are typical of similar orders issued for many ships of the Royal Navy as Britain moved to bolster her strength afloat in the early months of 1776.

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

London, February 7.

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

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

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

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

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO COUNT DE GUINES ¹

[Extract]

Versaille 7 February 1776

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

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

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

8 Feb.

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

Transports
Amity's Desire
Munificence
Archer
Storeship
Betty

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

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

By &c G J DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 422.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH ¹

Sr [Admiralty Office] 8th Feby 1776.

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

Geo. Jackson DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 84.

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 Feb.

JOHN POWNALL TO SIR STANIER PORTEN ¹

Sir,

Whitehall, 9th February 1776

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

J. Pownall

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

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

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office. 9 February 1776

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

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

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

Sandwich J. Buller Palmerston

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

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London 9 February 1776

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

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

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

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

VICE ADMIRAL JOHN MONTAGU TO GEORGE JACKSON ¹

Sir

Wedley Feby: 9 1776

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

J: Montagu ²

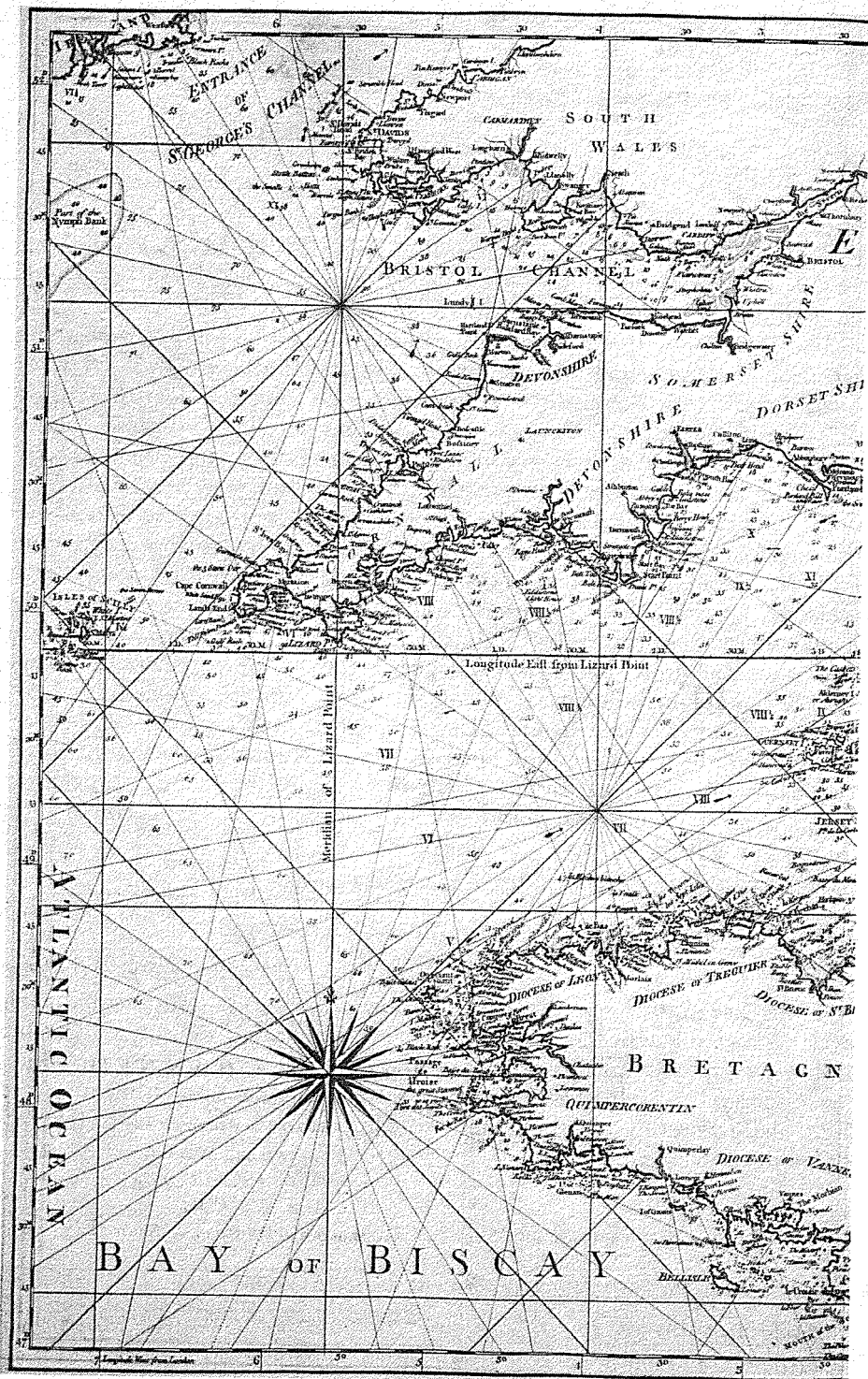
1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

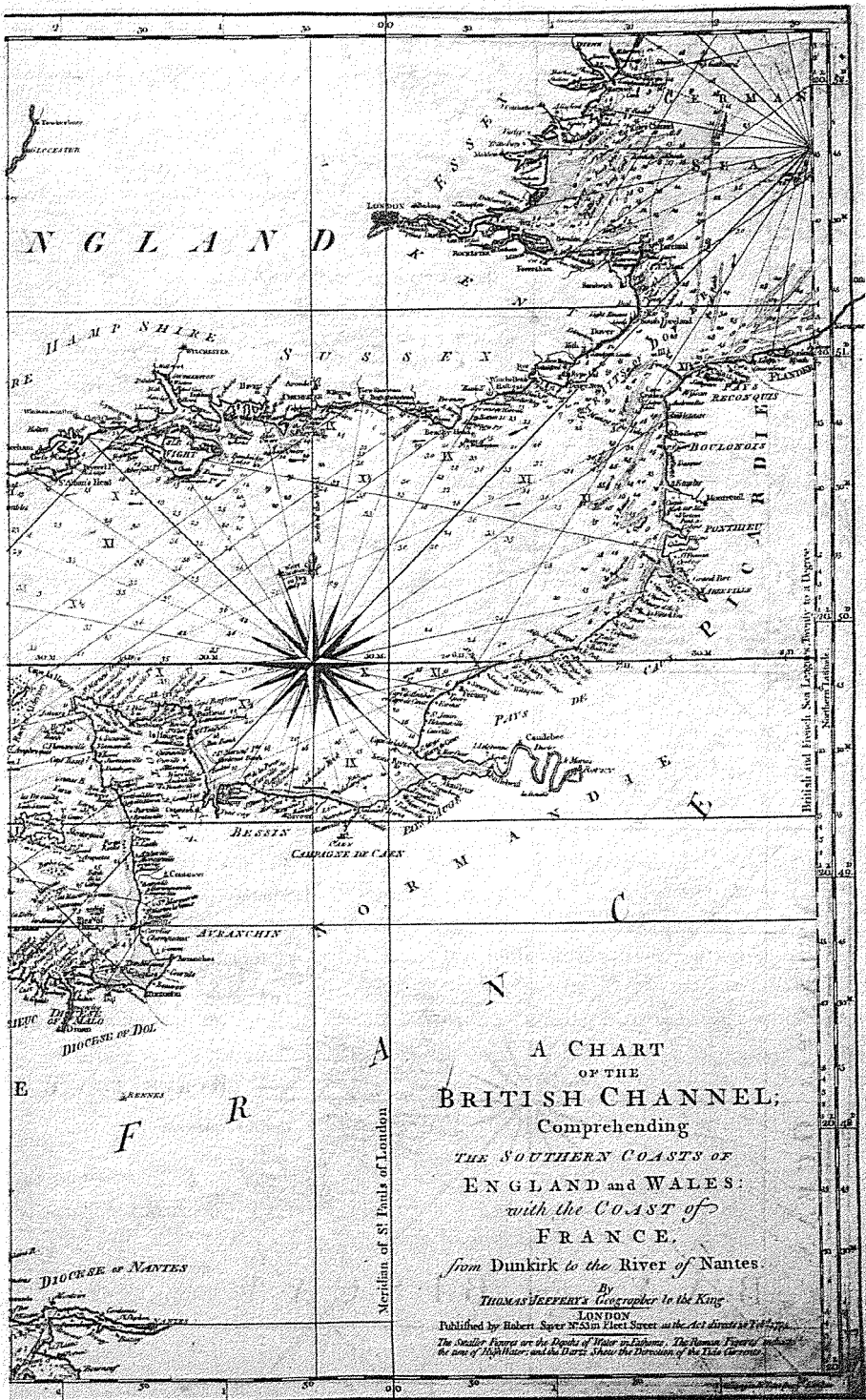
2. John Montagu not to be confused with John Montagu, Lord Sandwich.

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

London, February 9.

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





ENGLAND

HAMPSHIRE

SUSSEX

FRANCE

Meridian of St. Pauls of London

A CHART
 OF THE
BRITISH CHANNEL;
 Comprehending
 THE SOUTHERN COASTS OF
 ENGLAND and WALES;
 with the COAST of
 FRANCE.
 from Dunkirk to the River of Nantes.

By
THOMAS JEFFERYS, Geographer to the King
 LONDON
 Published by Robert Sayer N° 51 in Fleet Street as the Act directs in 1780.
*The Smaller Figures are the Depths of Water in Fathoms. The Roman Figures, and the
 the name of High Water; and the Dutch, show the Direction of the Tides Currents.*

British and French Sea Levellers, Truly to a Degree
 Northern Latitude

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

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

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

10 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

Admiralty Office 10th Febr'y 1776

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

Sandwich Palmerston H Palliser.

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

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 10th February 1776

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

Geo. Jackson D. S.

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

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 98.

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

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

1t

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

2d

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

3d

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

4th

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

5th

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

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

Given &c. the 10th Feby 1776. -

Lieut Patk Sinclair in Town

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G.J. DS.

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

12 Feb.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords,

Whitehall, 12th February 1776

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

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

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Bristol Cove of Cork 12th Feby 1776

Sir

at 6 o'Clock in the morning. –

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

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

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

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

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

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

LORD GRANTHAM TO LORD WEYMOUTH¹

No 5

[Madrid] 12th February 1776.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 Feb.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL¹

Sir,

Admty 13 Feby 1776

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

Geo. Jackson D S.

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

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

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

1st

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

2d

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

3d

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

4th

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

5th

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

6th

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

Given &c 13th Feby 1776

Sandwich

To Capt Michael Kearney in Town

J. Buller

By &c G Jackson D. S.

Palmerston

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

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

14 Feb.

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

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

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

Badger
Porcupine
Racehorse

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

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

Sandwich H. Penton H. Palliser

By &c GJ. D.S.

Complement of the Schooners to be purchased called the –

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

And the remainder to be Seamen

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

By &c P.S.

By the *Winchelsea*

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

By &c P.S.

By the Packet 4th June

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 409-10.

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

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

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

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



Captain James Cook, R.N.

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

Captn. Cook, *Resolution*, Deptford.

Sandwich

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

J. Buller

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

H. Palliser

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

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

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

LORD STORMONT TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹Most secret

No. 14/

Paris february 14, 1776

My Lord,

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

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

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

Stormont

Lord Viscount Weymouth

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

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

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

15 Feb.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON, JAMAICA ¹

[Extract]

[Admiralty Office] 15th Feby 1776

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

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

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

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

By the *Boreas*

Duplicate sent by the *Winchelsea*

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

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

London, February 15.

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

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

16 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 16th Feby 1776.

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

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

Sandwich Palmerston H. Palliser

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

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 16th Feby 1776.

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

Sandwich. Palmerston. H. Palliser.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sandwich J Buller Palmerston

By &c G. Jackson D.S.

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

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

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 16 February 1776.

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

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

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

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

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

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

London, February 16.

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

CAPTAIN JOHN TOONE TO PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE ORDNANCE BOARD ¹

Copy

On board the *Elizabeth*

Ordnance Storeship Cowes Feby 16: 1776

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

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

Jn^o Toone Master

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

17 Feb.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO GOVERNOR SIR GUY CARLETON ¹

Duplicate
Sir,

Whitehall, February 17, 1776

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Geo: Germain

1. BM, Additional Manuscript 21697, LC Photocopy.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON, JAMAICA ¹

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

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

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

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

Duplicate by the *Winchelsea*

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

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

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON, JAMAICA ¹

Sr [Admiralty Office] 17th Feby 1776

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

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

And my Lords having ordered the three Transports named in the Margin² to be fitted Victualled & supplied with necessaries proper for the Aforementioned Regiment And to proceed to Jamaica under Convoy of His Majts Ship the *Boreas*, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith And to signify their direction to you that after the Transport have got the Troops on board, You order them to proceed under proper Convoy to New York and disembark there or at such other port as shall be appointed, as many of the private Men as the Commr in Chief of His Majts Forces shall direct; And having so done you will order the Masters of the respective Transports to apply to Vice Adml Shuldham or the Commg Officer of his Majts Ships for such farther directions as he shall think fit to give for their return to Great Britain pursuant to His Majts intention with the Commissioned & Non Commissioned Officers & Invalids.

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

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

G. Jackson D S

By the *Boreas* Duplicate by the *Winchelsea*

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

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

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON, JAMAICA¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 17th Feby 1776

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

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

G Jackson D S

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

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

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

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 17th Febr'y 1776

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

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

G Jackson D S.

Vice Adml Gayton – Jamaica by the *Boreas*

Duplicate by the *Maidstone*

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

2. Commonly called *West Florida*.

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

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

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

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

Sandwich J Buller H. Penton H Palliser

By &c G J D S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 420.

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

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

London, February 17.

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

18 Feb. (Sunday)

JOHN BODDINGTON TO WILLIAM KNOX ¹

18 Feby 1776 –

Tower Sunday 5 oClock

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

John Boddington

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

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, FEB. 18." ¹

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

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

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

19 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 19th Feby 1776.

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

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

Sandwich Lisburne H. Penton

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

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG, ANTIGUA ¹

Sr.

[Admiralty Office] 19th Feby 1776

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

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

G Jackson D S.

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

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 138.

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

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG, ANTIGUA ¹

[Extract]

[Admiralty Office] 19th Feby 1776

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

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

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

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

Geo Jackson D S.

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

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 138-40.

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

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

Sandwich J Buller H. Penton

By &c. G J. DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 426-27.

20 Feb.

LORD SANDWICH TO GEORGE III ¹

Admiralty Feb: 20. 1776

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

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

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG, ANTIGUA ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 20th February 1776

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

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

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

Geo. Jackson D.S.

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

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

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG, ANTIGUA ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 20th February 1776

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

Geo. Jackson D. S.

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

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

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 151–52.

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

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[February 2 – February 20, 1776]

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

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

21 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 21st Febr 1776.

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

Sandwich. J Buller. Palmerstone.

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

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords,

Whitehall, 21st Febr 1776

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

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

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

Geo: Germain

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

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

London, February 21.

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

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

22 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

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

To Samuel Graves Esq.

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

By &c G. J. DS.

Sandwich

C Spencer

H. Palliser

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

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, FEB. 22.” ¹

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

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

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

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, FEB. 22.” ¹

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

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

23 Feb.

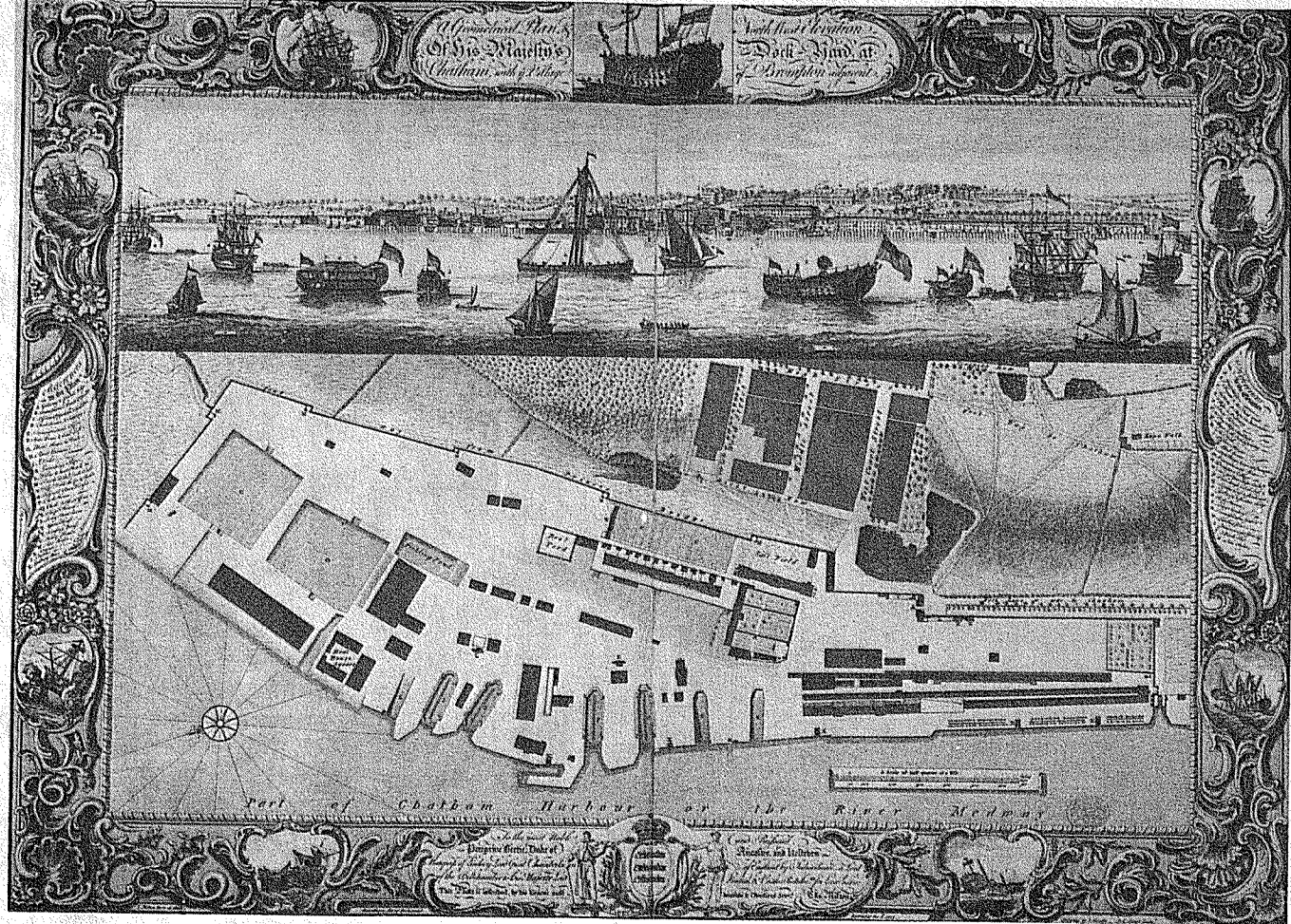
GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 23rd Feby 1776

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

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



Chatham Dockyard.

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

Geo. Jackson DS

By the *Greyhound* at Spithead

Duplicate sent 29 March To Mr [John] Pownall

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

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 23 February 1776

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO LOUIS XVI¹

[Extract]

[London, 23 February 1776]²

To the King only
Peace or War.

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

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

. . . Mr. L. (M. de Vergennes will tell his name to your Majesty), secret envoy³ of the Colonies in London, is completely discouraged by his useless efforts as he attempted through me to obtain in the form of powder and war ammunition from the French Ministry, and told me today: "For the last time, has France finally decided to refuse us any help and to become the victim of England and the laughing stock of Europe in her unbelievable torpor? . . . We offer to France, in exchange for her secret assistance, a secret trade agreement which will make her enjoy for a certain number of years following the peace all the riches that England has acquired from us for the past century, and in addition, a guarantee for her possessions depending on our strength. Don't you want this? . . ." ⁴

1. Henri Doniol, *Histoire de La Participation de La France à l'établissement des États-Unis d'Amérique* (Paris, 1886), I, 402-07.
2. Date approximated. This long and impassioned appeal is undated, but Doniol, *op. cit.*, 369, writes that it carried an endorsement in Beaumarchais' hand indicating delivery to Vergennes on February 29, 1776.
3. Arthur Lee, American agent in England, but not a "secret envoy."
4. Baron Albert de Dorlodot of Suarlée, Belgium, has done exhaustive and scholarly research in the documentation bearing on European assistance to the Americans. He questions the validity of this Beaumarchais letter and concludes that it was the Count de Lauraguais (see Lauraguais to Vergennes, February 24) who first conferred with Arthur Lee; and should be credited with bringing the American question forcibly before the King of France.

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

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

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

24 Feb.

JOHN POWNALL TO GEORGE III ¹

Secy of States Office.

24. Feby [1776] ½ pt 7. P.M.

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

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

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir,

Admty Office 24th Feby 1776.

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

George Jackson D.S.

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

COUNT DE LAURAGUAIS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

[London, February 24, 1776] ²

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

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

. . . The agent of the Colonies [Arthur Lee] told me³ he had intended to go to Versailles four months ago in order to make the same proposals that Congress had then made to the Spanish court through an envoy. . . .

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

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

H. KATENKAMP TO LORD WEYMOUTH¹

Corunna 24th Feby 1776.

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

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

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

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

25 Feb. (Sunday)

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

[Extract]

London 25 February 1776

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

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

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

26 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM¹

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

Sandwich H. Penton H. Palliser

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

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

Duplicate signed Sandwich J Buller Palmerston by the *Canceaux*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 437.

Public Advertiser, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1776

London [February 26].

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

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

London, February 26.

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

INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL SPANISH NAVAL COMMANDERS IN THE WEST INDIES ¹

At the Prado, 26 Feb. 1776

Instructions of the Spanish Court ²

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. AN, Marine B⁴, 134, LC Photocopy.

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

27 Feb.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords,

Whitehall 27th February 1776.

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

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

Geo: Germain

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

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

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

London, February 27.

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

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

LETTER FROM CHATHAM¹

Feb. 27.

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL JOHN MONTAGU¹

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

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

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

Sandwich Lisburne H Penton

By &c PS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 456.

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

29 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 29th Feby 1776.

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

Sandwich. J. Buller. H. Palliser.

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

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

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

By &c PS.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

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

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

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

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

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

1st

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

2d

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

3d

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

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

4th

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

Sandwich H Penton H Palliser

By &c PS.

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

5th

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

6th

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

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

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

[Extract]

[Admiralty Office] 29th Feby 1776

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

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

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

By the *Greyhound* at Spithead

Geo. Jackson DS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

London, February 29.

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

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

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

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

New York Packet, THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1776

London Feb. 29.

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

1 Mar.

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

House of Commons [March 1]

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

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

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

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 1 March 1776

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

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

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

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

London, March 1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL JOHN AMHERST¹

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

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

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

By &c PS. By Express

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 454.

3 Mar. (Sunday)

DIARY OF JOHN BRAGG OF WHITEHAVEN, ENGLAND¹

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

1. WPL.

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

[Extract]

[March 3, 1776]

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

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

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

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

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

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/232.

4 Mar.

DIARY OF THOMAS MOFFAT¹

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

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

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

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

London, March 4.

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

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

Public Advertiser, MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1776

London [March 4].

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

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

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

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, MARCH 4.”¹

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

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

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

5 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 5 March 1776.

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

J Buller Lisburne. H Penton.

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

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LIEUTENANT HENRY MOWAT,
H.M. ARMED VESSEL, *Canceaux*, SPITHEAD¹

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

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

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

J Buller Lisburne H Penton

By &c PS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 461.

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

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

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

London, March 5.

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

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

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

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

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

Public Advertiser, TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1776.

London [March 5].

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

New York Packet, THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1776

[London] March 5.

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

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

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

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

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

6 Mar.

DIARY OF JOHN BRAGG OF WHITEHAVEN, ENGLAND¹

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

1. WPL.

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

London, March 6.

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

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 1776

London [March 6].

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

7 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 7th March 1776.

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

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

Sandwich Lisburne. H. Palliser.

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

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO THE COMMISSIONERS FOR
VICTUALING ¹

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

J. Buller Palmerston H. Palliser

By &c. P.S

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

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

London, March 7.

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

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

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

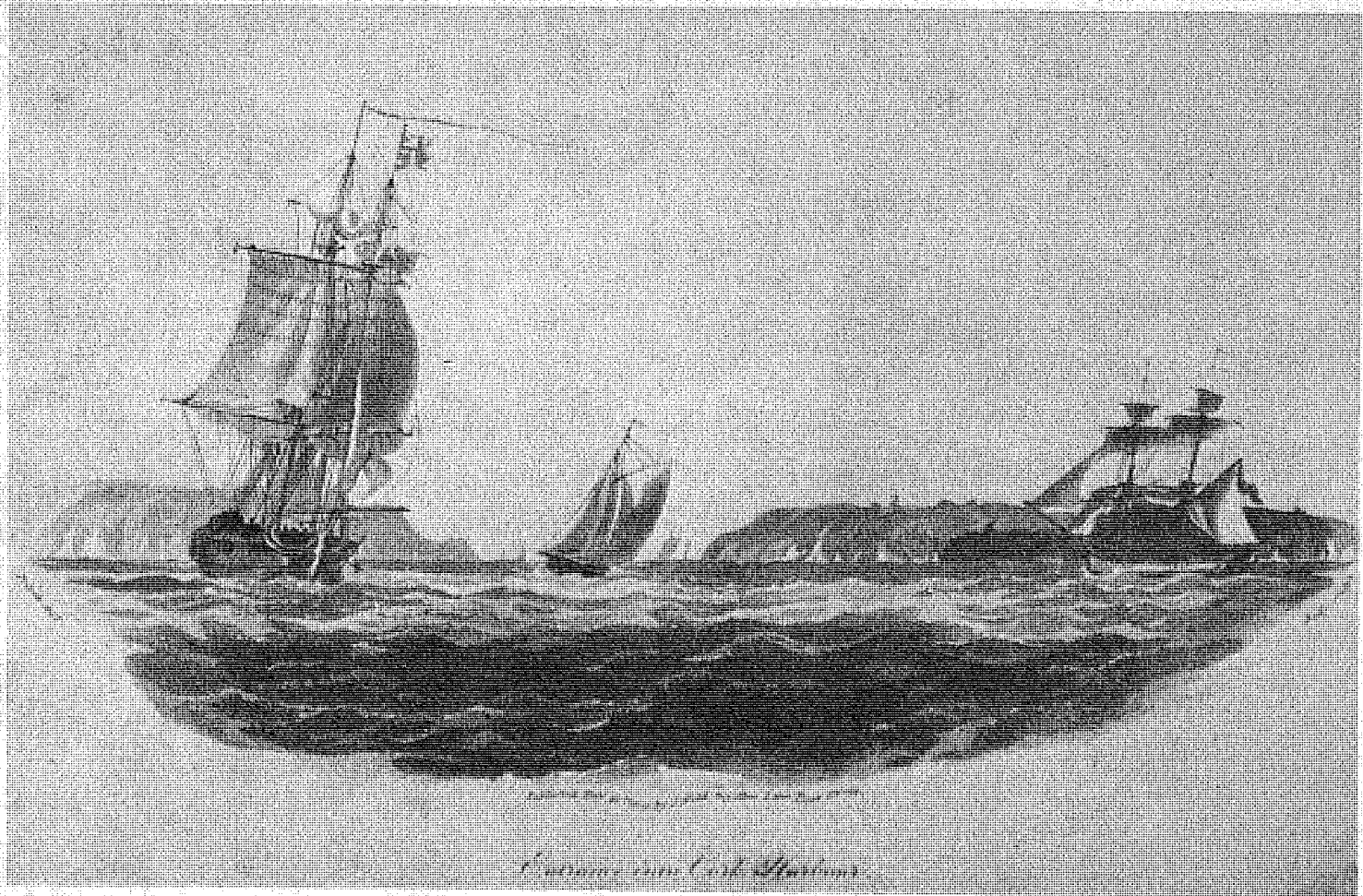
1. *London Chronicle*, March 7 to March 9, 1776.

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

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

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

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



Caroline von Carl Hartman

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Carried into Newburyport, January 16, 1776.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Copy/

Bristol at Sea 7th March 1776.

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

P. Parker²

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

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

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES CORNWALLIS TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

On board the *Bristol* March 7th 1776

Latitude 42:34

Longitude 13:42 from London

My Lord

I take the opportunity of informing Your Lordship by a homeward

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

Cornwallis

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

8 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO SIR PETER PARKER ¹

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

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

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

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

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

Sandwich Lisburne H. Palliser.

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

[Enclosure]

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

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

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

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

LORD WEYMOUTH TO LORD GRANTHAM ¹

[Extract]

No. 4.

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

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

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

JOHN BURROW TO GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE ¹

Private No 5

London March 8th

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

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

J B

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

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 8 March 1776

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 8 March 1776

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

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

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 8 March 1776

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

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

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

9 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROGER WILLS,
H.M.SLOOP *Ranger*, PLYMOUTH¹

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

Sandwich Lisburne H Palliser

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

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

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

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 468.

Public Advertiser, SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1776

London [March 9].

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

New York Packet, THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1776

[London] March 9.

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

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

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

10 Mar. (Sunday)

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MARCH 10.”¹

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

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

11 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT FANSHAW,
H.M. SLOOP *Carysfort*, PLYMOUTH¹

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

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

Given &c 11th March 1776.

By &c Geo. Jackson D S.

Sandwich J Buller C. Spencer

[Enclosure]

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

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

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

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

<i>Lilly (1st)</i> <i>Mermaid</i> <i>Patty</i> <i>Rainbow</i> <i>Hunter</i> <i>Morisinia</i> <i>Lilly (2d)</i> <i>Boyd</i>	}	In the Clyde.
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Speke Hospl Ship—Order'd from the Thames to Cork.

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

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

No. 4

London, 11 March 1776

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.
2. Esek Hopkins' fleet.
3. From the misinformation contained in the preceding paragraphs, it would seem that the lack of direct information was, indeed, a serious problem.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

No. 5

London, 11 March 1776

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

London, March 11.

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

New York Packet, THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1776

[London] March 11.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Charles Gravier, Count de Vergennes.

12 Mar.

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

London, March 12.

The *Sukey*, —, from Liverpool to Boston, is taken by the Provincials.

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

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

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, MARCH 12.”¹

Capt. Roger Wills is appointed to the command of the *Ranger* sloop of war at this port, who is ordered to convoy the transports belonging to Sir Peter Parker's squadron at this port to America.

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

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

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH CABINET¹

Versailles, 12 March 1776

M. Le Cte. de Maurepas

The Controller General

M. de Sartine

M. Le Cte. de St. Germain

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

de Vergennes

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

2. See next entry.

“CONSIDERATIONS ON THE AFFAIR OF THE ENGLISH COLONIES IN AMERICA”¹

[Versailles] 12 March 1776.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

V. and S

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

13 Mar.

New York Packet, THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1776

[London] March 13.

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

14 Mar.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON¹

Sir [Admiralty Office] 14th March, 1776

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

Geo Jackson DS

By the *Greyhound* – sent to Corke 16 Mar

Duplicate sent 29 March to Mr Pownall

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

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

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

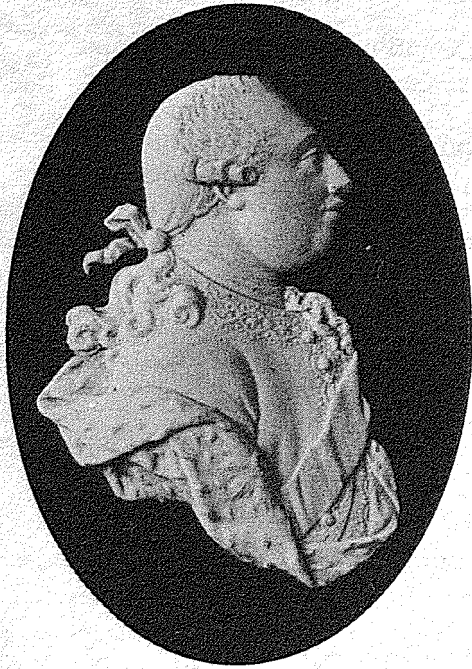
1. *New York Packet*, May 30, 1776.

15 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord, Admiralty Office 15th March 1776.

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



George III.



Earl of Sandwich.



Lord George Germain.

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

Sandwich. Lisburne. H: Penton.

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

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

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

J Buller Palmerston C. Spencer

By &c. G J DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 504.

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

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 15 March 1776

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

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

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

2. Penet & Pliarne, Nantes.

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

MEMOIR OF COUNT DE SAINT GERMAIN ¹

[Versailles, 15 March 1776]

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

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

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

America is on fire; it is a neighbour of the French Colonies. The war which has broken out there must naturally be long and stubborn, and weaken, and cost much to both belligerent parties: what means more natural and easy can they find, to recover at once from their losses, than to seize the French Colonies? It is difficult to perceive any means better and more prompt: the facility of one conquest gives rise to a desire for others, and pretexts are easy to find.

Whatever may be the result of the war which is going on in America, the wounds of both peoples will be great, and the grumbling infinite; the King of Great Britain will then see himself forced, in order to appease it, to make some advantageous operation which shall appear to compensate his people for their losses.

From all these considerations, and others well thought out, there appears to result the absolute necessity of putting in safety, as far as possible, the French Colonies, and of not losing a moment in so doing: when one is threatened with dangers, one cannot sleep quietly until they have been averted.

After having taken all necessary precautions to avert the dangers which threaten, would it not be wise policy, in order to remove them still farther off, to help the American Insurgents secretly and without compromising ourselves? Cannot France sell both to the English and the Americans those things which they respectively have need of, and modify her commerce according to such rules of policy as may be desirable?

Whatever course the King may take in the circumstances, it seems that England will always have preponderating forces in America. In the latter case, could we not, and ought we not to give her, in concert with Spain, some fears for her European possessions? It seems that this might be done without assuming a threatening air, and while preserving all outward appearance of most perfect harmony.

England is powerfully armed, and at great expense, can we flatter

ourselves that she will not wish to take advantage of all that, and can we rely on the hope of her moderation?

Saint Germain.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1319. Saint Germain was French Minister of War. He prepared this memoir at the request of Vergennes. *Ibid.*, No. 1318.

“REFLECTIONS UPON THE NECESSITY OF ASSISTING THE AMERICANS AND OF
PREPARING FOR WAR WITH ENGLAND”¹

[Versailles, March 15, 1776]²

The truth of the picture which has been drawn of our present situation with regard to England cannot but be acknowledged. It attracted long ago the attention of the King's Council and the reflections contained in the Memoire on which His Majesty orders an opinion were thereupon made.³ What is contained, then, in that Memoire, the truth and justice of which are felt throughout, will not be repeated; but, passing directly to the conclusion, it is thought that, practically, it is necessary.

1st. To commence by maintaining the confidence of the English ministry.

2nd. That it is not unsuitable, and is even necessary, to assist the insurgents indirectly by supplies of munitions or of money, but without making any treaty with them until their independence is established and notorious. It is necessary even that that assistance be always cloaked and hidden and may appear to come only in the way of commerce, so that we may at any time deny it.

3rd. That it is time to quit the state [of] apathy in which we appear to be plunged; but to quit it warily and with prudence. It is well therefore to begin by allowing the troops and vessels, which the English destine against their colonies, to leave, so as to let the campaign open, and to try and get notice of all occurrences in order to be able to act accordingly.

4th. That in the meantime the Navy ought to provision its arsenals with everything which could be required in order to arm next year as strongly as possible.

5th. That from this very year preparations be made to send into the colonies, towards the month of September, a squadron which might overawe the English or at least render difficult the enterprises which they may entertain against Martinique or St. Domingo, and which could only take place with troops already wearied and with vessels long at sea.

6th. Lastly, in accordance with the circumstances then existing, preparations be made in the course of the winter to deal them in India, a blow which would be very dangerous for them; by aiding the native powers which bear their yoke but impatiently.

Such as the projects which may be formed at present while avoiding compromising ourselves; but it cannot be concealed that there will never be a more favourable time for reducing the power of England than when, still loaded with the debts of the previous war, she is obliged to contract new and very considerable debts for that which she is waging against her colonies and

when, deprived of their commerce, the downfall of her credit and of her public funds appears inevitable.

It must also be considered that in the present situation of Europe there is no reason to fear that the English may employ the resource, which has always succeeded so well for them, of raising against us a territorial war. Our alliance with the Court of Vienna does not permit us to suspect that Court; it also guarantees us on the score of the King of Prussia. The only diversion which she could cause us, would therefore be a war of Russia upon Sweden, whom we could assist with a little money, and who, in her present state, could make a lengthy resistance, especially as the health of the King of Prussia gives reason to believe that he could not meddle therein.

All these considerations together then would lead to the conclusion that the offensive is the sole means of reestablishing our Navy on the one hand and on the other of weakening that of England and the sole means of definitely securing the peace of the Continent which has never been troubled except by their intrigues or their money and which will be still less disturbed by reason of the respectable footing on which the King's troops will be placed in consequence of the projected arrangements.

But this project and even that of simple precautions must be governed by the state of the finances; and the funds which may be destined for the navy will be considerable, even if we were to maintain only simple precautions, and must be assured for several years; since even if we maintain only the simple defensive, there is every appearance that this defensive will entail a war.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1320.

2. A French archivist has endorsed upon this paper, "Undated This paper appears to be at the beginning of 1777 After 5 January 1777." The text, however, scarcely confirms such a date. It appears much more likely to have been an answer, by one of the members of the French Cabinet, to the request contained in Vergennes' "Considerations" of March 12, 1776. Doniol, in his history, thought the "Reflections" those of M. de Maurepas. This is questionable. From the frequent references to the French Navy, the writer could have been the Minister of Marine, Sartine. The reference to finances in the concluding paragraph might point to the Controller General, Turgot, but in view of this minister's adherence to economy and reform, it is unlikely that he would have so strongly supported enlargement of the navy, and preparations for an eventual war. At any event, the "Reflections" seem to be an answer to Vergennes' request, and a logical date is March 15, 1776, the same day as Saint Germain's Memoir.

3. See Vergennes to various Ministers, March 12, 1776.

16 Mar.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 16 Mar: 1776

The inclosed paper of intelligence having been received by My Lords Commissrs of the Admty, I am commanded by their Lordships to send it to you for your information. And am &c

G. Jackson D S

By the *Greyhound* at Cork

Duplt sent 29 Mar to Mr Pownall

NB. The above Paper contains an Acct of Privateers that left the City of Philadelphia the 4 January & fell down to the Fort on Delaware River

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 280.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 16th March 1776

Sir Stanier Porten, Secretary to Lord Weymouth having transmitted to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty a Letter from the Consul at Co-runna, dated 3rd Febry. last giving Intelligence that the *Polly*, Captn Abijah Bodon a Brig belonging to Marble Head in Massachusetts Bay was then at Corunna supposed to be bound for some Port in the Possession of the Rebels: that the *Lyon*, Captn John Wilson had saild from St Andro with a full Cargo of Gun Powder for Philadelphia, And that there were then at Bilboa three other North America Vessels supposed to be waiting to load Stores on the French or Spanish Coast. Vizt a Schooner belonging to Salem, the Brig *Africa*, belonging to Marblehead, and the Brig *Elizabeth*, William Babson of Boston; That the Schooner has arrived at Bilboa but lately and boasts that he got out of Salem in spite of some of His Majesty's Ships and in full view of them, and he intends to return the same way: I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you with the said Intelligence, and am &c.

Geo. Jackson D S

By the *Greyhound* at Corke

Duplicate sent 29 March By [blank]

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 277-78.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 16th March, 1776

It being His Majestys Intentions that the 6th Regiment of Foot now at St Vincents shall be carried from thense to North America and that the Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers of the 48th Regiment, now in Grenada and the other ceded Islands, should be brought to great Britain, with such Part of the private men as are not fit for Service. And Lord George Germain One of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State having in his Letter of the 15th Inst: signified the Kings Pleasure that such a number of the Transport Vessels under your Command be sent to St Vincents as shall be sufficient for the Conveyance of the 6th Regiment to North America, and of the Officers and Invalids of the 48th Regiment to Great Britain, I am therefor commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to signify their direction to you, whenever the Service in which the Transport Vessels are employed will admit of their being Spared for the above purpose to cause a Sufficient number of them to be properly fitted, victualled and Stored and supplied with Bedding and necessaries and sent to St Vincents to receive on board the 6th Regiment and carry them to North America and to bring the Officers and Invalids of the 48th Regiment to Great Brittain accordingly

The Sixth Regiment will consist of 677 Men, Officers included; 60 Women & 12 Servants are to be allowed, & 90 Tons will be wanted for the Baggage; But as the Passage will not probably be a Long one from St Vincents to North America the allowance of a Ton & half to a man is judged fully sufficient.

It is impossible to ascertain the exact quantity of Tonnage that will be wanted for the Commissioned & Non Commissioned Officers and Invalids of the 48th Regiment but upon the Largest scale of Computation it is not supposed that the Number of Commissioned Officers will exceed twenty or that the non-Commissioned Officers and Invalids will amount to more than Eighty, but allowance must be made for forty Women & 12 Servants and of 60 Tons for the Baggage.² I am &ca

Geo. Jackson DS

By the *Greyhound* at Corke

Duplicate sent 29 March To Mr Pownall

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 279-80.

2. *Ibid.*, 353-54, orders to move the 48th Regiment were revoked on March 27, 1776.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL ROBERT MAN, MINORCA ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 16th March 1776

Mr [John] Robinson Secretary to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury having [by] his Letter of the 10 instant, acquainted my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Intelligence had been received that Mr Willing a Merchant of Philadelphia, and one of the Congress has prevailed on them to permit the Merchants in the different American Colonies to export to Spain &ca Twenty thousand Barrels of Flour on their giving Bond to the Congress that the return for the said Flour shall be in Ammunition; that Mr Willing some time ago sent his Partner Mr Morris to Cadiz who is still there, and that the three Cargoes are arrived there,² I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith that you may direct the Captns of the Ships under your Command to use their utmost endeavours to intercept the Ships employed on this trade. I am &c

Geo Jackson

By the Post

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 286.

2. A garbled bit of intelligence about the activities of Willing, Morris & Co. Robert Morris did not go to Cadiz or any place else on the European continent.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, MARCH 14 TO SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1776

London, March 16.

His Majesty's ship the *Seaford*, bound to Boston, and several outward bound West Indiaman, that sailed on Monday last from Portsmouth, are put into Plymouth.

17 Mar. (Sunday)

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MARCH 17." ¹

Yesterday the wind came round to the North-east, when his Majesty's ship the *Triton*, Capt. [Skeffington] Lutwidge, and six sail of transports, with troops on board, sailed from Spithead for Boston.² The others remain here, to take on board the troops that are to come from London.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 16 to March 19, 1776.

2. They sailed for the relief of Quebec.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, DATED 17 MARCH 1776" ¹

I read yesterday in a public paper that Lord Sandwich said in the House of Lords that, far from being reluctant to serve in America, the Sailors preferred to go there rather than stay at home. But I am certain that Lord Sandwich is mistaken and that he mislead the House. I spoke to several members of Boyne and Somerset, and I see that all the men among them who have some common sense, and they form the majority, have a great dislike for the Service. Of course there are a few, but thank God they are very few, who are ungodly and blasphemous scoundrels, people who respect neither law nor religion and who would not hesitate one moment to set fire to the paternal home and to murder father and mother, if Lord Sandwich were capable of giving them such an order. He apparently referred to these people. Indeed if the people are so eager to take a part in this American war, why do the Ships sail so poorly manned?

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy. Enclosed in Garnier to Vergennes, March 29, 1776.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

No. 3

Versailles, 17 March 1776

The details which you have sent us, Sir, on the condition and the intentions of the Colonies are very interesting and correspond fairly well with the intelligence we have received from other sources; it is only natural to assume that the Ministry will try to give the Americans a false image of our intentions towards them; but they should easily understand that it is merely a lure designed to intimidate them by taking away from them any hope of foreign assistance. However, M.de Bonvouloir who must have arrived there at the end of December will have quickly brought the situation back in its true light and put them on their guard, for the future, against the false insinuations of their enemy.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

19 Mar.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 19th March 1776

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having directed the Navy Board by their order of the 6th Instant to cause a proper assortment of Stores to be provided for the Ships intended to be employed this Year in America of the several Classes mentioned on the other side hereof, and to get them in readiness to sail with Convoy from Spithead as soon as possible: also to send out to America a set of Careening Gear fit for Ships of 50 Guns, in two different Ships, to be used where the Commanding Officers for the time being shall direct, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you herewith.

Their Lordships also direct me to acquaint you that the *Levant* Victualler (which was intended to have sailed with Sir Peter Parker, but prevented by springing a Leak) is now ordered to proceed under Convoy of the *Greyhound* to join the Fleet under your Command, the Provisions on board being to be made use of in addition to the other Measures taken for supplying the same. I am &c

Geo: Jackson D:S.

By the *Canceaux*

Duplicate Sent to Mr Pownall 29h March

[Verso]

Ships	Guns
1 of	64
7	50
3	44
15	32
12	28
7	24 & 20
16	Sloops
2	Bombs
1	Fireship
1	Hospital Ship
12	Schooners & armed Ships

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 304-05.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, MARCH 16 TO TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1776

London, March 19.

The *Deal Castle* man of war that lost all her masts and put into Falmouth in January last, and the *Carysfort* man of war from Portsmouth, both bound to America, put into Plymouth the 14th instant by contrary winds.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, MARCH 19."¹

Since my last sailed his Majesty's ship *Seaford* for Antigua; and the *Deal Castle* ship of war, for Newfoundland.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 23 to March 26, 1776.

20 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office 20th March 1776

Having in obedience to the King's Pleasure, signified in Your Lordship's Letter of Yesterday, appointed His Majesty's Ships the *Juno* & *Blonde* to convoy the Transports which are to carry the first Embarkation of the Brunswick Troops, engaged to service in North America, and to proceed to the Isle aux Coudres in the River St Lawrence, which Your Lordship represents in your Letter to be the Place of Rendezvous for the Ships & Troops destined to serve in Canada; We are to acquaint Your Lordship therewith, for the King's Information, and that as it will be inconvenient to detach one of the Ships to Plymouth; to lay off that Port with the Transports having the 21st Regiment on board, and highly improper for them to put to Sea before the other Convoy appears, We have, instead thereof, directed the Admiral commanding at Plymouth, so soon as the said Regiment is embarked, (the time for which is submitted to Your Lordship) to send the Transports into the Sound, and to take care that they do immediately join the Convoy, upon a Signal to be made for that Purpose, and for which the Commander of the Convoy shall have the necessary Directions from us. We are, &c

Sandwich J Buller H Penton

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 48-49.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO REAR ADMIRAL JAMES GAMBIER,
PORTSMOUTH¹

Whereas Capt Mouat [Henry Mowat] hath desired that his Son Alexander Mouat may be discharged from the Royal Academy at Portsmouth in order to serve on board His Majts Sloop the *Discovery* at the request of Capt Clark [Charles Clerke] her Commr You are hereby required & directed to cause him to be forthwith discharged for that purpose accordingly. Given &c 20th March 1776

Sandwich J Buller Lisburne

By &c G.J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 512.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN GEORGE YOUNG,
H.M. SLOOP *Alderney*, YARMOUTH¹

The Lords Commissioners of His Majestys Treasury having acquainted Us that the Commissioners of the Customs transmitted to them Copies of several Letters from the Collector & Comptroller of New Castle & the Deputy

Comptroller at Bridlington with respect to two Smuggling Vessels waiting on that Coast for the *Mermaid* Cutter Capt Armstrong & the *Eagle* Cutter Capt Radley both in the Service of the Customs with an intention as it is supposed to destroy the said Cutters. And their Lordships having therefore desired that a fast sailing Sloop might be forthwith sent to join the Commanders of the said Cutters & to afford them every necessary Assistance in order to defeat the intention of the Smugglers: You are hereby required & directed to proceed in the Sloop you command without a moments loss of time to Bridlington & thence if necessary to Shields & get what further information you can from the Officers of His Majestys Customs there concerning the said Smuglers, and having so done proceed according to such information in quest of them & use your best endeavours to seize them & to bring them into Port to be dealt with according to Law letting the Commanders of the said Cutters know that you are sent upon the above Service in order that they may proceed with you if it shall be thought proper the more effectually to enable you to carry the same into execution; And, as soon as you shall have taken, destroyed, or driven off the Coast the abovementioned Smuggling Vessels, or shall have reason to think that they have quitted the same & that the Cutters are in no further danger, You are to return to your present Station & Cruize thereon agreeable to former Orders. Given &c 20th March 1776

Sandwich J Buller Lisburne

By &c. G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 511-12.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, MARCH 19 TO THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1776

London, March 20.

Orders are sent to Portsmouth for his Majesty's frigates *Tartar*, Capt. Ommanie [Cornthwaite Ommanney] and the *Pearl*, Capt [Thomas] Wilkinson, of 32 guns each, to be fitted out with all dispatch for the North America station.

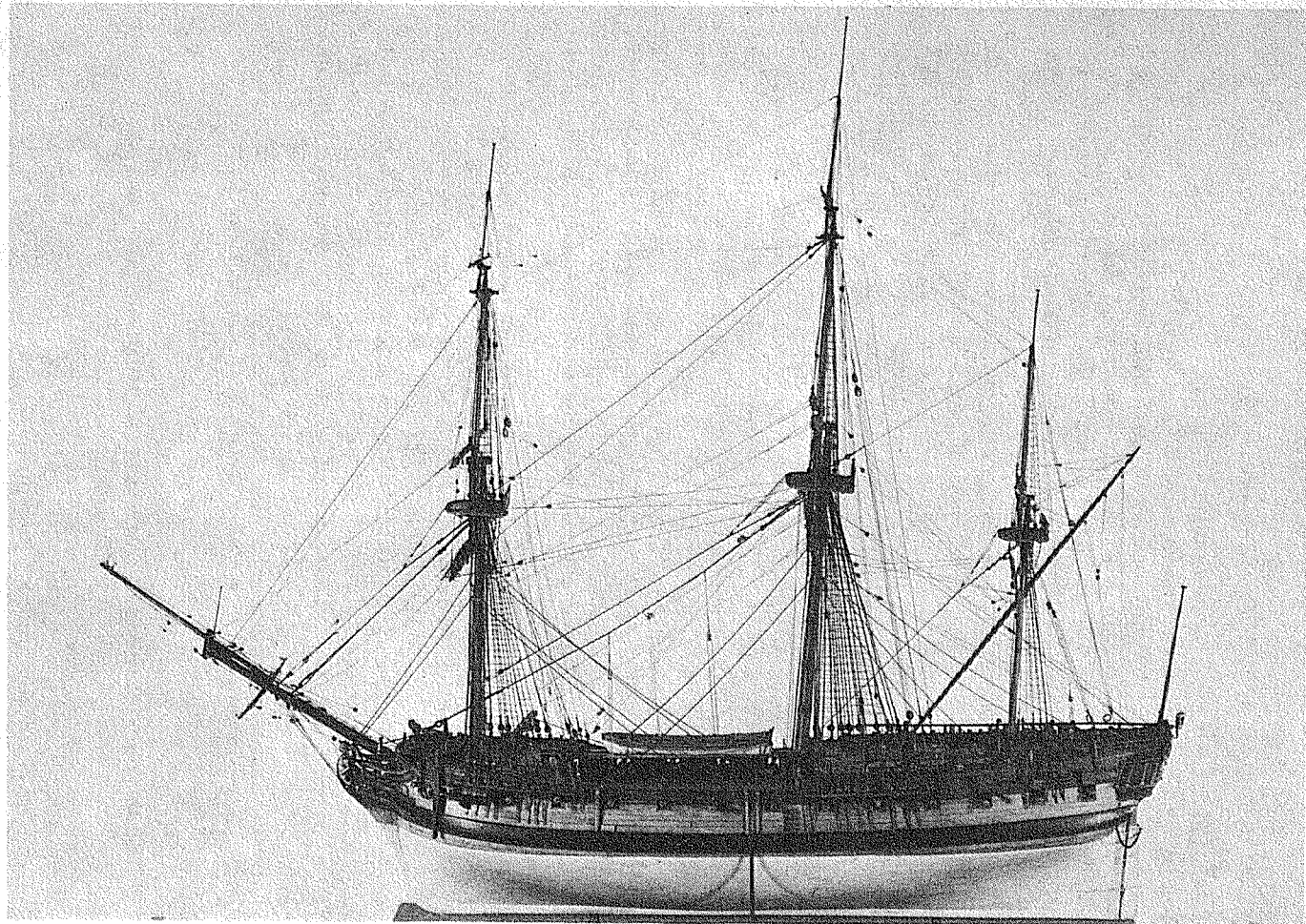
The *Shark* and *Vulture*, two new sloops lately launched at Deptford, are commissioned, and ordered to be fitted for sea.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, DATED MARCH 20." ¹

Sunday night an express arrived from the Admiralty-office, at Commissioner [Charles] Proby's, with orders to fit out the *Jersey*, of 60 guns, commanded by Captain Halsted, with all possible speed, to serve as an hospital ship in North America.

Monday sailed from hence for America, the *Brune* frigate, of 32 guns, Capt. [James] Ferguson.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 12 to March 23, 1776.



British frigate, 32 guns.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Triton*, CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE ¹

March 1776

[In the English Channel]

Monday 18th

at Noon all the Convoy in Company ²

1st pt [light breezes & fair] Mid & Latr fresh Breezes & Cloudy – at 1 P M made the Signal & tack'd to the SE ½ pt 7 made the Signal & tack'd to the Westwd – at 10 Do & Tack'd to the SE – ½ past 10 the *Swift* hail'd me, informing me She was on Fire – a few minutes after She bore down towards me & the flames burst out on board her abaft – made Sail ahead to get clear of her & hoisted out the Pinnace & Cutter – the other Ships of the Convoy got their Boats out & we saved all the People on Board her, except Lieut [blank] & Ensign [blank] with 5 Soldiers who were drown'd by their own small Boatd being overset –

Tuesday 19th

the *Swift* continued burning till ½ past to 4 A M, when She blew up – at ½ past 6, made the Signal & tack'd to the NW – at 11, spoke a revenue Cruiser belonging to Weymouth & sent on Shore by her an Express (concerning the Accident) to the Admiralty.

First pt fresh Gales & hazy – Mid. & Lat. more mod – ½ past 1 P M – bore away with the Convoy for Portland Road, & at ½ past 5, made the Signal for Anchoring – at 8 Anchor'd with the small Br in 9 Fms & veer'd to [blurred] Cable –

Wednesday 20

at 10 A M. weigh'd & work'd up under the Bill – at 11 Anchor'd again with the small Br in 8 fms sent on Shore the Master, Mate, Carpenter, & Servants belonging to the *Swift*, & enter'd the Seamen as part of the Comp[lemen]t.

First & Latr pts fresh Breezes & Cloudy – Mid, Mod – P M, sent the Soldiers & Women saved out of the *Swift*, on Bd. the *Bute*, & gave Lieut Parry an Order to receive & victual them –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1013.

2. *Ibid.*, 8/52, the convoy sailed from Spithead, bound for Quebec, on March 16, 1776.

21 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO THE COMMISSIONERS FOR VICTUALING ¹

Wheres His Majts Ships & Vessels intended to proceed this year from England to Newfoundland for the protection of the Fisheries there have sailed & will sail earlier, & will probably remain on that Coast later, than usual; And whereas the Service may require some of them to be left there during the Winter, You are therefore hereby required and directed to provide and ship on freight on board the first Merchant Ships bound from the River Thames to St Johns in the said Island, a proper proportion of provi-

sions of all Species (Spirits excepted) for twelve hundred men for six months; consigning the same to Vice Admiral Montagu Commander in Chief of His Majts Ships upon that Station, who will have the necessary directions for the disposal thereof, Given under our Hands the 21st March 1776

Sandwich J Buller H: Penton

By &c G: Jackson DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 515.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, MARCH 19 TO THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1776

London, March 21.

The *Greyhound*, and *Pearl*, men of war, for America, are put into Plymouth.

Orders are sent to Chatham for His Majesty's frigate *Richmond*, of 32 guns, to be fitted out for the North America station; she is already commissioned, and the command is given to Capt. [John Lewis] Gidoin.

This day was launched from his Majesty's yard at Woolwich, a new frigate, immediately after which his Majesty's ship *Eagle*, commanded by Lord [Richard] How[e] sailed from the above place for America.

22 Mar.

“BY THE KING, – A PROCLAMATION FOR ENCOURAGING SEAMEN TO ENTER THEMSELVES ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS OF WAR.”¹

George R.

Whereas it is Our Royal Intention to give all due Encouragement to all such Seamen, who shall voluntarily enter themselves in Our Service; We have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to publish this Our Royal Proclamation: And We do hereby promise and declare, That all such Able Seamen, not above the Age of Fifty, nor under the Age of Eighteen Years, fit for Our Service, who shall, on or before the Thirtieth Day of April next, voluntarily enter themselves to serve in Our Royal Navy, either with the Captains or Lieutenants of Our Ships, or the Chief Officers on Board such Tenders as shall be employed for raising Men for the Service of Our Navy, shall receive, as Our Royal Bounty, the Sum of Three Pounds each Man, and all such Ordinary Seamen, fit for Our Service, who shall so enter themselves as aforesaid, shall receive the Sum of Two Pounds each Man, as Our Royal Bounty, in Lieu of all other Bounties mentioned in Our Proclamation dated the Third of January, and Our Order in Council of the Twenty-eighth Day of February last; such respective Sums to be paid them by the respective Clerks of the Cheque residing at the ports or Places where the Ships, into which they shall be entered, shall be, immediately after the Third Muster of such Seamen: And We do declare, that the Qualifications of the Seamen so entering themselves as aforesaid, shall be certified by the Captain, Master, and Boatswain of the Ship or Vessel where they shall enter. And for Prevention of any Abuses by any Persons leaving the Vessels

to which they shall belong, and entering themselves on Board any other Ships or Vessels, in order to obtain the said Bounty-Money; We do hereby declare and Command, that such Seamen belonging to any of our Ships or Vessels, as shall absent themselves from any of the said Ships or Vessels to which they shall belong, and shall enter themselves on Board any other of our said Ships or Vessels, in order to obtain the said Bounty, shall not only lose the Wages due to them in the Ships or Vessels they shall leave, but also be severly punished according to their Demerits.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, the Twenty-second Day of March, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, in the Sixteenth Year of Our Reign.

God save the King.

1. *London Gazette*, March 19 to March 23, 1776.

LORD WEYMOUTH TO H. KATENKAMP ¹

[Extract]

No. 1

[St. James's] 22 March 1776.

You will be extremely cautious how you avail yourself of the orders sent by M. de Grimaldi,² and call on His Catholic Majesty's officers to search any vessel that you may suspect to have warlike stores on board, observing to them at the time, that this search is made at your particular requisition, that it may not hereafter be used as precedent, and you will not call for such examination without having good reason to believe arms and ammunition are actually on board the ship.

1. Sparks Transcripts, Lord Grantham, I, 6-7, HU.

2. See H. Katenkamp to Lord Weymouth, February 24, 1776.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 22 March 1776

In my opinion, My Lord, there is something more surprising than the upkeep of the finances: I am referring to the condition of the factories which are still active except for a few items that have suffered. Indeed, one mentions an increase of the exportations to Russia, Poland, Spain, Italy and especially the Levant. I want to believe in this increase, however difficult it may seem as a time when prices go up everywhere and when the Merchants must pay their sailors 50 and some pounds of our money per month. But how can we conceive that the surplus of all these articles put together can replace the lack of trade with a nation of three million men who, having the same customs and tastes as the English, dressed from head to toe and furnished their houses only with English goods? How can I convince myself that an increase of five to six hundred thousand pounds sterling to Europe will compensate the loss of a yearly exportation worth three millions to America? Either all the premises are false, or the inadequacy of these precarious resources will soon be evident although the facts do not yet indicate such an outcome. It is believed that it would have already been felt if the

transport ships which sail to America did not carry English goods in order to meet the needs of the Colonists who must use them since all sort of foreign resources are being cut off from them

The first reinforcements destined for Canada sailed on board the warship *Isis* and five transports of about 600 tons each. They carried 15 hundred troops. All these ships are not sailing on the same convoy. Each will be on her own, crowding on all sail, to see which one will get there first. Not a single moment must be lost in trying to save Quebec, if it is still time. The troops from Brunswick, already embarked at Stade, are to sail for this province and will be under the command of General [John] Burgoyne. The Hessians will be employed on Boston. An Army Corps is also destined for New York so as to be able to attack the Provinces of Connecticut and Massachusetts on the flank, command the navigation on the Hudson and cut the lines of communication between Pennsylvania and New England.

According to this plan, New England will be attacked by three Armies at the same time, from the North, the West and the South, while a large fleet will devastate the coast and cruise along its whole length in order to intercept any assistance coming by sea. They apparently flatter themselves that once this Colony, which is considered the most stubborn, will be subjugated, all the others will become divided or will fall by themselves.

The control of Canada is deemed important here not only because it would clear the way to the Northern part of New England but also because its resources in wood and wheat are badly needed to supply the West Indies as well as the Army itself.

It is therefore essential for the Americans to take advantage of the end of the winter and take possession of Canada, even if it means blowing up the fortifications of Quebec before the arrival of the fleet, as well as ravaging the country in order to delay the march of the troops by eliminating their means of subsistence, after having enrolled them among those Canadians who would want to follow their flag. . . .

This is what I was able to learn about the military operations of this country, My Lord. You will be able to judge if these measures are sufficiently well-concerted to deserve some credence. Meanwhile, the greatest part of Nova Scotia has just taken sides with the united colonies and has decided to send deputies to the Congress. American privateers have recently devastated the Island of St. John in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This island provided beef and other commodities to the Royal troops and the Americans wanted to eliminate this source of supplies.² This operation must have been planned along the lines of the expedition against Newfoundland. They bear so much resemblance that it strengthens my belief in an expedition which would have sailed from Philadelphia against the English establishments in the island of Newfoundland. Also, an American privateer was bold enough to attack the Royal Corvette *Lynx* in the waters of Antigua; this ship escaped with difficulty after an uneven fight and suffered casualties.³

As for the political operations, the Council appears to be still undecided.

ed with respect to the plans it will follow. Lord George Germain who has the greatest influence and who is heard by his master, would like to entrust all the powers for a reconciliation to Lord [Richard] Howe and the General, his brother. This is not, or must not be to the taste of the other Ministers who feel indeed that their fate would be completely in the hands of Lord George or those of the Howes. I was also assured that the Admiral whose commission has not yet been signed had refused to report to the Admiralty, that he wanted to correspond with the Secretary for the Colonies and that he was ready to give up everything rather than renounce this pretention. However this matter has been settled and I assume that he will correspond with the Admiralty in all maritime matters and with Lord George in political matters. Lord Sandwich had Admiral [John] Montagu, senior to Admiral Howe, assigned to Newfoundland; consequently he will not be under the latter's command during this cruise; I believe this will not hurt us in any way

I spoke to Lord Weymouth yesterday and I complied with the orders which I had the honor to receive in your letter No.2 relative to the conduct of the English vessels cruising against the Americans in the waters of the islands belonging to the King. ⁴ . . .

Lord Weymouth and the Ministers agree to all this, My Lord. They eagerly approve everything we tell them in this respect. Comparing the promises and the facts, I come to the conclusion that we could place much hope in their intentions, were it not for the fact that we have everything to fear from the execution of their orders.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

2. The unauthorized raid on the island of St. John by two of Washington's captains commanding schooners commissioned by him in October 1775.

3. A report without foundation in fact.

4. See Vergennes to Garnier, March 8, 1776.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, MARCH 21 TO SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1776

London, March 22.

Fraser's new raised regiment of Highlanders are to be assembled in three divisions on Monday next at Stirling, Inverness and Perth, to be reviewed and approved by the commander in chief in those parts, previous to their embarking at Glasgow for North America.

The *Unicorn*, a new ship, is put into commission, and the command given to Capt. [John] Ford.

Orders are sent to Chatham for his Majesty's frigate *Richmond*, of 32 guns, to be fitted out for immediate service; She is already commissioned, and the command given to Capt. Charles Fielding.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, MARCH 22." ¹

Yesterday sailed from this port for America, the *Repulse*, of 32 guns, commanded by Capt. [Henry] Davis.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 23 to March 26, 1776.

CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD DICKSON, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Greyhound, Cork 22d March 1776 –

I beg you will be plea'd to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I have this day Anchord in Cork Harbr. with his Majestys Ship *Greyhound*, under my Command, after a Passage of two days from Plymouth, his Majtys Ship *Carrysfort* Sail'd in Company with us, but is not yet Arriv'd; I have Receiv'd the Dispatches for General Howe and Vice Adml. Shulldham, with their Lordships Order of the 29th Febry and in Per-suance thereof Shall make immediate Enquiry for such Transports as are ready and, taking them under my Convoy, Proceed with all possible Dis-patch for Boston I am Sir [&c.]

Arch^d Dickson

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1706, Section 9, 5.

23 Mar.LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL JOHN MONTAGU ¹

Whereas the West India Merchants have requested, as the Trade from the Sugar Islands will be constantly sailing from thence to Europe between the 25th of this Month & the 1st of August, that such directions may be given as will be effectual to protect their Ships in their present defenceless State, against any attempts which may be made on them by Cruizers fitted out by His Majesty's rebellious Subjects in North America; And whereas we have sent Orders to the Commanders in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Jamaica & the Leeward Islands to appoint Convoys to see the said Trade, at their stated Times of sailing, a certain distance clear of the islands agreeable to the request of the said Merchants, and are desirous that every other step should be taken to protect their Ships from any such attempts; You are therefore hererby required and directed to give Orders to the Commanders of such Ships or Vessels of your Squadron as may be appointed to protect the Fishery on the Grand Bank of Newfoundland to stretch occasionally to the outer edge of that Bank to look out for and secure the Trade of His Majts Subjects passing that way, and to endeavour to take or destroy any of the aforesaid Cruizers which may be found in those parts; And, you are to take care, during the Fishing Season, to keep one or more of the Ships or Sloops of your Squadron (if it can be done without neglecting the more material Objects entrusted to your Care) constantly cruising on the Grand Bank, as well for the above Service, as for the protection of the Ships employed on the Fishery

Given &c. the 23d March 1776.

Sandwich Lisburne H. Palliser

By &c G.J. D.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 543.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL JOHN MONTAGU ¹

[Extract]

Whereas we intend that the Squadron to be employ'd this Year, under your command, for the protection of the Fisheries carried on by His Majts Subjects at and about Newfoundland, and for Convoy to the fishing Ships bound to, and from that Island, shall consist of the Ships and Vessels mention'd in the enclosed List, And whereas the *Fox & Deal Castle* are already sailed with Instructions (Copies of which you will receive herewith) to cruize on the Stations against each exprest until they receive further Orders from you. And the *Surprize & Martin* are gone into the River St Lawrence upon a particular Service after which they are order'd to join you at Newfoundland; You are hereby required & directed to put to Sea with the first opportunity of Wind & Weather, and proceed with the *Romney - Cygnet* on your Voyage to that Island, calling off the several Ports named in the Margin ² in your way down Channel for any Fishing Ships or Vessels bound the same way which may be ready & whose Masters may be willing to accompany you, and then, taking them under your Convoy, proceed in the first place to the Grand Bank in Latd 46°: 30". where you are to leave such of the said Fishing Ships whose Masters may be inclined to begin the Fishery, And also the *Cygnet* Sloop with Orders to her Commander to cruize on the said Bank, and to use his best endeavours to take or destroy any Ships or Vessels belonging to the associated Colonies of North America which may happen to be there either for the purpose of fishing or trading or for annoying & disturbing the Fishery, and also any other Piratical Ships or Vessels, And having continued on that Service for three Weeks or longer if you shall judge it necessary, either to rejoin you, or to put into execution such further Orders as you shall think fit to give him. You are yourself to proceed in the *Romney* to St John's, calling in your way at Renouse, Ferryland, & the Bay of Bulls in order to obtain Intelligence and to give any protection & assistance to His Majesty's Subjects on that part of the Coast that they may stand in need of, And then too proceed, & to dispose of the Ships under your command, from time to time, in such other manner as you shall judge best for carrying into execution the following Instructions Viz

3d

You are to be careful that there be not taken into the Ships under your command, to be transported to Newfoundland, any Seamen or others than such as do belong to them, And, as you are not to lend any of the Ships Companies to any of the Fishing Ships, so neither are you to suffer to be taken on board them any sort of Fish, either by way of Merchandize, Freight or otherwise, excepting what shall be necessary for the use & spending of the Ships Companies.

4th

And whereas the Lords Commissioners for Trade & Plantations have represented to Us that it is very prejudicial to this Kingdom that the Fishing Ships do not bring home from Newfoundland the Complement of Men they

carry out, many of them being enticed away to New England & others left in the Country, and, for that reason, have desired that directions might be given to the Masters of all British Ships at Newfoundland that they take care to bring home the Number of Men they carry out (except in case of death) for that otherwise they will be prosecuted at their return, you are to let the Masters know the same accordingly, & to use your best endeavours to oblige them thereto, as far as in you lies, except only such of their Men as shall have enter'd into His Majesty's Service.

[7th.]

And whereas the Society of Unitas Fratrum, urged by a laudable zeal for promoting Christianity have already, under his Majesty's protection & with His permission, form'd Establishments in the Northern parts of the Coast of Labrador for the purposes of civilizing the Savages and converting them to the Christian Religion, in which their Success has been answerable to their Zeal; And His Majesty hath signified His express will and pleasure to the Governor of Quebec, that he do give them every countenance & assistance in his power and not allow any Establishment to be made but with their consent within the Limits of their possessions; You are in pursuance of His Majesty's farther pleasure signified to Us as aforesaid, to give such support and protection to the Establishment of the said Society as shall correspond with His Majesty's most gracious intentions to them.

Besides the superintendance and regulations of the Fisheries of the Island of Newfoundland and on the Coast of Labrador above mention'd you are, . . . to afford every protection in your power to those which are carried on in the Gulph of St Lawrence within the Limits of your command, and also upon the Islands in that Gulph, and to keep Cruizers constantly employed on that Service; taking particular care that no Vessels belonging to any of the associated Colonies be permitted to fish or carry on any trade or Commerce in those Seas, and that every Effort be made to take or destroy any such as also any Piratical arm'd Vessels which may be fitted out by the Rebels with a view to disturb the British Fisheries & intercept defenceless Vessels in their Passage to Quebec; . . .

11th

And whereas pursuant of the 24th article of the said Treaty of Paris, possession of the said Islands of St Pierre & Miquelon has been given to France, and, from their vicinity to the Island of Newfoundland & other parts of His Majesty's dominions in North America, an illicit Trade may be attempted to be carried on between the British, Indian, or any other Inhabitants of His Majesty's Dominions, and the Subjects of France residing in the said Islands of St Pierre & Miquelon or employed in the Fishery by virtue of the said Treaties, or between His Majesty's said Subjects & other Subjects of France or of other powers trading, or pretending to Trade, to or with the said Islands; In case any endeavours shall be used to carry on such illicit Trade as aforesaid you are to be particularly attentive to the same, and to prevent, if possible, all communication whatever between the said Islands of

St Pierre & Miquelon, and any part of his Majesty's dominions in No. America, contrary to the plain & direct meaning of this Instruction.

And whereas there is great reason to apprehend that a Plan has been form'd by the Continental Congress to obtain supplies from Europe thro' the Channel of those Islands & there can be little doubt that endeavours will also be used to procure those supplies by means of the French Ships employed in the Newfoundland Fishery, You are, therefore, in pursuance of His Majesty's further pleasure signified by Lord George Germain as aforesaid, to use your utmost vigilance & attention to defeat any such design; avoiding at the same time the taking any step that may be injurious to the Subjects of the French King or have a tendency to disturb that Harmony which now so happily subsists between the two Nations;

15th

And when the Service will admit, you are to send home the other Ships & Vessels of your Squadron except the arm'd Vessels, Schooner & Shallops which (with one of the Sloops or both if you shall judge it necessary) are to be left at Newfoundland during the Winter at such Place or Places as you shall judge best, with Orders to their Commanders to get them equipt in the Spring as early as possible & to exert their best endeavours for the protection of the Coast from any attempts of the Rebels or others until your return; assigning them such Stations & giving them such Instructions as you shall think most likely to answer that purpose; And you are to direct the Commanders of the Ships which you shall send home as aforesaid to take under their Convoy any homeward bound Trade that may be ready & willing to accompany them and to see them in safety as far as their way lies together; which Ships as well as the others of your Squadron are, on their return to England, to repair to the following Ports, Vizt.

Romney }
Surprize } Portsmouth

Fox }
Deal Castle } Plymouth

Martin } If they return; one to Portsmo
Cygnet } the other to Plymouth.

16th

By the end of October you are to take under your Convoy any Fishing Ships which may be then bound to Portugal & Spain & see them off their respective Ports as far as the Southward as Cadiz, And in case you shall find at that Port any homeward bound Trade ready & willing to accompany you to England, you are to take them under your care, & putting to Sea with the first Opportunity of Wind & Weather proceed to Lisbon where you are in like manner, to take under your care such homeward bound Trade as may be there, And, then after a stay not exceeding eight days at farthest, you are to leave that Port & make the best of your way with the whole of the aforesaid Trade to England; seeing them in safety as far as their way & yours may lie together. In case however it shall be necessary, or more eligible, for you to

send a Frigate to perform this Service you are at liberty to do so and to proceed yourself directly in the *Romney* to England with such homeward bound Trade as may be desirous and in readiness to accompany you, repairing to Spithead where you are to remain until farther Order; And sending Us an Account of your arrival and proceedings.

17th^s

In case you shall at any time find that a greater Number of Ships & Vessels than those which may be under your command shall be necessary to enable you to execute the Service on which you are employed you are to apply to Vice Adml Shuldham or the Commander in Chief for the time being of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels employed & to be employed in the River St Lawrence and along the Coasts of Nova Scotia, the Islands of St. John & Cape Breton & thence to Cape Florida and the Bahama Islands for such reinforcements as you shall stand in need of; who has our Orders to supply you therewith.

Given &c. the 23d March 1776.

To John Montagu Esqr
 Vice Admiral of the Blue & Commander
 in chief of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels
 employ'd and to be employ'd at and about
 the Island of Newfoundland the Islands
 of Madelaine & Anticosti & upon the
 Coast of Labrador from the River St
 John to the entrance of Hudson's Straits.

Sandwich
 Lisburne
 H. Palliser

By &c. G.J. DS.

Admty Office
 23d March 1776. }

A List of Ships and Vessels to be employed this Year
 under the Command of Vice Adml Montagu at and
 about Newfoundland &c.

Rate	Guns	Ships	Commanders	Present Disposition
4th	50	<i>Romney</i>	Captn Elliot Salter	At Spithead
6th	28	<i>Fox</i>	Patk Fotheringham	} On their Passage to Newfoundland
"	20	<i>Deal Castle</i>	James Worth	
"	28	<i>Surprize</i>	Robt Linzee	} Gone into the River St Lawrence & then to proceed to Newfoundland.
Sloop	14	<i>Martin</i>	Henry Harvey	
"	16	<i>Cygnat</i>	Honble Lt. Finch, p Order,	At Spithead
6	24	<i>Fowey</i>	Captn Geoe Montagu	} Under the command of Vice Adml Shuldham will be order'd to newfoundland.
Schooner		<i>Egmont</i>	Lt Alexr Christie,	

Arm'd Vessels	<i>Postillion</i>	Lt	} To be purchas'd
	<i>Penguin</i>		
Shallops	<i>Labrador</i>	Bourchier	} At Newfoundland.
	<i>Canada</i>	Sampson Edwards	
	<i>Placentia</i>	Chas Lefebore	
	<i>Quebec</i>	Edwd Bowater	

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 519-40.

2. The ports named were Poole, Topsham, Dartmouth and Plymouth.

3. The detailed and lengthy instructions are divided into 20 numbered sections. Several of the more important have been selected for inclusion in this extract.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, MARCH 21 TO SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1776

London, March 23.

Lord [Richard] Howe is making preparations for his departure for America; and the *Eagle*, of 60 guns, on board of which ship he is to hoist his flag, is fallen down to Long Reach to take in her guns and stores, after which she will sail for the Downs to proceed on her voyage.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CORK, MARCH 23." ¹

This day arrived here the *Greyhound* man of war, Capt. [Archibald] Dickson, and the *Carysfort* man of war, Capt. [Robert] F[a]nshaw, from Plymouth, to convoy the transports from hence to America, which will sail with all convenient speed.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 30 to April 2, 1776.

24 Mar. (Sunday)

COUNT DE VERGÈNNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

No. 4

Versailles, 24 March 1776

Undoubtedly, it is not the empty assertion made by the opposition and concerning the alleged Frenchmen received by General Washington, then sent to Congress with the General's recommendation, which will cause His British Majesty to change his plans. ² The appearance of these two Frenchmen may be quite true, I am even surprised that there are not any more of them among the insurgents. We know how eagerly our young heads seek the hazards of war, and since there are some who look for them even among our enemies, we shall not be surprised to find a few in the nation which do not play yet any important role in the political European system. Furthermore, it appears that if these two Frenchmen were on some official mission, some care would have been exercised in concealing their presence. This lack of precaution proves at least that this mission was foreign to us. This is how you will explain this situation, Sir, when the opportunity will arise; it would not be suitable to provoke such an opportunity we may ignore and we

must scorn the opinions ventured by a few individuals in parliament; it would be against the King's dignity to say anything which might look like a justification.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.
2. Penet & Pliarne.

25 Mar.

Public Advertiser, MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1776.

London [March 25].

We are credibly informed that the News from Corke of the Captures of the Provision Ships for Boston is not true, as two of the Vessels announced to be taken by the Rebels, viz. the *Queen of England* and the *Fanny* from the last Accounts were not under the List of Captures.

According to the most authentic Accounts of the sixteen Victuallers, which sailed from Ireland for America in January last, nine are fallen into the Hands of the Provincials, two lost, and the rest got safe into Boston.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CORKE, MARCH 25.”¹

This day arrived here the *Pearl* man of war, Capt. [Thomas] Wilkinson.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 2 to April 4, 1776.

26 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 26th March 1776.

Having ordered Capt [John] Brisbane, of His Majesty's Ship the *Flora*, to proceed to the Clyde, and there take under his Convoy the Transport Ships appointed to embark the Highlanders, to be carried to such Place as His Majesty shall be pleased to direct; We acquaint Your Lordship therewith, and desire you will receive, and signify to us His Majesty's farther Pleasure thereon. We are &ca

J. Buller Lisburne H Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 51.

HUGH PALLISER TO JOHN POWNALL¹

Dear Sir

Admiralty Office 26th March 1776

The *Flora* is the Ship destined at present for Convoy to the Scotch Corps in the Clyde; she is arrived at Spithead and may have her sailing Orders, when it is determined whether she shall proceed to join them at the Clyde, or whether they shall meet her at Cork; the latter will be advisable if there will be any Victuallers at that time at that Place for the Army &ca in that Case the same Convoy will serve both. If there should be no such Victuallers the *Flora* may proceed to the Clyde, and from thence pass to the

North of Ireland. I mentioned this Matter Yesterday to Lord Sandwich, who will settle it this Morning.

I understand the whole of the Transports for the Scotch Corps will be ready in time, but their Victualling will not be completed before the 20th of April.

I reckon we may expect to hear of the Brunswick Transports passing the Downs this Day. I am, &ca

Hugh Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 50-51.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN

Grafton Street [London] 26 March 1776

Lord Howe has the honor to return to Lord George Germain, the Drafts of the Commission, & Instructions he was favored with last Saturday Evening. And begs leave to submit at the same time, the difficulties that have occurred to him in the consideration of them.

He observes that the first step he is directed to take on his arrival in America, is to publish the preliminary conditions upon which only the Colonies or part of them, are to expect the King's Grace & Mercy, and to be declared at His Majesty's Peace. From which however, Connecticut & Rhode Island are, by the 11th Art. of the Instructions, excepted; But he is restrained from entering any Treaty, until those conditions are absolutely complied with. Whence he conceives, that the military operations must necessarily be continued, until the Americans have been compelled to retire to the back settlements, or are reduced to a situation that would render their subjection of no benefit to this country.

With regard to Pardons, & the power of declaring Parts and Districts at the King's Peace; He begs leave to mention, that the limitations in the 4th Art: of the Instructions do not appear to extend so far as the Descriptions prescribed by the commission.

Should the Americans submit to the preliminary conditions, and afterwards comply with the Terms specified in the 4th Article which authorizes their being declared (Rhode Island & Connecticut excepted) at the King's Peace; He begs to submit to his Lordships consideration, whether the Governors of the respective Provinces would not be more proper than the General & himself, to frame the subsequent arrangements alluded to in the Instructions; And for settling the compensations required in the next Article, wch he conceives will be attended with very great obstacles and embarrassment.

He always flattered Himself the Intentions of Government were that he should be authorized upon his arrival, to hold forth to the Americans, in the mildest tho' firmest manner, the most favorable terms that Government mean to grant. In order to induce them to lay down their Arms & return to their Duty.

But observing that a method directly the reverse is now ordered to be pursued, it is with infinite concern he finds himself obliged to confess, that



cut 466

engraved by W. M. Williams & Co. London

The RIGHT HON.^{BLE} RICHARD LORD HOWE,
Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Fleets in America

he is disqualified from engaging as a Commissioner in the execution of Instructions framed on that Plan.

He might still be happy enough to see renewed, his hope of having his humble Services accepted in that capacity, should it be thought fitt to vary the intended propositions to the delinquent Colonies, to the following effect:

Viz – If they will agree to offer a contribution in lieu of Taxation, lay down their Arms, Restore the civil Government; And by their assemblies declare their obedience to the authority of the British Legislature, and apply to be relieved from the restrictions upon their Trade, in such manner as shall be deemed a satisfactory evidence of their future good intentions: they shall then be declared at the Kings peace; and any complaints made in a dutiful manner, shall be received & favorably considered.

Howe

1. Germain Papers, CL.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO GEORGE III ¹

[Extract]

Lord Howe has many Difficultys about the Instructions; however at all Events he will not decline the Command of the Fleet; upon hearing that Circumstance your Majesty may not be very anxious whether he accepts of being one of the Commissioners.²

Pall Mall March 26th 1776 ^m 10 pt. 8. P.M.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 345, 346.

2. The peace commission which was to be bestowed upon the Howe brothers.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN HUGH DALRYMPLE,
H.M.S. *Juno*, SPITHEAD ¹

Whereas the Transports with the first embarkation of the Brunswick Troops engaged to serve in No America may be expected to arrive shortly at Spithead And whereas we think fit that the Ship you command & the *Blonde* shall Convoy the said Troops, and also the 21st Regt of Foot which is to embark at Plymouth to the place of their destination; You are hereby required & directed to take the *Blonde* under your command (her Captain being directed to follow your Orders) and so soon as Major Genl Burgoyne & his Suite shall be embarked on board her, & the Brunswick Troops abovementioned shall be arrived at Spithead & ready to put to Sea: You are to take the Transports having those Troops on board under your Convoy & proceed without loss of time off Plymouth Sound, where you are to make a Signal by hoisting an Ensign at the Foretop Gallant Mast head, for the Transports having on board the 21st regt to join you we having given directions for their being kept in the Sound in readiness for that purpose; And then taking them under your Convoy also, You are in Pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified to Us by Lord Geo. Germaine one of His Majts prin: Secretaries of State in his Letter of the 19th Inst to proceed with the whole Armament to the Isle aux Coudres in the River St Lawrence which is the place of Rendezvous for

the Ships & Troops destined to serve in Canada & being arrived there, you are if you find any Officer of His Majts Ships in that River Senior to yourself, to put yourself under his command & follow his Orders for your future proceedings, or, if not, you are to take such of His Majts Ships & Vessels as may be there under your command, and in conjunction with the Commander in Chief of His Majts Land Forces to pursue such steps as shall be judged necessary for the establishment of His Majestys Government within the province of Quebec & for repelling any hostile Invasion of it by His Majestys rebellious Subjects from the other Colonies: And during your continuance on this Service you are to consider yourself under the command of, & to follow such Orders as you shall receive from Vice Adml Shuldham or the Commander for the time being of His Majts Ships & Vessels in No America. Given &c 26th March 1776

Sandwich J Buller C Spencer Lisburne

By &c. G J D S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 555-56.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 26 March 1776

The Bulletin also mentions the new incentives offered by the Government to the Sailors so that they will enlist in the service of the fleet. At the same time, the ship-owners and the merchants will be allowed to use more foreign sailors on their ships, as it is the custom in time of war. These measures do not seem to reflect as large an affluence of sailors as it had been publicized. Once all these expedients have been employed, there will remain the press which they would like to avoid as much for the domestic problems it would create as the alarm it would not fail to provoke in foreign countries. Indeed the foreign Powers have always considered such extreme measures, designed to set all the forces of England into motion, as the signal to put themselves on their own guard. . . .

I expected to send you this letter by the mail-post, but since I have an opportunity to send it by way of Calais; I shall take advantage of this to inform you that the Ministry is considering sending five ships of the line to the East Indies. This step, which is still under deliberation has not been decided yet, and I can hardly believe it will be in the affirmative unless the forces which we are allegedly sending to India are so important that England feels compelled to defend her establishments. Lord Sandwich spoke of this plan to M. [James] Gambier, Navy Commissioner in Portsmouth; he also said to him that after the departure of the fleet for America, His British Majesty would come to Portsmouth and pass in review a fleet which is to go there in order to show Europe that England has enough forces left to defend herself independently from those which she is sending against her Colonies. I know of no other nation as charlatanic as this one, and in this nation, I know no greater charlatan than Lord Sandwich. This bravado, if it should take place, seems very much out of place all the more because Eng-

land should display more calm in Europe at this time and refrain from doing anything that might draw any further the attention of her neighbors.

F. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, MARCH 23 to TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1776

London, March 26.

The *Pearl* man of war, and *Woodcock* transport, are sailed from Plymouth for Corke.

Captain [Keith] Elphinstone is appointed to the *Perseus* frigate, and Capt. [Charles] Fielding to the *Diamond*.

His Majesty's frigate *Ambuscade* of 32 guns, is now fitting out at Chatham, to carry Sir George McCartney to his government of Dominica; she is afterwards to join the fleet on the North America station.

Orders are sent to Sheerness for his Majesty's ship *Rainbow*, of 44 guns, to be fitted out for immediate service. She is already commissioned, and the command given to Sir George Collier.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, MARCH 26." ¹

Since my last arrived at Spithead from the Downs, his Majesty's ship *Flora*, and 6 transports. . . .

The *Tartar* frigate is come out of dock, and is fitting for America.

Admiral Montague is come down and will sail in a few days.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 28 to March 30, 1776.

27 Mar.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir: [Admiralty Office] 27h March 1776

The ordnance Board having been made acquainted with your representation in your Letter of the 28h January last of the great scarcity of ordnance small Stores at Halifax for the use of the Fleet, particularly three and four Pound Shot for the small Cruizers; And they having in return, by their Letter of the 23d Instant, acquainted my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that a supply of ordnance Stores is already sent to Halifax, and that a further supply is getting ready for that purpose; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, in further answer to your Letter abovementioned. I am &c

Geo. Jackson D: S:

Sent to Mr Pownall 29 March

Duplicate sent by the *Canceaux* 19 April

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 352.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, MARCH 26 to THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1776

London, March 27.

Orders are sent to Sheerness for his Majesty's frigate *Winchelsea*, Cap-

tain [Nathaniel] Bateman, to be fitted out for the American station, and a number of hands are now employed for that purpose.

28 Mar.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, APRIL 2 TO THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1776

Glasgow, March 28.

Saturday last a party of the 42d, or Royal Highlanders, marched from this place to Greenock, in order to quell a disturbance which had happened there, by some sailors belonging to the transport ships coming ashore, and refusing to proceed on their voyage without an augmentation of their wages. Happily before the arrival of the party (the Magistrates having secured some of the ring leaders) the difference was made up, and all the sailors are gone aboard.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE¹

Sir,

Whitehall, 28th March 1776.

There being no Ship of War in immediate Readiness to sail for North America, I have thought fit to dispatch one of His Majesty's armed Packets, with this Letter, that you may be informed, as early as possible, of the additional Force you are to expect from hence, and of the present State of Our Preparations.

The inclosed Treaties will inform you of the Number of Foreign auxiliary Troops engaged to serve in North America, of which Number 12,200. Men, being the whole Body of Hessians, are intended to serve in the Army under Your Command; and the Brunswickers, Waldeckers, and the Regiment of the Hereditary Prince of Hesse, together with the Nine British Battalions, and the whole of Lieutenant Colonel Maclean's Corps, are to serve in Canada, under Genl Carleton.

The transports for the first Division of Hessians, amounting to 8,200. Men, are already compleated, and on their Passage to the Place of Embarkation: A Detachment of Guards, consisting of 1098 Men, formed into a distinct Corps, is on its March to Portsmouth; and I am not without Hope that the first Division of Hessians may arrive at Spithead in time, so that the whole may proceed to North America together.

It appears to me, as far as I stand informed at present, that this Body of Troops should proceed to Rhode Island, and I shall take the King's Pleasure for the necessary Instructions accordingly, in Confidence that, if you approve of that Destination, they will find, upon their Arrival there, such Orders from you, as will determine their further proceeding, or, otherways, that a proper Number of Cruizers will be stationed upon the Coast, to watch the Arrival of the Fleet, and to proceed with it to such other Place, as you shall appoint.

The Difficulties in procuring Transports have been very great, and it is impossible, as yet, to form a guess, when a sufficient Number will be ready

to receive the second Division of the Hessians; but I trust it will not be long first, and that the Corps of Highlanders; consisting of the 42d & 71st Regiments, making together 3466 Men, which are nearly, if not intirely completed, will embark in the Clyde, by the 20th of next Month at farthest.

The Delays and Disappointments which have attended the Armament sent out to the Southern Colonies, have been greater than could have been expected; and as the Fleet did not leave Corke before the 12th of last Month, and afterwards met with very tempestuous Weather, in which many Ships were separated and put back in Distress, there is but little hope that any of the Objects of that Expedition can be obtained; and, therefore, I received the King's Commands, to dispatch a Vessel after the Fleet, with a Letter to Major General Clinton, of which I inclose you a Copy, and also of the Instructions sent, at the same time, by the Admiralty to Sir Peter Parker.

The Effect of these Orders will probably be, that the whole, or, at least the greatest part of that Armament will join you, as early as the Troops can arrive from hence, so that you may be able to open the Campaign in the Month of May or Beginning of June.

Our Recruiting for some time went on very slowly, and the Men raised in Ireland will be of little Use to you; Since the Parties have been removed to England we have had better Success, and the Recruits raised may make Soldiers: they will be sent over to you by different Ships; as Opportunities offer, or whenever a Number is collected sufficient to be the Object of a separate Embarkation; but there is no Prospect that we shall be able to procure in time for this Campaign, all that are necessary to complete the Augmentation.

I observe that in your Disposition of the Battalions under your Command, you include the 6th Regiment at St Vincent's, and therefore it was the King's Intention, to give you that Regiment complete, by turning over to it the effective Men of the 48th; but the slow Progress made in forming the additional Battalions & Companies of the Royal Americans, has made it impossible to take both the 6th & 48th from the Ceded Islands for the present; and, therefore, all that we can do is, to give you the 6th Regiment in its present State, and you will, therefore, send for it, when you can spare Transports for that Purpose; & as there are many Recruits already raised for that Corps they will be sent immediately to you, by which means that Battalion will be tolerably compleat.

With regard to the Service on the Side of Canada, and the Operations of the Force to be employed there, (of the Extent of which you are already informed) it will depend upon the Situation of Affairs in that Province: but if the Rebels shall, in consequence of their Repulse & Defeat, on the 31st of December, have given up all thoughts of Conquest on that Side, which is most probably the Case, there is good ground to hope, that the Army will be able to advance into the other Colonies, by the Passage of the Lakes, and accordingly every proper preperation has been made here, that can give Facility to such a Plan.

As far as I can judge of what is likely to be the general Plan of Opera-

tions in North America, and indeed, in all Events, the securing the Affection & Assistance of Our old Friends & Allies the Indians of the Six Nations, is a Consideration of no small Importance; and I hope Col. Guy Johnson, who is now here, and is preparing to return by the first Ship, will be found useful.

The King has been pleased to give him the same Commission & Appointments as were given to Sir William Johnson in 1756, and he is in all respects made subject to your Direction & Controll. You will therefore employ him in such manner, and give him such Instructions as you shall think necessary & proper.

I have already acquainted you, in my Letter of the 1st of Febry, of His Majesty's Intention to give higher Rank to His General officers serving in North America, and inclosed I send you a List of the Commissions which have been signed by His Majesty for that Purpose, with the Date of each Commission respectively.

You will observe that the Rank given by these Commissions is confined to America only; but it is hoped that this Arrangement will have the Effect to prevent any Embarrassment or Inconvenience, which might otherways arise, from the General Officers of the Foreign Troops claiming the Command, in consequence of their superior Rank.

In your Letters of the 16th and 22d of January N[o]s. 7 and 8 you express a Wish to receive Instructions concerning the Corps under the Command of Lieutenant Colonels Maclean and Gorham. I have therefore made Inquiry into that matter, and find that His Majesty's Pleasure was signified by my Predecessor in Office to the Commander in Chief authorizing him to raise such Corps, and to grant Commissions for that purpose, but the Officers were not to be entitled to Half Pay, or to have any other Rank than what was allotted to the like Corps in the last War.

With regard to the Bounty Money and Pay of these Provincial Levies, I apprehend that the Commander in Chief must supply the Sums necessary for that purpose, but the proper steps have been taken for supplying them here with Cloathing, Arms and Accoutrements, and also with Tents and other Camp necessaries. These are the Regulations which were thought fit with respect to those Corps, and they will equally apply to the Nova Scotia Regiment, or any other provincial Corps which may be raised in America for His Majesty's Service in the present Rebellion.

I must not conclude this letter without congratulating You upon the Appointment of Lord Howe to the Naval Commander in Chief in North America; The Choice His Majesty has been pleased to make, of so able & experienced an Officer, has given universal Satisfaction, and will, I am persuaded, have the most happy Consequences. I am &c.

Geo: Germain

P.S. You will observe that in Speaking of the Force to be employed in Canada, I have mentioned only 9 British Battalions, in which I have not included Lord Cornwallis's Regiment, which I acquainted You in my letter

of the 1st of February was to be sent to Quebec as soon as it returned from the Expedition to the Southward.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93, 137-51.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN HUGH DALRYMPLE,
H.M.S. *Juno*, Spithead ¹

In case the Transport Vessels having the Brunswick Troops on board which, by our Order of the 26th Inst you are directed to Convoy into the River St Lawrence should not be ready to sail before the arrival of those with the Hannau Regiment which may be hourly expected: You are hereby further required & directed to take the Transports having on board that Regiment under your care to convoy them to the Isle aux Courdes also; but on no account to wait for them. And for your further information we send you herewith a List of the Transports abovementioned as well as of those which are to carry the 21st Regiment from Plymouth.

And, in further addition to our beforementioned Order, You are hereby required & directed to make enquiry for all Storeships, Victuallers & other Vessels which may be at Spithead, Portsmouth or Plymouth, bound to Canada whose Masters may be ready to sail & desirous of accompanying you & to take them under your Convoy & see them in safety into the River St Lawrence as far as the Isle aux Coudres.

Given &c 28th March 1776

Sandwich Lisburne H. Penton

By &c G J DS.

[Enclosure]

Admty. Office

28th March 1776

A List of Transports designed to carry the first Division of Brunswick Troops including those for the Hannau Regiment hourly expected at Spithead, and also the 21st Regiment of Foot now at Plymouth Vizt

	Tons	
<i>Minerva</i>	311	} For the first Division of the Brunswick Troops
<i>Lawrie</i>	283	
<i>Pallas</i>	344	
<i>Ld Sandwich</i>	317	
<i>Apollo</i>	361	
<i>Providence</i>	366	
<i>James & John</i>	355	
<i>Elizabeth</i>	320	
<i>Nancy</i>	304	
<i>Polly</i>	309	
<i>Union</i>	261	
<i>Royl Briton</i>	303	
<i>Pr of Wales</i>	447	
<i>Harmony</i>	449	
<i>Peggy</i>	360	
<i>Martha</i>	326	30 Horses

<i>Three Sisters</i>	469	} For the Hannau Regiment
<i>Content</i>	335	
<i>Stag</i>	317	
<i>Margaret & Martha</i>	353	
<i>Neptune</i>	179	} For the 21st Regiment
<i>St Helena</i>	270	
<i>Katy</i>	278	
<i>Friendship</i>	201	
<i>Walter</i>	265	
<i>Ps Royal</i>	152	
<i>Dorothy</i>	237	

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 556-58.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT FANSHAW,
H.M.S. *Carysfort*, CORK ¹

Whereas it now appears that the *Speke* Hospital Ship cannot arrive at Cork in time to proceed under your Convoy; You are hereby required & directed not to wait for her but to put to Sea the very first opportunity of Wind & Weather with the Transports & Troops mentioned in our Order to you of the 11th Inst & proceed with them with all possible expedition to the Isle aux Coudres agreeable to our said Order.

Given &c. 28th March 1776

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

By &c G J DS By Express 5 PM

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 563.

Public Advertiser, THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1776.

London [March 28].

Advice is received from Jamaica, that Admiral Gayton has taken several Sloops and Schooners into the Pay of Government, and fitted them out as Tenders; each is commanded by a Lieutenant, to cruize for the American Vessels off the Havannah, Monti Christi, St. Eustatia, and Curacoa, where they have met with great Success, having taken between twenty and thirty Prizes in the Course of a few Months.

29 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT FANSHAW,
H.M.S. *Carysfort*, CORK ¹

Whereas it is intended that Lord Viscount [Richard] Howe, Vice Admiral of the Blue, shall proceed from Spithead in the course of next Month with a considerable Body of British and Foreign Troops to reinforce the Army under the command of General [William] Howe, and that his Lordship shall take upon him the Chief command of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employ'd, and to be employed, in North America, and co-operate with

the General in such Measures as shall be judged proper to be taken to quell the Rebellion which unhappily subsists in some of His Majesty's Colonies there; You are hereby required and directed to assemble at Boston such of the Ships and Vessels under you command as can be spared from other necessary Services, and continue with part of them in that Port and to keep others cruising off that part of the Coast to meet his Lordship, until he arrives, taking care that they be held in constant readiness for the Sea; But if you also learn that his Lordship instead of going to Boston, as is now intended, shall have proceeded to some other Port in North America, You are to concert with General Howe what part of the Naval Force it might be proper to leave at Boston in case he himself should continue, or should leave any part of the Army there, and proceed with the remainder to join Lord Howe at the Port where you learn he is: Or, if it should be the General's Intention to proceed with the Troops from Boston to the Port where his Lordship with the abovemention'd Reinforcement shall be, you are, in such case, to give all necessary assistance in embarking the Troops and to convoy the General and them to such Port accordingly.

Upon joining Lord Howe you are, to deliver to him attested Copies of our Instructions to you, and of such orders as you shall have received from Us which remain in the whole, or in any part unexecuted, And to furnish his Lordship with such Information as may be necessary or in any degree useful to him in the execution of the important Service in which he is to be employed; And you are to put yourself under His Lordships command and follow his Orders for your further proceedings.

Given &c the 29th. March 1776

Sandwich J Buller Lisburne

By &c G. J. DS.

Sent same day to Lord George Germain's Office to be forwarded from thence with his Lordships dispatches

Duplicate – signed Sandwich – Buller – Palmerston by the *Canceaux*
 Triplicate signed Sandwich Buller H Palliser. by Commodore Hotham

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 561-63.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON¹

[Extract]

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 29h March 1776

. . . Sir Peter Parker put to Sea from Cork with the Ships and Transports under his Convoy on the 12h day of the last Month but after being six days at Sea was met by bad weather which seperated him from part of his Convoy – Such of these as have put into Ports in England have been refitted and ordered to assemble at Plymouth, and they are now waiting to proceed under convoy of the *Ranger* which will put to Sea the moment the wind is favorable.

Besides this Ship [*Greyhound*] there have sailed the *Isis* and *Triton* for the River St Lawrence and with them two large Ships named in the

Margin² with Lieutenants to command them, which last mentioned Ships after landing the Troops they have on board are to be fitted as armed Ships and put on the establishment of Sloops; and the said Lieutenants are then to take upon them the command as such; having Commissions from their Lordships appointing them thereto.

These four Ships have taken in Troops intended for the relief of Quebeck, and have Orders to use their utmost endeavours to that end, and to remain at Quebeck or in the River St Lawrence til they shall receive directions from you or the Commanding Officer of the Squadron in North America whose Command they are then to put themselves under.

Sent to Mr. Pownall 29h March

Duplicate sent by the *Canceaux* 19 April

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 358-60.

2. *Lord Howe*, Lieutenant Pringle; *Bute*, Lieutenant Parrey.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

No. 10

London, 29 March 1776

The troops from Brunswick arrived on the 27th in the road of Portsmouth, from whence they will sail as soon as possible for their destination.

His British Majesty has just signed a promotion list of General Officers in America. Messrs. [Guy] Carleton and [William] Howe were made Generals. Messrs. [Henry] Clinton, [John] Burgoyne, and the Lords [Hugh] Percy and [Charles] Cornwallis were appointed Lieutenant Generals, and seven Colonels were promoted to the rank of Major General valid in America only. General Burgoyne is getting ready to sail with the troops from Brunswick and the rest of the English troops destined for Canada. If General Carleton is still free, M. Burgoyne will have to serve under his command.

A thousand men from the Guards are embarking at Portsmouth for Boston. As the King of England treated them with great courtesy when he passed them in review, some practical jokers claimed that it was His Majesty's last farewell to men he would not see again. The arrival of the Hessian troops is expected. Everywhere, transport ships are hurriedly chartered and ships and frigates are fitted out. Everything bustles with activity. . . .

No plans are being made here my Lord, to organize any establishment at Falkland. At some time I had advised the Court that the New Englanders went there for whale-fishing because of the convenience of both tropics and the Equator. The Government told the Prince of Masseran that they wanted to chase the Americans from there but that they did not have any intention to establish themselves there, and I believe, indeed, that nothing is farther away from his thoughts. It may be that Captain [James] Cook has been ordered to carry out this expulsion in the course of his journey.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MARCH 29.”¹

The *Blonde* frigate, [Philemon] Pownall, has received her orders to sail for America; she is to carry out Gen. Burgoyne, who is expected here from London this evening. The above frigate and the *Juno*, [Hugh] Dalrymple, are to convoy out the Brunswick troops.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 30 to April 2, 1776.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, MARCH 29.”¹

This day sailed from hence, his Majesty's ship the *Ranger*, with five sail of Sir Peter Parker's squadron, which were separated from him some time ago, in a violent gale of wind, in their passage from Corke for America. We have no transports here at present, but expect several from the Downs hourly.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 30 to April 2, 1776.

1 Apr.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LIEUTENANT CUTHBERT
COLLINGWOOD, R.N.¹

Whereas we intend that you shall be employed to raise Voluntier Seamen & Land[s]men in and about London for the Service of His Majesty's Sloop *Hornet* at Woolwich, You are hereby required and directed to observe the following Instructions. Vizt

1st

You are to hire a proper Room for a Rendezvous and to apply yourself with the utmost diligence to the aforesaid Service; causing Bills to be printed and stuck up inviting such Voluntiers to repair thereto; And taking care not to receive any but who are of strong bodies and in health the Seamen not under eighteen or above Fifty and the Landman not under eighteen or above Twenty five years of Age.

2d

You are from time to time, to send such Men as you may procure together with their Chests and Bedding under the care of one of your Petty Officers on board the above Sloop whilst in the River Thames, taking care to transmit at the same time, to her Captain a List of their respective Names & times of entry, wherein the Seamen are to be distinguished from the Landmen in order that they may be enter'd in her Books for Wages accordingly.

3d

You are to deliver daily to Captn [James] Kirk who is appointed to regulate the Service of raising Men in Town an account of the Number of Men raised, distinguishing therein the Seamen from the Landmen, also how many you have procured in the whole & how many since the Account immediately proceeding.

4th

You are to subsist the new rais'd Men til' such time as they shall be sent on board the *Hornet* at the rate of nine pence a day each which is to be in full for their Lodging also. And, the better to enable you to carry on this Service, you are to keep the eight first good Seamen who may enter constantly in Town with you, in order that they may be employed in assisting you & the Petty Officers in raising other Voluntiers; allowing them one Shilling and three Pence a day each for their subsistence which is to be in full of all charges and claims for Refreshments, Drink Money &c. transmitting their Names and times of entry to the Captain of the *Hornet* that they may be enter'd for Wages accordingly, on the said Sloop's Books; sending them on board her under the care of one of your Petty Officers when you shall be order'd to break up your Rendezvous; And as a rowing Boat to go amongst the Shipping may give you a better opportunity of inviting Men to enter you are to hire a proper Boat for that purpose on the best and cheapest terms you can & to employ such of the eight Men abovemention'd as you can best trust in rowing her amongst the Shipping accordingly under the direction of one of your Petty Officers. With respect to your own Subsistence and that of your Petty Officers you are at liberty to charge Two Shillings and nine pence a day for your's, and to pay the said Petty Officers One Shilling & nine pence a day each for their's, during the time you and they shall be employ'd as aforesaid.

5th

As the nature of this Service may require some other disbursements you are to use all possible frugality and good husbandry therein for no unreasonable or unnecessary Expence will be allow'd; And for your better guidance in this matter, you are to observe that your charges for the following Articles must not exceed the rates against each express'd Vizt.

	£	s	d
Rendezvous & Lodging rooms P Week	1	11	6
Entry Money for Voluntiers each		1	0
Beat of Drum, Fife playing & all other Petty Charges. P Week		10	0

Stationary Wares, printing fixing up & dispersing invitation Bills not to exceed £1.10. 0, upon coming on Service for the first Month; nor to be more than 7s. 6d P. Month afterwards

To your Petty Officers for their travelling Charges in coming from, & returning to the Ship 3d P. Mile.

6th

And in order to enable you to make the above disbursements (of which you are to be very particular in keeping & transmitting monthly to the Navy Board a regular Account) you are to apply to the said Board for an Imprest of Twenty pounds which we have order'd for you; and when the same is expended, you are to let us know it in order to your being supplied with more if it shall be found necessary, And as soon as the above Service shall be over,

you are to deliver to that Board an Account of all your disbursements making an Affidavit at the foot thereof in the following form Vizt

"This Deponent maketh Oath that the Sum charged against each particular Article in the above Account was expended for the purpose mention'd in such Article and no other."

Given under our Hands the 1st of April 1776. —

Lieut. Cuthbert Collingwood of His Majts Sloop *Hornet* in Town —

Sandwich Palmerston Lisburne

By &c. Geo. Jackson, D.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 1-4. During April identical recruiting orders were given for four sloops and the frigate *Galatea*, all lying at Deptford. They were: April 3; Lieutenant Charles Loder Carne, of the *Vulture*; April 8; Lieutenant Hugh Cloberry Christian, of the *Shark*; April 10; Lieutenant William Augustus Merrick, of the *Galatea*; April 18; Lieutenant William Cregg, of the *Hound*; April 20; Lieutenant Richard Creyk, of the *Spy*; *ibid.*, 6, 13, 22, 38, 41.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords,

Whitehall 1st April 1776.

I have not failed to lay before the King Your Lordship's letter to me of the 26th ulto acquainting me that you had ordered Captain [John] Brisbane, of His Majesty's Ship *Flora*, to proceed to the Clyde, and there take under his Convoy the Transport Ships appointed to embark the Highlanders, and I am commanded by the King to signify to Your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure, that you do give Orders to Captain Brisbane that so soon as the two Highland Regiments shall be embarked on board the Transports, which, I hope, will be by the 15th instant, he do proceed therewith to Boston in No America and if, upon his Arrival in that Harbour he shall be informed that General Howe & Vice Admiral Shuldhham with the Land & Sea Forces under their Command, are removed from thence, he is to follow them, with the said Transports and Troops, to such place as they may be removed to, or to proceed according to such Directions as they may have left for that purpose.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 11.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 1st april 1776

Mr Robinson, Secretary of the Treasury, having transmitted to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty a Letter from Mr Stanley, Secretary of the Customs, dated the 26 past, accompanied by an Extract of one from Mr Kelly of the *Active* Cutter in that Service dated 24th. past, respecting a Philadelphia Brig then at Dunkirk which had taken on board between 30 and 40 Tons of Shot, and were to receive Gunpowder expected from Holland, which Ship was to clear out for Ireland, but her real destination is

for North America; I am commanded by their Lordships to send you the inclosed Copies of the said Letters, for your information. I am &c

Geo: Jackson D:S:

By the *Canceaux*, 18 Apr

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 381.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

Grafton Street [London] 1[s]t April 1776

Lord Howe has the honor to acknowledge the great obligations he is under to Lord George Germain, for the regard & indulgence shewn to his difficulties on the draft of the Instructions, by having obviated some of his former objections. But he begs leave to observe, that there still remains one material article upon which he finds himself under the necessity of giving His Lordship this farther trouble.

Connecticut & Rhode Island, are totally excluded from the advantages of peace, until some measure be agreed to respecting Alterations in their charters. Lord Howe understands that the commissioners are to receive propositions upon that head, and to transmit them to England where they are to be decided upon; But that in the mean time, those Colonies, however well disposed they maybe & whatever submissions they may profess themselves ready to make, are proscribed, and must remain under all the restraints & sufferings of the prohibitory act. He therefore takes the liberty to submit to Lord George, whether the precise alterations intended to be made in their charters (if that point is still to be insisted on) might not be specified in the Instructions; and the commissioners empowered to declare those Colonies at the Peace of the King, upon their consenting to such alterations, and to the general preliminary conditions.

He farther begs leave to submit a doubt he entertains whether the prohibitory Act is not compulsory, with regard to the declaring of Connecticut & Rhode Island, as well as all the other Colonies, at Peace, whenever they shall be disposed to return to their duty.

He conceives that the declaring of peace (with an exception to Connecticut & Rhode Island) and the granting of Pardons, are the only decisive measures which the Commissioners are empowered to take. And that all the other Articles of the Instructions convey merely an authority to confer or treat upon propositions offered, and to transmit them to England. But he humbly submits, whether the desired accommodation would not be facilitated, if the Commissioners conferring upon the Point of Taxation, were at liberty to enter upon some explanation of the conciliatory proposition of the House of Commons; so far at least, as to intimate what Ideas of contribution they can with any hope of success transmit to His Majesty's Ministers for the consideration of Parliament.

He had the honor to mention these objections to Lord George Germain when he returned the first Draft of the Instructions; and would not

have taken the liberty to repeat them, if he had not thought them very substantial and important.

Howe

1. Germain Papers, CL.

CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD DICKSON, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Greyhound Cork Harbr 1st April 1776

I beg you will please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I have this day got all the Ships down at Cove that are ready for Boston, and Inclose a list of the same, the *Howe* a Large Ship with Provisions for Boston the Master Promised Genl. [Robert] Cunningham and me, to be ready on thursday last, yet She now wants between 30 & 40 Casks, She is a ship of 20 Guns and 70 men on Board. there appears to me to be some neglect in the Shipping the Provisions, as She will not be ready in some days, and their Lordships Orders to me are to Proceed wth. such ships as are ready for Boston, Shall therefore immediately Sail with the 9 Sail that have taken Orders without Loss of time I am Sir [&c.]

Arch^d Dickson

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1706, Section 9, 6.

2. *Ibid.*, 9, adverse winds held Dickson in port and Howe joined his convoy on April 4.

MARQUIS DE GRIMALDI TO PRINCE MASSERANO¹

Your Excellency: It has been our experience that the captains of English warships conduct themselves strangely in some of the ports of the King. They propose to search merchant vessels of their own country within those very same ports. The Marquis de Tavalosos, Commandant-General of the Canaries, reports that Captain William Corneballes [Cornwallis], who commands the English frigate of war named *Palas* [*Pallas*], on the 11th of January last year, fired a cannon at an American called the *Honor & Helen* because she set sail flying a pennant. On the 28th of November of the same year another English frigate of war named the *Atlanta* [*Atalanta*], under Captain Thomas Underwood, having anchored in the Port of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, took possession of a brigantine of her own nation and put aboard a lieutenant with soldiers from the frigate. He searched it thoroughly and took the papers and bills of lading that it carried. Later, however, on being better advised, he changed his mind. Lastly, on the 28th of December of the aforementioned year, the frigate of war *Palas* returned to and anchored in Tenerife. One of the officers was sent to board an English brigantine that had arrived from Barcelona. He searched it thoroughly, conducted a detailed inquiry, and obliged the captain of the brigantine to remain ashore in the process of which the captain was struck.

These events are truly against the honor and sovereignty of the King and have merited His Majesty's full attention. He orders me to instruct Your Excellency as his agent to inform the appropriate officials of the British Ministries of this, in order that they may warn the captains of English warships to abstain from committing similar offenses, because the Governors of the

King in those places have been instructed to maintain the honor and rights of His Majesty, although on our part they have been cautioned to use tact and courteous conduct. God grant to Your Excellency [&c.]

Madrid, 1 April 1776.

Marquis de Grimaldi

1. AHN, Estado, Legajo 4281, p. 14-15, LC Microfilm.

2 Apr.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE.¹

[Whitehall April 2, 1776]

Lord George Germain presents his Compts to Lord Howe, he is very sorry that the Alterations which were made in the Instructions have only in part Obviated the Objections made to them. Lord George is very ready to explain verbally his Ideas upon the Construction of any of the Articles, but he cannot take upon himself to make any Material Alterations in them without the previous Concurrence of the Ministers as this last Draft was settled with and approved by them in hopes that it would have been satisfactory.² Lord George Cannot understand that Rhode Island and Connecticut are so proscribed as Lord Howe imagines them to be, for if they Consented to a proper Alteration in their Charters and to acknowledge the Legislative Authority of Great Britain He Cannot see that the following words in the Instructions viz. that you do not declare those Colonies to be at our Peace until some measure is agreed to, for rendering those Governments more immediately Subject to the Authority of Great Britain; can preclude His Lordship from putting them upon the same footing with the other Provinces without sending to England for any farther Powers As to the Matter of [alter]ation, it is very proper that Ld Howe shd be acquainted with the Expectation of the Ministers and particularly of Ld North upon that subject tho' the Instructions can be only general the Idea that the Restraining Act is compulsory, Ld George believes that upon reconsidering it Lord Howe will find that the Commisioners are only Empower'd b[u]t not required in any Case to declare those Rebellious Provinces at Peace

Lord George wishes to show every mark of regard and attention to Lord Howe upon this and Every other occasion, and shall be happy to hear that he is willing to undertake being one of the Commissioners

1. Germain Papers, CL.

2. *Ibid.*, next day Howe replied to Germain: "Lord George having already honoured him with his verbal ideas upon the construction of the articles, he cannot think of breaking in again upon his Lordship's time, and deeming the matter to be of the greatest moment, is unwilling to commit his Lordship in declarations of his private sentiments."

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM HOTHAM, R.N.:¹

Whereas we think fit that you shall serve under the command of Vice Admiral Lord Howe, who is appointed Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed and to be employed in North America, and that you shall proceed thither, in His Majesty's Ship the *Preston* whose Cap-

tain is directed to follow your Orders and to enter you, together with your Secretary Retinue and Servants on her Books from the date hereof; You are hereby required and directed, to repair forthwith to Portsmouth, and, upon the *Preston's* arrival at Spithead (where she may be daily expected) to repair on board her, and to remain with her at that place until you receive further Order; holding yourself in constant readiness for sailing when you shall receive directions for that purpose; And as soon as you shall put to Sea and get out of the British Channel, you are to hoist a Broad Pendant on board the said Ship, and to wear the same until you return to England, or 'til further Order. – Given &c. the 2d April 1776

Sandwich J. Buller Lisburne

To Capt William Hotham
in Town – By &c. Geo. Jackson D.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 5-6.

New York Packet, THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1776

London, April 2.

Yesterday morning four waggons laden with money was sent off from the Bank, under a proper escort, to Portsmouth, for payment of his Majesty's ships and the transports lying there bound to America.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, APRIL 2.”¹

Saturday sailed from this port for America, the *Jersey* hospital ship, of 60 guns, commanded by Capt. Halsted.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 4 to April 6, 1776.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, APRIL 2.”¹

Yesterday dropped down to St. Helen's, his Majesty's ships *Romney*, Admiral Montague, and *Cygnets*, Capt. Finch; and this morning the wind being fair, they sailed for Newfoundland; but it is expected they must put back, as the wind is again come around to the S.W.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 2 to April 4, 1776.

3 Apr.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, APRIL 6 TO TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1776

Edinburgh, April 3.

On Friday last the 42d regiment of Royal Highlanders (Lord John Murray's) were reviewed by General [Adolphus] Oughton, before several Officers of distinction. We hear they are ordered to be on board the transports destined for America by the 10th instant; and the 71st regiment (Fraser's) are ordered to be on board by the 20th instant.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN GEORGE MACKENZIE, R.N.¹

You are hereby required & directed to cause one Hundred Men belonging to the *Mars* & the same number from the *Ramillies* to be discharged from them to enter on board His Majestys Ship the *Eagle* in the Hope taking them as they stand on the Ships Books either from the first or last name; And to cause Pay Lists to be made out & transmitted to the Navy Board that the aforesaid Men may be paid the Wages due to them before the *Eagle* proceeds to Spithead.

Given &c 3d April 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

To George Mackenzie Esqr Captain of his Majts Ship *Ramillies* & Commr in Chief of His Majts Ships &c in the River Medway &c By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 7.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON¹

Sir [Admiralty Office] 3rd April 1776

My Lords Commissioners of the Admty having received a Paper of intelligence dated Hague March 26th 1776 of three Ships having a Quantity of Gunpowder on board which it is said are intended to be conveyed to North America, I am commanded by their Lordships to send you herewith a Copy thereof for your information. I am &ca

G Jackson DS

By the *Cancaux* 18 Apr.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 388.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, APRIL 3.”¹

The Ships in this ordinary and Sheerness, are considerably reduced by the present equipment to America. The following is a list of such as have been commissioned since the 30th of June last, viz. *Centurion*, *Isis*, and *Bristol*, of 50 guns. *Roebuck* and *Rainbow*, 44 guns. *Amazon*, *Ambuscade*, *Blonde*, *Emerald*, *Brune*, *Diamond*, *Flora*, *Repulse*, *Richmond*, and *Lark*, 32 guns. *Boreas*, *Milford*, *Syren*, *Liverpool*, and *Carysfort*, 28 guns. *Atlanta*, 16 guns; *Jersey* hospital-ship. *Strombolo*, fire ship.

The *Pembroke* of 50 guns, is under preparation to be sent to America, to be made a hulk.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 6 to April 9, 1776.

4 Apr.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM¹

Whereas Lieut: Mouat [Henry Mowat], who commands His Majts Armed Vessel the *Cancaux* and by whom you will receive this, hath represented to Us that there is at Boston a Merchant Ship called the *Britannia*

which has been surveyed by your order, in dimensions as far as he can recollect, something larger than His Majts Sloop the *Falcon* & judged capable of carrying sixteen six Pounders with Swivels; and Whereas we think fit that the said Ship shall be purchased for His Majts Service & be registered as a Sloop on the List of the Royal Navy by the name of the *Albany*; established with a Complement of 125 men, including such Commission, Warrant & Petty Officers as are allowed to Sloops bearing that number of Men; supplied with the number & nature of Guns above mentioned, and Armed, Stored & Victualled in every respect proper for a Sloop of that Class; You are hereby required and directed, so soon after the receipt hereof as possible, to purchase the said Ship upon the most advantageous terms you can for His Majesty, and to call her by the name of the *Albany* accordingly; directing the Naval Officer at Boston to pay for the purchase of her.

You are then to give Commissions to the above mentioned Lieut Mowat² to command her & to some proper person to be her Lieutenant, and also to appoint such Persons to be her Warrant Officers; as shall be fitly qualified for their respective employments; and to cause her to be manned, armed, stored & victualled in the manner abovementioned.

And whereas we shall order her Guns to be sent out in the *Canceaux* or some other Ship that will shortly sail to Boston, but intend that the Carriages for them shall be provided in America, You are to cause Carriages to be immediately prepared for the use of the said Guns accordingly, in such way as you shall judge best for His Majts Service.

You are to appoint a Lieutenant to command the *Canceaux* in the room of Mr: Mowat & to turn over as many of her men into the *Albany* as you shall see fit, in order to serve as part of her Complement; And you are to employ the said Vessels in such manner as you shall find most conducive to His Majts: Service entrusted to your Care. Given &c 4th Apl 1776

Sandwich H: Penton H. Palliser

By Command of their Lordships Geo: Jackson DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 9-11.

2. "On his [Henry Mowat] arrival [in England] he was received with the most gracious approbation of His Majesty, of the Admiralty Board & of the Secretary of State, & had the Step of Master & Commander Conferred on him, but it was to a Ship then in Boston. Captain Mowat, finding the Ship was in America & considering the time it would take him to join & to prepare her for Sea, expressed to Lord Sandwich & to Lord George Germaine a wish of being appointed to one on the Spot & his hopes that the long time he had Commanded the *Canso* [*Canceaux*] & the Services performed in her intitled him to the Promotion of a Post Ship. Lord Sandwich was pleased to observe he had every desire to give him a frigate, but none were ready for Commissioning; & if there were, it would require Months to Man her, urging at the same time the desire of Admiral Shuldham & of General Howe for his Speedy return & adding that there was no doubt on his arrival in America he would be appointed to the first vacant Post Ship on the Station, And the same encouragement was equally given by the Secretary of State. On this foundation he readily Sett out for America." *Collections and Proceedings of the Maine Historical Society*, 2nd series, II, 357-58.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN BRISBANE,
H.M.S. *Flora*, RIVER CLYDE ¹

Whereas we intend that the Ship you command shall proceed to North America with the Transport Ships which are to carry thither the two Highland Regiments under Orders to embark in the River Clyde; ² You are hereby required and directed to make enquiry for the said Ships, the Names of which will be given you by Lieut [John] Henry at Greenock who is appointed Agent to them; And, so soon as those Regiments shall be embarked (which it is hoped will be the 15th. inst) You are to take the Ships having them on board under your Convoy, And, in pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified to Us by Lord George Germain one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, in his Letter of the 1^t. inst. to put to Sea with the first Opportunity of Wind and Weather & proceed with them, without a Moments loss of time, to Boston in New England; and, if upon your arrival in that Harbour you shall be informed that General Howe and Vice Admiral Shuldham with the Land and Sea Forces under their command, are removed from thence, you are to follow them with the said Transports & Troops to such place as they may be removed to, or to proceed according to such directions as may have been left, for that purpose, by the said Vice Admiral or the Commander in Chief, for the time being of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels in North America; whose Orders you are to follow for your further proceedings.

Given &c. the 4th April 1776.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Penton

By &c. G.J. DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 8-9.
2. The 42nd and 71st Highlanders.

DIARY OF THOMAS MOFFAT ¹

1776 April 4th at noon left London with Captn Mowatt and George Cumberland a youth designd for Sea service: came to Portsmouth at Eleven at night, learnd that General Burgoyne had saild that morning with a fair wind. Greatly entertaind with viewing Portsmouth most kindly receivd by Dr Lind of Haslar Hospital also by Admiral Sr James Douglass.

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.

Public Advertiser, THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1776

London [April 4].

Captain Salmon, of the *Cleveland*, who is arrived at Milford from America, spoke with Sir Peter Parker's Fleet 35 Leagues to the Westward of Cape Finistre on the 7th ult. all well, then standing to the Southward; 18 Sail in Company; among whom was the *Clibborn*, *Thomas*, *Harcourt* &c. The *Harcourt* had carried away her Main-top-mast, and sprung the Head of her Main-mast in a violent Gale in La. 42.30. Long. 11.50.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, APRIL 4." ¹

This morning sailed . . . the *Juno* frigate, Capt. [John] Dalrymple, and the *Blonde* man of war, Capt. Pownoll [Philemon Pownoll], having on board Gen. Burgoyne and Col. Phillips, with the transports; on board of which are the Brunswick troops and British train of artillery under convoy for Quebec. Also sailed the *Romney* and *Cygnets* men of war for Newfoundland; the *Samuel*, Baigrie, for Jamaica; and *Woodland*, Manners, for Quebec.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 4 to April 6, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Blonde*, CAPTAIN PHILEMON POWNOLL ¹

April 1776

Moored at Spithead

Thursday 4

at 9 AM anchor'd here the *Repulse*, at noon came on board the generals [John] Burgoyne and [William] Phillips with several other Officers going to Quebec at 2 PM Weighed & sailed at 3 joined the *Juno* at St Helens and sailed with 28 Transports under Convoy, at 6 another Transport joined

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/118.

5 Apr.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO GEORGE III ¹

Lord George Germain has the honor of acquainting your Majesty that last night at 12 o'clock, the Messenger return'd from Portsmouth. M. General Burgoyne writes word that he was at 12 o'clock at noon going on board and Expected to be under sail in Two Hours. The Naval Officers were withdrawn from the Transports, and the Ordnance Store Ships were preparing to join the rest of the fleet at St Hellen's. no Intelligence of the *Speke* Hospital Ship, or of the *Jane* Ordnance Transport. Major General [William] Philips reports that almost all the Light Artillery together with the most Essential Stores are left behind. many of the Engineers Stores likewise left behind. these particulars are reported to Lord Townshend and Sr Jeffy Amherst.

Pall Mall 8 o'clock A. M. April 5th 1776.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 350.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM A. HALSTED,
H.M. HOSPITAL SHIP *Jersey*, BLACKSTAKES ¹

You are hereby required and directed to put to Sea, with the very first opportunity of Wind and Weather, in the Ship you command and proceed

in her, without a moment's loss of time, to Spithead; where you are to remain until you receive further Order.

Given &c 5th Ap. 1776

Palmerston H. Penton H. Palliser

By command of their Lordships

G. Jackson DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 13.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

No. 12

London, 5 April 1776

Admiral [John] Montagu sailed from Portsmouth yesterday with the troops from Brunswick destined for Canada. I would like to blame Lord Weymouth's false report on the possibility that he might not have known these facts; but, associating this report with one of the same nature made by Lord Sandwich who stated positively in the House of Lords on the 15th of last month that the ship *Romney* with Admiral Montagu on board would not sail for a few months yet, I find an obvious display of bad faith on the part of the English Ministers. I cannot conceive the reason which determined them to hide their plan to hasten the departure of this squadron, which was not supposed to sail until the end of June or early July, unless they flatter themselves to catch by surprise a number of American ships by arriving suddenly in these waters. If this supposition is true, the false announcement made by Lord Sandwich was perhaps a shrewdness designed to inspire the Americans with a false sense of security, although the occasion for using this small trick was hardly well chosen. What can I say of Lord Weymouth who wants to deceive me with respect to the journey of the Army even after its departure. . . .

The arrival of the first division of the Hessian troops which embarked in Bremen on the 25th of last month is expected any day. The second division will be delayed by the lack of transports of which a sufficient number could not yet be gathered.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

6 Apr.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, APRIL 4 TO SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1776

London, April 6.

A letter from Jamaica mentions, that several merchants of that island had made application to Admiral Gayton, for leave to fit out some privateers to cruize against the Americans; and the letter adds, so great a desire had the seamen there to enrich themselves, in hopes of taking many prizes, that a brigantine, a schooner, and two sloops, all armed vessels fitted out at Port Royal by the Admiral, were manned in less than ten days by volunteers from the merchant ships.

It is said that yesterday an express came to government from Portsmouth, with an account of the arrival there of the *King's Fisher* sloop, Capt. Montagu, from Virginia. She was sent express from Lord Dunmore.¹

1. An erroneous report. The *Kingsfisher*, Captain Alexander Graeme was "Alongside the Wharf at Halifax," from March 30 to April 28, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CORKE, APRIL 6." ¹

This day sailed from hence his Majesty's ship *Greyhound*, Capt. Dickson, with ten store ships, and victuallers under her convoy, with troops, stores, &c. for Boston. Wind N.E.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 13 to April 16, 1776.

H. KATENKAMP TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

[Corunna] 6th April 1776

The Frigate therein mentioned, is called the *Santa Dorothea*, and is ordered to cruise between Cape Finisterre and Cape St Vincent, and as it is reported and believed that one of His Majesty's frigates is stationed there to intercept the American vessels, it is thought the Spanish Frigate is destined to observe her.

1. Sparks Transcripts, Lord Grantham, I, 8, HU.

7 Apr. (Sunday)

ARTHUR LEE TO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CADWALLADER GOLDEN ¹

Dear Governor/

[London] April 7th 1776.

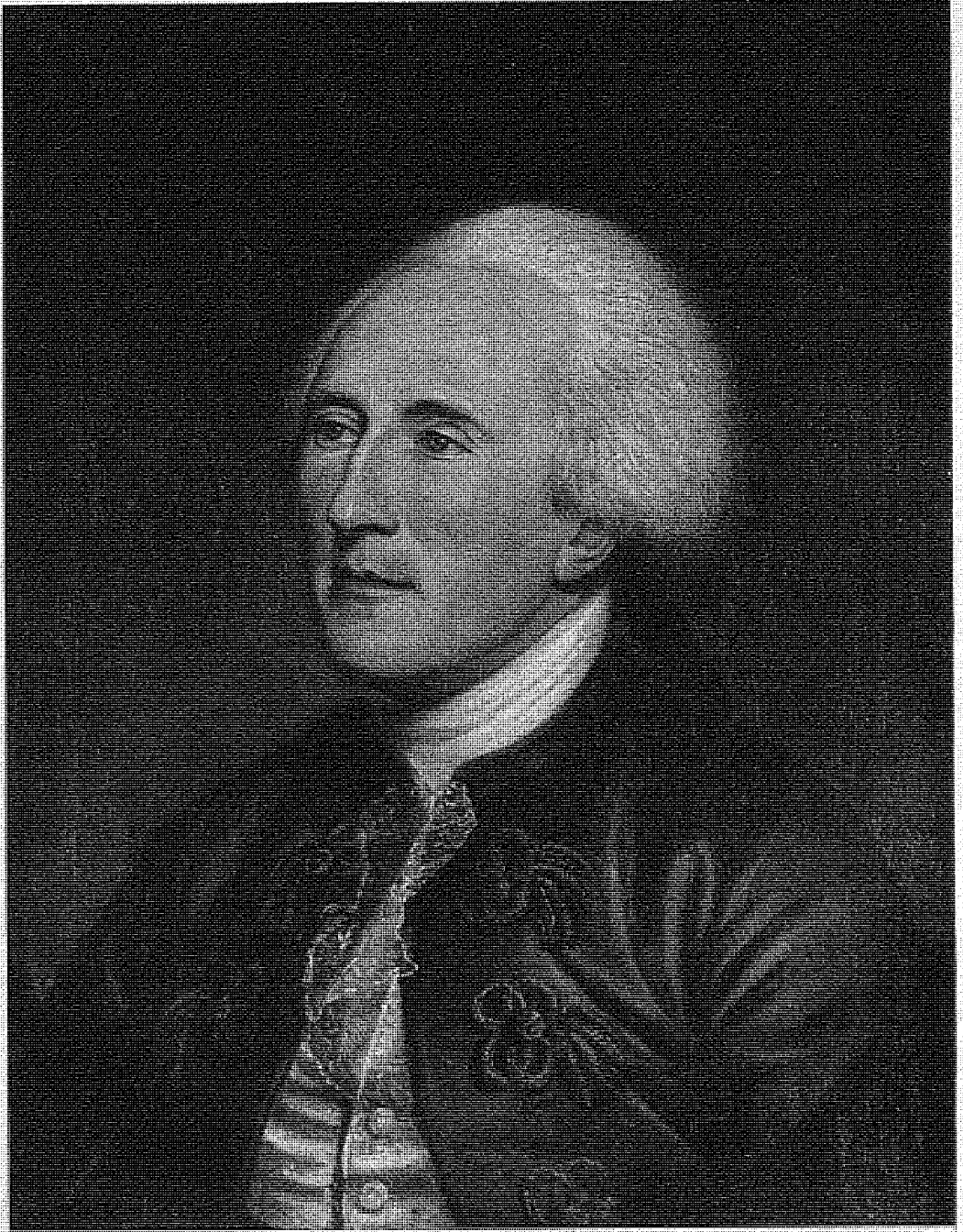
The plan against the Colonies, & the means of executing it are now settled. Ten thousand men Brunswickers & british, are to go against Canada under General Burgoyne, who is accompanyd by Col. Phillips & Capt [Edward] Foy, who were the Engineers at Minden. Two thousand 300 of the brunswic troops, & a thousand others are now embarked & saild this day from Plymouth for Quebec, with the General. Transports are not collected at Stade, & at Corke for the remainder.

Next month, the great Body of Hessians and british Troops, amounting to about Sixteen thousand will sail to re-inforce Howe. Their rendezvous is to be on long Island, where they think the Provincials will not venture, & the People are their friends. Howe is first to carry such of the provincial posts as woud annoy his embarkation, & leaving a garrison in Boston, is to land with the main Army of about 23 thousand men at New York, and begin the reduction of that province.

Sr Peter Parker, has been saild some weeks for Cape Fear River in North Carolina with three thousand men, commanded by Lord Cornwallis, who is to join General Clinton & fall upon Virginia & the Carolinas.

Lord Howe has at length agreed to command the Fleet, & will sail in about ten days in the *Eagle* line of battle Ship of 64 Guns. The whole of this Armament, however formidable in appearance, will be very inadequate

to the business if the provincials act with their usual spirit & prudence. That is, if they occupy good posts, entrench well, avoid a general Action but upon great & sure advantage, harrass the march & intercept the Convoys. All this their superior knowlege of the Country will enable them to do, so as to distress if not destroy the invading Army. The Regulars trust to their Artillery of which more has been shipt off, three times over, than went out of this Kingdom before. All this will embarrass their motions, & may, by proper precautions on the part of the provincials, be rendered ineffectual. As the Landgrave of Hesse, is a notoriously dishonest man, it is probable the troops he furnishes will be the worst he has. The british troops are mostly new raisd, & therefore in discipline will be inferior to the Americans. It is conceivd too that if proper offers are made to the Germans, they will desert in great numbers. Not one of the ships of war, has more than a third Seamen, the rest are landmen, therefore if the provincial vessels attack any of them, it will not be surprising if they succeed. Such is the terror entertaind of the service at land, that the officers of the Gaurds, now going, are cloath'd like the common men, that they may be in less danger; & it is supposd the whole Army will follow their example. Their apprehensions went so far, as to make them talk of wearing breast plates. The Provincials with proper attention, may be greatly superior in Cavalry, as there are but three british Regiments & those light, & some german. The Americans, both men & horse being accustomed to ride thro the woods will have an infinite advantage in forced marches, beating up quarters & cutting off Convoys. There are a thousand Waggons & three thousand draft Horses sent for the Artillery & Baggage, wch will cost them near £200,000 & may soon be destroyd with proper attention. The expence of this Armament you may well conceive will be enormous. 6 millions are already voted & it is computed that full 6 more will be requird. The Extraordinaries only of last year exceeded £800,000. If they do not succeed this campaign, which they will not be able to commence till July, all men agree that this Country cannot support it longer either in men or money. Every nerve is now stretchd & every resource exhausted. Lord George Germaine therefore gives it out as an encouragement, that the Americans will lay down their Arms, without a struggle, & that he has receivd the most humble offers from the Congress, but as he will not treat he sends this Armament to ensure an unconditional submission, of which he is secure. You may depend upon this language coming immediately from his lips. The Corporation of London, have voted the freedom of the City in a gold box to Dr [Richard] Price, for a pamphlet in defence of America, & petition'd the throne for a declaration of the difinitive terms intended to be granted to the Colonies. The King's Answer was, that when they laid down their Arms & submitted, he shoud think of mercy. The Colonies will see that their safety depends solely on their firmness, unanimity, & prudence. It is no longer in their option to be independent or connected with this Country as before. Independency or Slavery is the only alternative. Lord Shelburne however still gives it as his opinion, that just &



Arthur Lee.

liberal terms offerd from hence for America wou'd be accepted. But the Ministry have no such intention. That Lord, & the Earl of Chatham, are still the firm friends of America. A forged Letter in the name of the latter, approving of the measures against the Colonies, was inserted in all the Papers. But it was soon contradicted by his authority. It is supposd this was a ministerial manouvre, to dishearten the Americans; as it is in their power to send the forgery & withhold the contradiction.

The whole of this Armament may be expected by the latter end of July, as they will sail in May. If the Provincials had attack'd Halifax, it woud have been a capital stroke & an easy conquest; They are now strengthening it will all assiduity. Admiral Montague is saild to command on that station.² The french & Spanish are silent, but arming very fast; & certain intelligence is received of the former having collected a force in the East Indies that is very alarming. But, Such is the rage against America, that the Administration are determind, at every hazard, to make one desperate push. The whole Empire is put into the hazard, with the sole hope of enslaving a part, which the firmness & unanimity of the Colonies will, under God, infallibly disappoint. Farewell.

Lieutenant Governor Colden³

1. Arthur Lee Papers, VHS.

2. Admiral Montagu was sent to Newfoundland, not Halifax.

3. The Colden address was a camouflage adopted by Arthur Lee in a number of letters. The recipients were most likely his brothers, both members of the Continental Congress.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, DATED APRIL 7."¹

This morning came in here his Majesty's ships *Romney*, Admiral Montague, and the *Cygnets*, both from Portsmouth. Sailed his Majesty's ship *Preston*, for Portsmouth; also came in sight his Majesty's ship *Emerald* with the transports under her convoy from Portsmouth for America.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 9 to April 11, 1776.

8 Apr.

LORD SANDWICH TO GEORGE III¹

[Extract]

Your Majesty will observe from the enclosed letters from Corke that in all probability the *Carysfort* & *Pearl* are by this time Sailed with the troops for Quebec; as there were only six of the transports wanting on the 28th; past, which I doubt not arrived soon after.

The Marines returns are very satisfactory for this last week.

Admiralty April 8. 1776.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 350.

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN SANDS AND OTHERS OF THE SNOW *Dickinson*¹

Copy

John Sands first Mate, George David second Mate Robert Martin Mariner of and belonging to the Snow *Dickenson* burthen about Two hun-

dred and forty Tons of and belonging to Philadelphia in North America the property of Messrs Bayard & Jackson of Philadelphia aforesaid severally make Oath and first the said John Sands speaking for himself saith that they sailed from Philadelphia aforesaid the 16h Day of February last with a Loading of Flour Wax, Staves and Spermaceti Candles bound for Nantz in France That the Captain of the same Vessel (William Meston) declared to him the said John Sands that he had received Directions from his owners not to open his orders til he had been some time at Sea and that about a fortnight after they had sailed the Captain called this Deponent into the Cabin and informed him that he had opened his orders but was astonished at their Contents this the Deponent then read the Orders under the hands (as he believes) of the said Messrs Bayard and Jackson by which is appeared that the Cargo belonged to the Continental Congress and that they were to take in the Neat proceeds thereof in Arms and Ammunition for the use of the Congress. That this Deponent then informed the Ships Crew of the nature of their Orders and they being all unanimous not to comply therewith he went with them to the Captain and informed him that he had no longer any Command aboard and that he seized the same Vessel in His Majesty's Name That the Captain from that time behaved himself merely as a Passenger and the Crew steered the Vessel for London but were obliged by contrary Winds to make the Port of Bristol where they arrived this Morning. And the said George David and Robert Martin speaking for themselves severally say as to what is herein before stated to have passed after the Ships Crew were made acquainted with their orders they do verily believe the same to be true.

John Sands George Davis Robert Martin

Sworn the Eighth day of april
1776 at the City of Bristol before me

Jn^o Seager Jun^r – a Master in Chancery Extraordy
In the presence of Jer: Osborne Noty Publick

[Endorsed] In Mr Jackson's (to JP) of 9th April 1776. Copy transmitted to Sir Stanier Porten in Mr Pownall's Letter of 9th April 1776.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 21d.

Bristol Journal Extraordinary, MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1776

Bristol, April 8.

This morning came up to the Key, the Snow *Dickenson*, William Meston, Master, from Philadelphia, bound to Nantz in Old France, where she was to discharge her loading, and take in a cargo of warlike stores and ammunition for the use of the Continental Army. She was taken up and fitted out by order of the Congress, and consigned to Messrs. Montandouin and Frere, merchants, in Nantz, as appears by the Captain's orders which are here-under copied verbatim.

The Mate and people on board, finding that they were to load with warlike stores for the use of the Americans, and having, as they declare, been

forced into the service, took the vessel, and instead of proceeding to France, determined to make the first British Port. They accordingly brought her into Bristol, after beating upwards of a fortnight about the mouth of the Channel; and the Mate is immediately going off for London, and will take all the letters and papers which were on board the said vessel, for the inspection of Government.

She is a very fine vessel, about 250 tons burthen, and now lies at the Quay, till the determination of Government concerning her is known.

Her cargo, which consists of 2221 barrels of flour, 260 boxes of Spermaceti Candles, 13 casks, and 1 bag Bees-wax; and 5600 barrel staves, is valued at near 60001. and the vessel is worth upwards of 15001. She is the first American vessel that has been brought into England since the Act passed for granting the seamen certain privileges and rewards for seizing any of the Provincial Ships, &c.

The particular articles mentioned in the owners letters to the French merchants to whom her cargo was consigned, are as follows; 1500 stands of arms, with bayonets, and steel ramrods; 15 tons of good gunpowder, or in case of not procuring the powder, to get the same quantity of saltpetre, with 15 lb. of sulphur to every hundred weight of salt-petre; and if not able to get any of those articles, to bring returns back in specie.

The following vessels sailed at the same time the *Dickenson* did, all bound for different ports in France, and on the same business; but as she is a very swift sailer, she left them soon after they put to sea; The Ship *Sally*, Rowland [Thomas Rawlins]; *Neptune*, [Robert] Collins; the *Aurora*, Checky; and three Brigs, Captain's names Montgomery, Bethel, and Martin, and many other vessels, the names of which are forgot.

About three Weeks before the *Dickenson* left Philadelphia, a French Nobleman, (who with another Gentln of the same nation had been sometime treating with Continental Congress, and had visited the Camp of the Grand Army at Cambridge, in New-England) ¹ had put his baggage on board her, and was to have went passenger to Nantz; but, as she was very deep laden, and another vessel in the same Employ arriving there in ballast, he had all his effects removed on board the last, and is supposed to be now on his passage for France. The day they came down Delaware river, a French vessel, laden with powder, ball, and small-arms, arrived there.

The above circumstances, together with the vast preparations now making by our natural enemies, seem to be a prelude to something more serious than the generality of people are aware of.

1. Pliarne and Penet.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, APRIL 8." ¹

Went out of the harbour to Spithead, the *Tartar* frigate, Captain Ommanney.

Yesterday Captain Appleby took command of the *Preston*, in the room

of Captain [John] Robinson; and we hear Captain [William] Hotham is to hoist his broad pendant on board the said ship.

1. *Public Ledger*, London, April 17, 1776.

LORD GRANTHAM TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

No. 12

[Madrid] 8th April 1776.

As the Act passed for prohibiting trade and intercourse with any of our rebellious Colonies, will enable His Majesty's ships to take their vessels, and that the latter conforming or not with the usual forms in the several ports of Europe, will not exempt them from that risk, I have written to some of His Majesty's Consuls that they might be less anxious upon that subject, in soliciting the government here for their assistance, or making the difficulty in obtaining such assistance matter of complaint, but I have added a caution to them that they should be very vigilant, that a temporary relaxation in one case, is not construed into a precedent in others.

1. Sparks Transcripts, Lord Grantham, I, 7, HU.

9 Apr.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 9th April 1776

The Friends of Mr William Lewis, late Purser of the *Rose*, who you succeeded by appointing Mr Hargood, Purser of her in his Room, on account of his being absent from his Duty, having represented to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the cause of such absence was his having in October last been taken Prisoner by the Rebels and therefore prayed that he may be restored to the said Pursership or appointed to another Ship; I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to fully State Mr Lewis's Case, with your Opinion whether he merits their Lordships Favor. I am &c

G Jackson D S

Vice Adml Graves, in Town

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 414.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN STOTT,
H.M.S. *Alarm*, SPITHEAD ¹

You are hereby required and directed to repair with His Majesty's Ship under your command into Hamoze, where we have ordered her to be cleaned, graved and refitted, stored for Foreign Service, and her Provisions completed to Six months of all Species except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, and to be supplied with Wine or Spirits in lieu of the remainder.

And you are strictly to observe the following instructions.

You are to give a constant attendance at the Ship and to keep your Officers and men together during the whole time that she is in Harbour.

You are to use your utmost diligence in getting out your Guns and Powder, and, if necessary, your Stores, Provisions and Ballast or so much thereof as shall be necessary, and no more; and to leave no part thereof to be done by the Officers of the Yard.

You are to use the like diligence in getting in your Guns, Powder, Stores and Provisions, (as also your Ballast, if you found it necessary to put it out) when the ship is ready for it, and in putting her into a Condition to proceed on Service.

If you have any men who you suspect will run away, you are to apply to Vice Admiral [John] Amherst for their Security.

When the Ship is ready again in all respects for the Sea you are to proceed into Plymouth Sound and wait there for further Orders.

You are always to keep your Provisions Stores and Water compleat till you proceed to Sea.

Given &c the 9th Apl 1776

Sandwich J. Buller H. Penton

By &c G: Jackson DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 14-15.

EXAMINATION OF JOHN SANDS, MATE OF THE SNOW *Dickinson*¹

Admty Office 9th April 1776

Examination of John Sands.

He is Mate of the Snow *Dicki[n]son* Messrs B[a]yard & Jackson Owners.
Cargo on board is 2,220. Bars Flour

260. Boxes Sperm: Candles

13. Casks of Wax.

5,600. Bars Staves.

The Snow sailed from the Capes on the 1t March bound for Nantz – Seven more Vessels were in Company – Names two Vizt *Hancock & Adams*, Smith Master: & *Sally*, Rawling's, Master.

The Cargo is the property of the Continental Congress.

The Master on opening his Orders found he was to load at Nantz with Arms and Ammunition; was greatly hurt at this; told his Orders & Opinion to the Mate, the Mate related the Facts to the rest of the Company, and by their concurrence he took the Command from Meeston [William Meston] the Master who at the same time delivered up all his Papers.

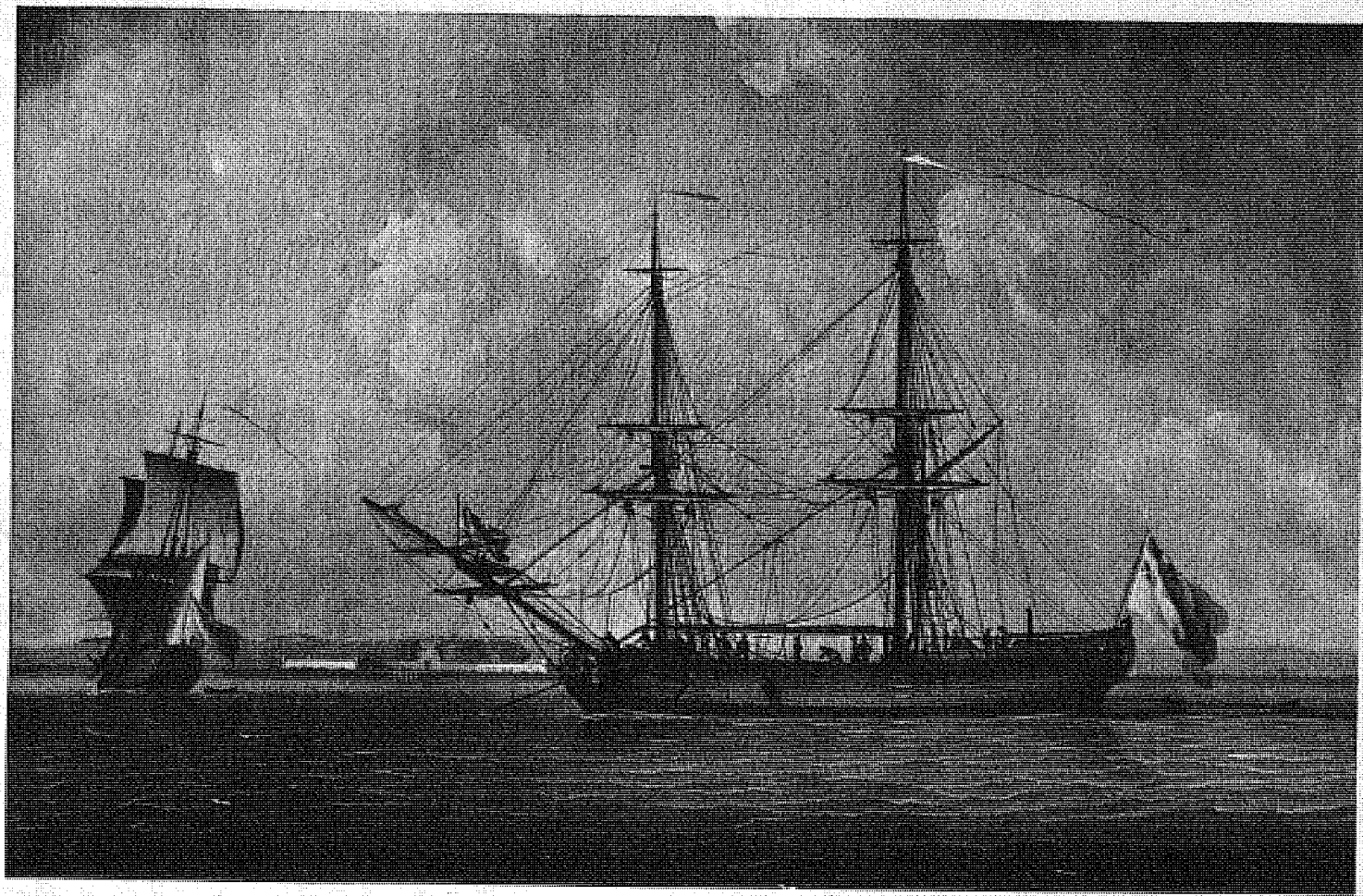
Their design was to come to London, went to Bristol owing to the Winds being fair?

The Cargo they were to take on board at Nantz was to consist of 15. Tons of good Powder

1,500. Stand of Arms

&c. &c.

The Ship on return to Philadelphia (according to Instructions) was upon appearing off Cape Delaware to hoist Jack at the Foretop Mast head, and to be answer'd from Cape May by hoisting a white Sheet.



A snow lying at anchor.

Meeston did not know his Orders till he open'd them, knew, only, that he was to proceed with his Cargo to Nantz.

Besides the Eight Vessels which sailed as aforementioned, Two more Vizt *Neptune* Collins Master; *Aurora*, Ketchy, were taking in the like sort of loading for Ports in France or Spain.

Brings Intelligence that thirteen row Gally's were at Philadelphia which had been ready for Service since Septemr last, except Men, of which they had got only from 50. to 60. in part of their Complement which is 70. Men.

That five Privateers had sailed from Philadelphia about the middle of Feby Vizt

Alford—Commr Hopkins 30. Guns & 300. Men

Columbus

Sebastian Cabot

Providence

— Name forgot.²

That they were Victualled for six Months.

That 13 Frigates were under Orders to be built – of which four were on the Stocks at Philadelphia. The rest were to be set up at Baltimore & Rhode Island.

Men he says are much wanted & he adds that while he was at Philadelphia A French Pollacre arrived with small Arms from Martinica.

[Endorsed] Examination of John Sands. In Mr Jackson's (to JP) of 9th April 1776. Copy transmitted to Sir Stanier Porten in Mr Pownall's Letter of 9th April 1776. –

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 21c.

2. *Andrew Doria*.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, APRIL 6 TO TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1776

London, April 9.

The *Friendship*, Capt. Jann, is arrived at Glasgow from Virginia in 28 days, and brought dispatches from Lord Dunmore, which arrived at Lord George Germaine's Office on Friday.

Several Scotch families are arrived at Glasgow from Virginia, in the above ship, on account of the present disturbances that now reign there, as all the Scotch houses in Virginia are destroyed by the Virginians.

10 Apr.

LORD HARCOURT TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

My Lord — Dublin Castle 10: April 1776.

By Letters received this Day from Cork dated the 7th Instant, I am informed that the Embarkation of all the Troops was compleated and the Fleet ready to sail on Friday Evening the 5th:, and that some of the Transports had moved that Night towards the Mouth of the Harbour, and the rest were following on the 6th: when five of them in getting down run on Shore, three

of which got off, but two of them, the *Successes Increase*, and the *Adamant*, could not and must remain until the next Spring Tides, The Troops on board of them with their Baggage &c: were removed on the 7th to two spare Transports in the Harbour, the *Lord North* and the *Liberty* which were under Orders of returning to England being more than were wanted for the present Service, and it was expected they would be ready to sail in a day or two. These Letters add That the *Conway* and the Victuallers for Boston sailed on the 6th and it was supposed would soon be clear of the Irish Coast, the Wind having been very fair ever since, with a Prospect of its continuing favorable.

And I herewith inclose to Your Lordship an Abstract of the Embarkation Returns, by which Your Lordship will find the exact State of the Troops when they went on board. I have, [etc.]

Harcourt. ²

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 350-51.
2. Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Admiralty Office, 10th April 1776.

Mr Jackson presents his Compliments to Mr Pownall. By a list received from Captn Dickson of the *Greyhound* from Corke of the Ships that were to proceed under his Convoy to Boston, it appears that the *Hope*, Alexander Lumsdale Master,— Mather Owner, is among the number with 1500 barrells of Powder on board, and upon Examining, Mr Jackson does not find any Licence has been granted for that Ship

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 56.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LIEUTENANT RICHARD PICKERSGILL,
R.N. ¹

Whereas we think fit that you shall command His Majesty's Arm'd Vessel the *Lyon* at Deptford; You are hereby required and directed to take upon you the charge & command of her accordingly, her Officers and Company being hereby directly required to observe & follow your Orders; And you are carefully to observe & execute the general printed Instructions & such Orders & directions as you shall at any time receive from Us, or any other your superior Officer for His Majtys Service.

And whereas we have order'd her to be fitted and stored for foreign Service, mann'd with forty Men whose pay and qualities are mention'd on the other side hereof and victualled for eight Months with all Species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow and to be supplied with one Months Spirits in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby further required and directed to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, & then falling down to Galleons Reach and take in her Guns and Gunner's Stores at that place & proceed to the Nore for further Order.

You are to take charge of, and Indent at the several Officers for all Provisions, Stores & Ordnance receiv'd on board the said Arm'd Vessel, & to issue the same agreeable to the Rules of the Navy, and to keep regular Accounts of such Issues and pass the same, in the usual Methods. The letter to enable you to do which, as well as to keep the Books as Commanding Officer, we have allow'd you an Instrument under the Title of Clerk and Steward, and have also allow'd you a Boatswain's Mate, Gunner's Mate, & Carpenter's Mate, to assist in the several Branches of Duty to which they are adapted. Given &c. the 10th April 1776.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

To Lieut Rd Pickersgill hereby appointed to command
His Majts Arm'd Vessel the *Lyon* at Deptford

By &c. G.J. DS.

The Complement is to consist of.—

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Lieutenant to command. | at 5s P day. |
| 1. Master | } To be allow'd
6th Rate's
Pay |
| 2. Midshipmen | |
| 1. Clerk & Steward to the Commandg Officer | |
| 1. Boatswain's Mate | |
| 1. Gunner's Mate | |
| 1. Carpenter's Mate | |
| 1. Surgeon's Mate | |
| 1. Servant to the Lieutenant | |

And the remainder to be Seamen.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 20-21.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BRISTOL, APRIL 10." ¹

Capt. Meston, of the *Dickinson*, from Philadelphia (who was brought in here this week by the mate and crew who rose on him) says, that great preparations were making there for war; that five battalions of volunteers, consisting of upwards of 2000 men, had left Philadelphia to join Gen. Lee at New York, a few days before he sailed. He fully confirms the account of the French assisting the Americans with ammunition, &c. and that a French Nobleman had been some time at Philadelphia. He says that the account we had of the action at Quebec is the same they had there? and that the Congress immediately on receiving advice of the defeat of their troops, ordered a considerable reinforcement, which marched off from Philadelphia in a few days.

The following are the names of the crew on board the above vessel: John Sands, Mate; George Davis, Second Mate; Robert Martin, Andrew Mackey, William More, John Guerny, Edward Barret, and James Allen; all of whom signed the ship articles to go to Nantz, on the 16th of January, at Philadelphia, and each man received a month's advance.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 11 to April 13, 1776.

11 Apr.

Public Ledger, THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1776

London, April 11.

Advice is received from Gibraltar, that one of his Majesty's ships of war, belonging to Admiral Man's squadron, has chased five American vessels into the Bay of Cadiz. The Captain of the man of war immediately waited on the commander in chief at that port, who informed him, that if he would put to sea immediately, the Americans should not land their cargoes, but quit the place in 24 hours. The man of war left the port directly, and cruizing off the mouth of the Bay 'till the above vessels (which were forced to put to sea) came out, which they made prizes of and carried into Gibraltar.

LETTER FROM BRISTOL, APRIL 11, 1776¹

I yesterday had a long conversation with Captain Meston, the master of the *Dickenson*. The crew consisted of four Scotchmen, four Irish, and one Englishman, including the master, who is a Scotchman. Some people at Bristol suspect this last of being concerned in the villany, but I am fully persuaded he was not. He has a wife and family at Philadelphia, and cries like a child at the misfortunes that has happened to him. He thinks the river Delaware sufficiently secured, and speaks highly of the unanimity and war-like appearance of the Pennsylvanians. He confirms the death of Montgomery, and was at Philadelphia when the unfortunate news from Quebec was received. Two thousand volunteers, he says, turned out, and offered to march immediately into Canada. I asked him if they went? He believed they did; but could not say positively. The truth is, he is one of the most ignorant fellows I ever conversed with. As he did not expect to come to this country, he brought no newspapers with him.

The mate of the vessel, an Irishman, is gone up to make his merits known to Lord George Germain. He was the cause of the conspiracy, and will, of course, be graciously received. It is very doubtful whose prize she will be. The custom-house, the lieutenant of the man-of-war, and the treacherous crew, all claim her. I hope the infamous traitors may be disappointed.

When the crew brought her opposite to the wharf, in Bristol, where she was to be moored, they gave three cheers but so far were they from being answered in the same by the people on shore, who were collected in great numbers, and had heard the story from the custom-house officers, that they received nothing but curses for their treachery.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 660.

12 Apr.

LORD WEYMOUTH TO HORACE ST. PAUL¹

No 2

St James's 12th, April 1776

Sir, I inclose to you Copy of the Depositions of some Persons who have

brought a Vessell into Bristol, bound from Philadelphia to Nantz, where the Cargo was consigned, and where they were to load for the Use of the Congress with Arms and Ammunition. ² The Mate of this Vessell gives an Account of several other Ships that were going on the same Adventure, either to Nantz, or to some other Port of France, and has given a particular Description of them, which I inclose to you.

I am to signify His Majesty's Commands to you that you apply to M. de Vergennes and desire that no Warlike Stores may be permitted on board these Vessells.

You will endeavour by such Means as my be in your Power to find out what particular Ports these several Vessells shall arrive at, and renew your Application to M. de Vergennes respecting them. I am &c.

Weymouth

1. PRO, State Papers, 78/299, 9. St. Paul was chargé d'affaires in Paris.

2. The snow *Dickinson*.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

No. 13

London, 12 April 1776

The nomination of several Commissioners having been agreed upon at the Council, Lord North had a conference with Lord Howe in which he announced to him that in spite of the confidence they had in him, they deemed necessary to give him an aide well versed in the knowledge of law and chosen from the civil service in order to negotiate with the Americans. The Admiral refused so peremptorily that Lord North had to tell him that the King deemed this measure to be appropriate. The Admiral answered that he hoped this term would no longer be used because it made it necessary for him either to accept a mission in which he ran the risk to lose his honor or to refuse to comply with the King's desire . . .

He was finally given other instructions which conformed better to his demands and by which he was the only commissioner.

Perhaps it is what Lord Germain himself wanted. You will be able to unravel this better than I can, My lord. In any case, the Admiral refused them again, adding his own observations in writing in order to show that it was impossible to negotiate successfully with the Americans if he was to follow the terms and means prescribed to him. There was some surprise at finding the Admiral so well informed of the state of affairs in America, the intentions of the Americans, and the details upon which he rested his refusal. He confessed that he had his intelligence from someone for whom he had the greatest gratitude, but whom he refused to name. . . .

I have the honor to send you an account which has just been published with regard to an American ship which had sailed for Nantes from Philadelphia with a cargo of flour, cask wood and other goods in return for which, according to this account, she was to take on arms and powder. The mate and the sailors of this ship mutinied, bound the Captain and brought the cargo to Bristol. ² According to the same relation, several other ships which

also received their cargoes in Philadelphia must have sailed at the same time for French Ports. One of the two Frenchmen who were the subject of so much talk was said to be on board one of these ships, and ill-intentioned persons are trying to show that it is a proof of our friendly relations with the Americans. Lord Germain affirms that it is an exaggeration and that this American ship was merely going to France, as many others do, in order to sell flour there and carried the instruction to bring back a cargo of saltpetre.

This incident, which is foreign to us and for which we cannot be held in any way accountable, may have unfortunate consequences for the other American ships because the seized papers have revealed the signals agreed upon for their return to Philadelphia. The mutiny of this crew, which will undoubtedly be well rewarded, is an example that will encourage the other crews on board the American Ships to do the same. Finally, I have not heard anything concerning the discovery of papers relating to any interesting correspondence.

You will see, My lord, that the 5 armed ships which sailed from Philadelphia with a secret mission are mentioned in the enclosed account. If the object of this expedition corresponds to what I have already told you, apparently it will not be long before we learn about the consequences.

[Enclosure]

Philadelphia, 26 February 1776

List of the ships fitted out by order of Congress during the month of January last, with the names of their commanding officers and their complements.

[Esek] Hopkins, Commander in Chief.

Ships	Captains	Guns	Men
<i>Alfred</i>	Tatterson [Dudley Saltonstall]	32	300
<i>Colombe</i> [<i>Columbus</i>]	[Abraham] Whipple	32	300
<i>Andrew Doria</i>	[Nicholas] Biddle	16	200
<i>Sebastien</i> [<i>Cabot</i>]	[John Burroughs] Hopkins	14	200
<i>Providence</i>	Hasard [John Hazard]	12	150

These ships sailed toward the middle of last February for a destination kept under great secret.

List of the galleys on the river Delaware with the names of their commanding officers

The *Washington* is mounted by Captain Doughty [Henry Dougherty], commander in chief: she is 104 feet in length by the keel

Galleys	Captains
<i>Dickenson</i>	Rice [John Rice]
<i>Chat[h]am</i>	Alexandre [Charles Alexander]
<i>Camden</i>	Earl [Richard Eyres]
<i>Burke</i>	Blair [James Blair]
<i>Effingham</i>	Moar [Allen Moore]
<i>Bulldog</i>	Henderson [Alexander Henderson]

<i>Franklin</i>	Boyce [Nathaniel Boyce]
<i>Congres[s]</i>	Hambelton [John Hamilton]
<i>Experience [Experiment]</i>	Thompson [Thomas Houston]
<i>Ranger</i>	Macgomery [James Montgomery]
<i>Hancock and Adams</i> ³	Moore [Thomas Moore]

and the *Guardian* ⁴ which had no captain when William Meston left.

Congress ordered that 13 frigates of 36 guns each be built with utmost haste in Maryland, Philadelphia and Rhodes island. There were 4 of them in the yards of Philadelphia at the time Captain Meston left. He ⁵ also commanded a floating train of ordnance, 105 feet in length by the keel, which must carry 18 guns of 18 pounds of shot, 300 men, and is propelled by 50 oars. Finally he ⁶ sank 50 chevaux de frise in the river in order to prevent the English ships to sail upstream.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.
2. The *Dickinson*.
3. *Hancock*. The *Hancock and Adams* was a merchant vessel.
4. There was no *Guardian*. A galley unnamed in the above list was *Warren*.
5. Two floating batteries had been ordered to be built by the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety; one on December 28, 1775, and another later.
6. The "he" seems to have referred to the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety.

Public Advertiser, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1776

London [April 12].

Letters from Cadiz by the *Clementina*, Capt. Air, who is arrived at Dover, brings an Account that two American Vessels, of two hundred Tons each, arrived there on the 12th ult. loaded with Wheat, and other Things, the Produce of that Country, which they soon disposed of, but waited for an Order from Government to take on board Arms and Ammunition, &c. The Governor soon obtained Leave for their being supplied with what they wanted. Also, that the Captains of the above Ships have contracted for a large Quantity to be ready by the Beginning of July. The above Ships mounted each of them 32 Guns, and sailed together. The above Captains also reported, that the Philadelphia People had a large Fleet of Privateers at Sea, which carried from 20 to 36 Guns, well manned.¹

1. The information brought by Capt. Air is largely suspect as none of the vessels sent to ports on the European coast at that time bore any armament.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, APRIL 11 TO SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1776

Friday, April 12. London.

The ships going to America this Spring, are to sail in three fleets, viz. one from Corke, with three men of war, and four frigates; one from Plymouth, with two men of war and three frigates; and the other from Portsmouth, with two men of war and two frigates.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, APRIL 12." ¹

The *Camilla*, a new ship of 20 guns, to be launched here on Friday

next, is ordered to be sheathed and fitted with the greatest expedition for America.

The *Lark* and *Richmond* frigates, of 32 guns each, are taken into dock also to be sheathed and fitted for America.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 13 to April 16, 1776.

13 Apr.

GEORGE III TO LORD NORTH¹

[Extract]

I wish You would without further delay see Lord G. Germain and put the finishing hand to the Commission Lord [Richard] Howe's idea of not being so tightly bound as to the change of Government in Connecticut and Rhode Island, I hope will not be consented to, as I think the alteration most material; indeed if Lord Howe would give up being a Commissioner I should think it better for himself as well as the Service.

Queens House April 13th 1776 $\frac{m}{25}$ pt 6 P.M.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 351-52.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, APRIL 11 TO SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1776

London, April 13.

Yesterday Lord Sandwich laid before his Majesty in council, all the papers, letters, &c. brought to England on board the *Snow*, Capt. Dickenson.

14 Apr. (Sunday)

CAPTAIN JOHN BRISBANE, R.N., TO GEORGE JACKSON¹

Sir

Flora, Greenock Road 14th April 1776

You will please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that his Majesty's Ship under my Command Anchored here this Evening, where I found their Lordships Orders of the 4th. Instant to take the Two Highland Regiments under Convoy as soon as they were Embarked, and proceed with them to Boston in New England; I have received from Lieutenant Henry the Agent for the Transports a List of the Ships, and find there are One Thousand and Two Hundred Embarked, and the remainder expected in a day or two, and as soon as they are on board, shall put their Lordships Orders in Execution, without a Moments loss of time.

I have likewise received your Letter Signifying their Lordships direction to proceed with the said Transports by the North of Ireland, as also the Private Signals, which shall be kept Secret, Inclosed is the State and Condition of the Ships. I am Sir [&c.]

J: Brisbane

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1497, Section 14, 10.

15 Apr.

ARTHUR LEE TO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CADWALLADER COLDEN ¹

[Extract]

Dear Sir

[London] April 15th. 1776

On the 7th ult. the Snow *Dickinson*, Capt. [William] Meston consigned to Messrs Montandouine & Frere at Nantes, was brought into Bristol by her crew & delivered up, with all her Papers. From these the Ministry are apprised of all the Ships which have been sent to the different Ports of France, & Cruisers are dispatchd into the Bay of Biscay to watch them. John Sands Mate of the *Dickinson*, had made me memorandums long before he left Philadelphia of every material transaction, which shows a premeditated plan of treachery. The proceedings of the Ministry, relative to this proof of the french interposition have not yet transpired. But France does not seem to be settled or spirited enough to enter into a war, : should England resent this business.

On the 5th of this month a fleet saild with 2000 brunswick troops & General Burgoyne, it is therefore understood they are gone to succour Quebec. Six Regiments, about 4000 effective men made up with german Recruits are now ready for sailing Orders at Cork. It is probable that they too are destined to Quebec. The first division of the Hessians are not yet arrived, so that it is not likely the whole of them will sail till the latter end of May. They are by stipulation to serve all together, & therefore will go to Boston or long Island. It is supposed the Provincials will possess the strong posts on Elizabeth River which if in the enemy's hands will give them the command of Jersey, Staten Island &c If the Provincials always have redoubts in the front & flank of their Army, it is the opinion of the ablest in the profession, that they will be better than Entrenchments or Lines, & will foil the Regulars by breaking their Line or forcing them to sacrifice a number of men, which they cannot afford.

1. Papers CC (Letters from Arthur Lee), 83, I, 17-18, NA. See footnote 3 following Lee's letter of April 7 to Governor Colden.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, APRIL 13 TO TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1776

London, April 15.

The *Dickinson* did not clear the Capes of Delaware river till the first of March. When she left Philadelphia, the Congress had received no account of the prohibitory act, nor of the hiring of foreign troops. It is said that she saw two French vessels go up Delaware river, laden with ammunitiion.

The *Dickinson* came into King-road on Sunday se'nnight, and was seized by the Lieutenant of the *Earl of Inchiquin* tender, now lying there.

16 Apr.

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, Tuesday 16 April 1776 ²

While all England is gathered at Westminster Hall to watch the trial of the old, adulterous and bigamous Dutchess of Kinston, I am going to tell you about a rather serious conversation I had with Lord Rochford.

On Sunday, as he sent me some tickets for Westminster Hall, he asked me to his home. The conversation gradually came to life following the greetings and he said to me: – “Sir, since I am about to ask for a mark of friendship and confidence on your part, I will first give you one and let you see something which I have not shown to anyone.”

This something, M. le Comte, was a kind, amicable letter from the King of England, addressed to him and assuring him of the fondest attachment and in which this Prince requests him to accept the Vice-royalty of Ireland, which, he said, Lord North had been instructed to offer him on his behalf. The King added: I need a very reliable man in this island. In the present state of affairs it is to be feared that Ireland will follow the path of America. The only favor I ask of you is not to take your Secretary there, this infamous rascal Blaker who was in France with the Duke of Harcourt and has kept dangerous connections there. He caused the Duke [Earl] of Harcourt to be detested in Ireland, &c.&c.

“This is what the King wrote me yesterday,” Lord Rochford said. “I am sorry that he holds such feelings against Blaker of whom I am fond; but everything related to France is a worry at this time. (Therefore it is my conclusion, M. le Comte, that the English are much concerned about us.) I shall accept only on the condition that I be allowed to spend only 6 months of the year there. I am waiting for Lord North’s reply in this regard. But I must not omit to read you the last sentence in the King’s letter, M. de B***, because it concerns you only: ‘Do not forget, My lord, everything I have instructed you to do. You will report about it to be only.’

“It concerns, M. de B***, the news received from Bristol. A ship loaded by order of Congress with letters and goods for a merchant of Nantes, named Montaudoin, with the instructions to change these goods for war ammunition of all kind, was taken straight to Bristol by a Captain loyal to his King.³ The contents of these letters prove that this correspondence had started a long time ago and that it may well be taking place under the protection of your government. Our Council is particularly alarmed by this circumstance as well as that of two Frenchmen ⁴ who are secretly negotiating with Congress on behalf of your Ministers (London gives us more credit than we deserve, M. le Comte) and the said Gentlemen are said to have secret connections in London.

“Some poorly informed persons have tried to indicate that you should be suspected of this connivance. But the King is not impressed and it is with his consent that I discuss the matter with you. What do you think of all that? I know that you are here in order to be done with this D’eon; ⁵ I

want to believe you in this respect, and I have already answered for you to the King as you know”

“My lord, before I give you an answer with regard to my business,” I said, “let me begin with the American ship, not that I have received any instructions from our Ministry, but on the basis of my own opinion.

“I had already heard, My lord, of the American ship’s arrival in Bristol, and I would not have been more surprised, had her cargo been destined for a merchant of Amsterdam, Cadiz or Hamburg instead of a merchant of Nantes.

“The insurgents need ammunition and have no money to buy any in Europe; they must therefore take a chance and send their own goods there in order to exchange them. And all ports where ammunition can be found must be all the same to them.”

“But, Sir, has France not issued orders in her ports in this respect? and do we not have the right to expect that the merchants of Nantes will be punished, as we intend to request it of your Ministers?”

“My Lord, you have allowed me to speak frankly; I will do so quite freely, especially since I have no official mission and my words will not compromise any one.

“My lord, why should you want our administration to deal severely with the people of Nantes? Are we at war with someone? In view of the peace upon which I rest my argument, are our Ports not open to all the merchants of the world?

“Before demanding satisfaction from France, My lord, with respect to the merchants of Nantes, one should first consider the preliminary aspect of a rather strange question; and here it is.

“In the matter of a quarrel which is the private affair of England, and into which we do not enter, nor do we wish to enter, does England have the right to restrict our trade? And on the basis of what treaty must we open or close our ports to merchant vessels according to the desires of the British Nation?

“Indeed, My lord, I can hardly believe that one should dare raise such an unbelievable question to which the answer might bring consequences that England should not provoke in her best interest! Especially when the neutrality in which the King of France confines himself establishes firmly his honorable principles; although our domestic difficulties are an open invitation for France to take advantage of this opportunity and recover everything which the English plundered from us during the last war!”

“But, Sir, the Americans are rebels and our declared enemy.”

“My lord, they are not ours.”

“Must France support them when we are at peace with her?”

“Support them! Why, My lord, you could say that only if we kept you from chasing all the Insurgent vessels on the high seas on pretext they were loaded with goods for our ports or from our ports. What stops you from taking measures against them? Cruise in all seas, seize them everywhere except under the guns of our ports however; this is not our concern. But to

require that we harass our merchants because they have trade relations with people with whom we are at peace, whether we consider them as your subjects or as a now free people against whom you are fighting, but whom your Ministry does not even dare to prosecute in front of your nation, indeed, that is too much! I do not know what our administration would think of such a request; as far as I am concerned, I would regard it as being far more than out of place."

"I can see that, Sir, because you are red with anger."

(As a matter of fact, M. le Comte, I was all fired up; and if you do not approve my display of passion, I will answer, while begging your pardon, that I was not expressing your opinion but my own.)

"My lord," I added gently and modestly, "you are an Englishman and a patriot; you will not take exception to my being a good Frenchman who is proud for his country."

"And for this reason, I do not take offense, Sir. But you will agree at least that your Ministry cannot but take measures against Frenchmen who go and negotiate with Congress in the name of your Government."

"I do not believe any part of this rumor, My lord. Some Frenchman may have negotiated on his own for private assistance such as merchants may supply by way of trade. Undoubtedly this is the case of the ship now in Bristol which was going to trade with the firm of Montaudoin in Nantes. However if you could find out the names of these so-called agents and obtain the smallest proof to the effect that they claimed to be agents of the government, I feel so sure of the position held by our Ministry in this matter, or even the King, that I would not go too far as I assure you that they would be disowned and even punished, provided they can be arrested."

(You see, M. le Comte, I can play a straight game, as they say, and those who will be caught in it, in London or elsewhere had better beware.

This statement reconciled me with the Lord.)...

"And now, My lord, I must pay you a sincere compliment with regard to the part of the King's letter which concerns you; and if you accept the Vice-royalty, I hope that you will recall your old friendship for M. Duflos, whom I recommend to you again. I hope that you will entrust him in Ireland with the details of all your household as you did in France. This he promised to me."

(This Duflos, M. le Comte, is a Frenchman whom I had once given to Lord Rochford, and who is completely devoted to me. He will always send you reliable intelligence from the very heart of the Vice-royalty. I am a little like Figaro, M. le Comte, a little noise does not make me lose my head.)

I must see the Lord again when he will have reported our conversation to the King. All I know is that tomorrow there will be a serious meeting of the Council at St. James on the subject of the ship which arrived in Bristol. But the King of England is warned now. I hope I said enough so that you will not receive any dishonest proposition in this matter.

I must not forget to tell you that the Dutch Merchants have threatened to bring the Ministry before the grand jury of the English Nation in the

matter of the three Dutch ships bound for America and which were seized and taken to Deal and Dover. Moreover, I know that the Ministry fears that the grand jury will rule in favor of the Dutch in this matter and that this would cause a more complex problem (of course, you understand that our friend [John] Wilkes is behind this Jesuitic detour). As I was saying, the Ministry has secretly agreed to pay secretly for the whole cargo of ammunition which these ships were carrying to America. It was also agreed that if others were captured, the ammunition would be kept in England but that the Dutch merchants would be faithfully paid; for in matters of trial they do not want to quarrel with our friend Wilkes (a word to the wise, M. le Comte). I have this from the best source, not my Lord, as you can imagine.

(Again, a word to the wise) One of the tricks employed by the Dutch Captains is to get two commissions: a patent one and a secret one. They use one or the other as need arises. . . .

The Americans presently have 12 ships of 22 to 44 guns, 12 of 15 to 20 guns, and more than 30 of 12 guns; this gives them an active navy almost as respectable as that of the English. Furthermore, the only vessel the English have captured from the Insurgents in the last 2 and a half months is the one that came into Bristol. This certainly deserves notice!

The Royal Guards whose orders had been countermanded had been waiting to embark for a month. New secret dispatches brought by a ship that lies hidden in an Irish port ordered them to embark immediately. They started yesterday and will be done tomorrow. And my bag is empty for today, M. le Comte.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy. See also Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1322.
2. See Beaumarchais to Vergennes, April 19.
3. The *Dickinson*.
4. Penet & Pliarne.
5. Eon de Beaumont (1728–1810), commonly called the Chevalier D'Eon, a French adventurer, who had undertaken numerous missions under Louis XV, and who possessed papers which Beaumarchais was purported to have come to England to secure. Through most of his life the Chevalier masqueraded as a woman.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, APRIL 13 TO TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1776

London, April 16.

Advice is received from Antigua, that his Majesty's sloop of war the *Lynx*, of ten guns, had taken up at sea, and brought into that port the ship *Ranger*, Matthew Walters, Commander, belonging to Philadelphia, in great distress, having met with bad weather and contrary winds, wherein she lost all her masts, had several of her hands washed overboard, and her boats staved to pieces. She came from Cape Nichola Mole, had been out 40 days, was laden with powder, ball, &c. and when she sailed left six American vessels at that place, which were blocked up by the *Ferret* sloop of war, from Jamaica, which was cruising off there.

Last Friday sailed from Plymouth his Majesty's ships *Romney* and *Cygnets*, for Newfoundland.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GRENNOCK, APRIL 16.”¹

On Friday last the 42d regiment, or Royal Highlanders, came down from Glasgow to this place and Port Glasgow. They embarked on Saturday on board the transports.

Sunday the *Flora* frigate of 36 guns, arrived at the Tail of the Bank, which is to take the transports under convoy.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 23 to April 25, 1776.

H. KATENKAMP TO LORD WEYMOUTH¹

[Corunna] 16th April 1776.

The order for searching ships suspected of having warlike stores on board, would perhaps, never have been observed at this place, had I not applied for it; none have been examined, but at my earnest solicitation, hence, I humbly conceive there is at present no reason to fear its being made a precedent hereafter, in the case of other vessels. I never applied to have any of our own ships examined, having opportunities of knowing their cargoes without it; but now that I am honored with Your Lordships commands,² I shall make no application for searching even vessels of other nations, unless I have very good reasons to believe that arms and ammunition are actually on board.

I am credibly informed that the *Polly*, Captain Abijah Boden after putting out to sea and returning to Santander a few days after, on pretence of bad weather, is at length departed from thence for Salem, with a large quantity of gunpowder.³

1. Sparks Transcripts, Lord Grantham, HU.

2. See Lord Weymouth to H. Katenkamp, March 22, 1776.

3. As Boden, in November 1776, commanded the Massachusetts privateer sloop *Rover*, it can be assumed that he and his cargo of powder reached Salem in safety.

17 Apr.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL¹

Sir,

Admty Office 17th April 1776.

Having this day received from Capt. [Robert P.] Cooper, Commander of His Majesty's Sloop the *Hawke*, (which sailed from England on the 26th of November last, with the Dispatches mentioned in the annexed Schedule from Lord George Germain to the Governors of the Southern Provinces of North America) a Letter dated at Barbadoes the 10th Feby last, giving an Account of his Arrival there the Day before, having met with a Hurricane on the 22d of the Month preceding, which had made it immediately necessary for him to cut away some of his Masts, and to throw his Guns overboard, and that he was preparing to sail for English Harbour in Antigua, where he hoped in a short time to be put in a Condition to proceed agreeable to the Orders he was under; I am commanded by my Lords Commissrs of the Admiralty to acquaint you therewith, for the Information of Lord George Germain. I am &c

Philip Stephens

Schedule of Pacquets in the preceding Letter; Vizt

2 for Jos[iah] Martin Esqr	Governor of No Carolina	
2 for Lord Wm Campbell	Do	So Carolina
3 for Sir James Wright Bart	Do	Georgia
3 for Patrick Tonyn,	Do	East Florida

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 57.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN STOTT,
H.M.S. *Alarm*, PLYMOUTH ¹

Having order'd the Complement of the Ship you command to be increas'd to Two Hundred Men; You are hereby required & directed to enter as many more Men as may be sufficient for that purpose, and to bear such increas'd Complement until you receive further Order. Given &c. the 17th April 1776. -

Sandwich C. Spencer H. Palliser

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 33-34.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, APRIL 16 TO THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1776

London, April 17.

When the *Friendship*, Capt. Jann, lately arrived at Glasgow, sailed from Norfolk, Lord Dunmore ordered one of the ships of war lying there to convoy her until she should be out of any danger of being taken by the Provincial privateers, which swarm on the coast. They had not long proceeded on their voyage, when they fell in with a Dutch vessel, laden with military stores for the Provincials, which the convoy immediately took and returned with to Norfolk.

The *Flora* frigate is sailed to Scotland, to take under convoy the 42d and 71st regiments for America.

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1776

London [April 17].

An Admiralty Court is appointed in Virginia, by authority of the Congress, and John Blair, Edmund Randolph, Esqrs. and another gentleman, are appointed Judges of it. They have condemned several English vessels which have been taken by the American privateers, as lawful prizes. This shews the Americans are proceeding to the establishment of a government.

HORACE ST. PAUL TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

No 4./

Paris April 17. 1776

My Lord, When I communicated to M. de Vergennes Yesterday, the Contents of Your Lordship's Letter No 2. and gave him an Account of the American Ship carried into Bristol, observing, that several other Vessels

from the Congress. were sailed from that Continent to different Ports in France to take in Military Stores, he appeared a little disconcerted, But said that Strict Orders had already been given to prevent the embarkation of Powder. & arms for America – that they should be immediately renewed & that he would lose no time in speaking to M. de Sartine about it: He took Notice that in the Information of the Captain of the *Dickinson* it was not said to whom the Cargo was consigned at Nantz, & when I mentioned that a French Agent from Philadelphia was embarked for France to procure Arms & Ammunition for 8 Ships, he said, Nous verrons venir ce Monsieur, je ser-[ai] bien aise de voir leur Ambassadeur, and requested me to endeavour to find out his name, adding that he would be bien [mené] when he arrived in France. He then observed, that they had a great many Idle Adventurers in all parts of the world, & that this was certainly one of them. You know he said the nature of Commercan[t]s & that it is impossible in a great Country to prevent things of this kind happening when money is to be got, But added that he would certainly do every thing in his power, & that Strict orders should again be sent to all the Intendants of the Sea Ports.

I proposed a total Prohibition of Powder & Arms, without a permit from Government, which I represented only as an inconvenience to Commerce for a short time, but he said that that was impossible & that no body would take the Government Contracts unless they had leave to export their Surplus, But he assured me that he would take every Step to prevent any being sent to America.

I shall make it my Business to find out, to what particular Ports the American Vessels arrive, & shall not fail to give Your Lordship every Intelligence I can obtain in regard to them & to every other essential Object.

[Endorsed] Paris 17 April 1776 Mr StPaul (No4) R 21st by an Express from Dover

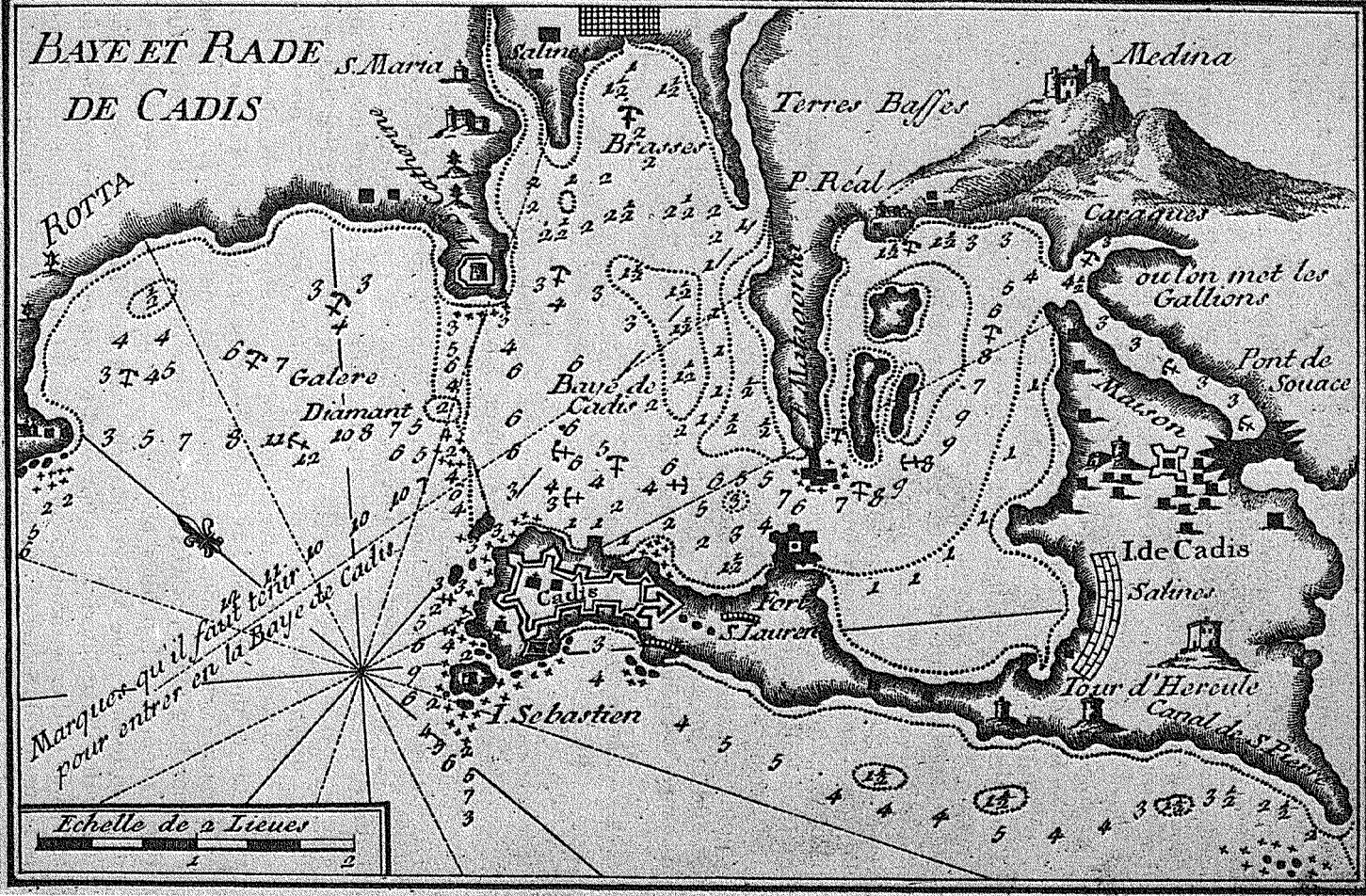
1. PRO, State Papers, 78/299. See also Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1324.

CAPTAIN THOMAS RICH, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

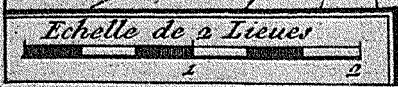
His Majesty's Ship *Enterprize*
off Cadiz 17th. April 1776.

Sir Having received directions from Vice Adml [Robert] Man to Cruize between Cape St. Maries and Cape Spartiel, for the Purpose of Intercepting any American Vessels bound into or out of Cadiz, or the Straights. And while on this Service being Informed by a Ship I spoke with that Several Sail of Men of War, of the line were Fitting out at Cadiz. And also that an American Brigg mounting Several Carriage Guns, was taking in Powder &ca. for America, I wrote to the Consul at said port Confirming [*sic* confining] my Enquiries Chiefly to the American Brigg in case of my letters being intercepted. And received from Consul Hardy an Account that the Story of the Brigg, was without Foundation, but a Spanish Squadron Consisting of Six Sail of the line two Frigates & Three Chavequins is fitting out there to be Command'd by Rear Admiral Bn: Moguel Gatson, who had hoisted his

BAYE ET RADE DE CADIS



Marques qu'il faut tenir
pour entrer en la Baye de Cadix



Flag in the Velasco of Seventy Guns, but that he was not Able to find out their Destination this Letter was dated from Cadiz 9th Instant.

Since this I received Secret Orders from Vice Adml. Man, bearing date 16th. March directing me to take the Navy Transport under the Command of Lieutenant Egan of the *Medway*, to my Assistance, and to send her into Cadiz with Letters to the Consul, which wou'd give him an Opportunity of Seeing what they were about, as the Adml. was informed 13 Sail of the line was Fitting out there, And if I should gain any Material Intelligence I was to Open my Seal'd Orders from Vice Adml Man; And proceed agreeable thereto Sending back the Sloop under the Command of Lieutenant Egan with the Intelligence he had pick[ed] up.

On the 13 Instant I dispatch'd Lieutt Egan in the aforementioned Transport with Letters to Consul Hardy, who rejoin'd me this day, with the Consuls Answer, a Copy of which, as well as of Lieutenant Egans Letter to me I herewith transmit for their Lordships perusal and hope it may meet the Conveyance of the *Alborough* from Gibraltar, if not the Naval Officer has my directions for Forwarding it by the first Merchant Ship going to England And any I may meet with in my Cruize bound thither will bring a Duplicate, for tho' I do not think the information of Consequence to Open the Admirals private Orders yet very Proper to be known to their Lordships, and having also consider'd the Noise and Confusion, a ship would make coming to England Express, at this Juncture of Affairs in America (If such Should be my Seald Orders) that this is the better Method, which I hope may meet with their Lordships approbation. I am Sir [&c.]

Thomas Rich

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2389, Section 7, 18.

18 Apr.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO THE NAVAL COMMANDER IN THE
ST. LAWRENCE RIVER ¹

Whereas from the great number of Transport Vessels now engaged in His Majesty's Service and employed in distant Parts, it may be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to procure such an additional Number as may be required in case it should hereafter be thought necessary to send any considerable number of Troops to North America in addition to those already serving in, and under orders to proceed to that Country; and whereas on that Account, it is become highly adviseable that the Transport Vessels, which are on their way to the River St Lawrence, should be sent back to England, from time to time as the Troops they have on board respectively are landed and the Commanding Officer of His Majestys Army in Canada shall be of opinion they cannot be of further use; You are therefore hereby requested and directed to order the Masters of such of the said Transport Vessels as come under the above description to proceed to Spithead, and to make the best of their way thither without waiting to come in Company, and, on their arrival, to acquaint our Secretary and the Navy Board therewith and to remain at that Place until they receive further Orders. Given &c the 18 April 1776.

To The Senior Captain of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels for the time being in the River St Lawrence

Sandwich J. Buller Palmerston

By &c. P:S: By the *Tartar*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 36-37.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO
VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Whereas we think fit that His Majestys Ship the *Fowey* shall proceed forthwith to Newfoundland to serve under the command of Vice Admiral [John] Montagu Commander in Chief of His Majestys Ships and Vessels upon that Station You are hereby required and directed to order her Commander to proceed thither accordingly, without a moments loss of time; and putting himself under the command of the said Vice Admiral, to follow his orders for his further proceedings.

And whereas you will receive herewith a Packet for the Commander of the said Ship inclosing a Copy of the Signals to be observed by the Ships upon the above Station, you are to cause it to be delivered to him with the orders you shall give him in consequence hereof. Given &c the 18t April 1776.

Sandwich J. Buller Palmerston

By &c P:S: By the *Canceaux*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 35-36.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 18th April 1776

Inclosed you will please to receive a Duplicate of a Letter of the 29th of Last Month wherein you are informed of every thing which at that time occur'd to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty necessary for your information, in addition to what were contained in other Letters & Orders forwarded by the same conveyance

In the aforesaid Letter mention is made of the *Ranger* being appointed to convoy the Stragglers from Sir Peter Parkers Fleet; I am now to acquaint you that the said sloop sailed from Plymouth, on the 28th of Last month, with the ships mentioned in the inclosed List marked A and that by Letters from Captn Dickson of the *Greyhound*, also mentioned in the aforesaid Letter, My Lords are informed she sail'd from Cork, on the 5th inst. having a Convoy consisting of four Ordnance Storeships, five Army Victuallers and the *Levant* with provisions for the use of the Seamen in the Fleet under your command, the Names of which are mentioned in the List B. This Last Ship was originally meant to have accompanied the Ships which sailed with Sir Peter Parker, but not arriving at Cork in time, and from other circumstances, their Lordships have found it most adviseable to send her to Boston, and they leave it to your discretion to send her or any other Victualler to join Sir Peter as you shall see fit, observing that from this deviation of the Orders to the Servant, the Ships under his command have no other supplies than the provisions each ship carried from England.

In addition to the Ships & Troops which you have been acquainted had sailed for the relief of Quebec; there have also sailed for the same place two convoy's One from Plymouth on the 7th inst consisting of the *Juno* & *Blonde* with Transports carrying a Body of Brunswick & Hanau Troops whose numbers are about 3,000 Men, and the 21st Regiment; & they likewise give Convoy to several Ordnance Storeships, the Names of all which Transports and Storeships, are in the List C. The other Convoy sail'd from Cork on the 8th instt & consists of the *Carysfort* & *Pearl* with Transports having on board seven Battalions of British Troops whose names are in the List D.

Some other Vessels which were intended, to have joined the Convoy from Plymouth, but could not be got ready in time, are now collecting & so soon as they are all at Plymouth will proceed to Quebec under Convoy of the *Tartar*, their Names you will find in the List E.

The Captains of the *Carysfort* & *Pearl*, *Juno* and *Blonde* have the same Orders as were given to the Captains of the *Isis* & *Triton*, which are to remain at Quebec til' they receive directions from you, & then to follow such Orders as you may think fit to give them for their further Proceedings: The *Tartar* will proceed under the like Orders.

There are two Highland Regiments consisting of 3,500 Men under Orders to be embark'd in the River Clyde & to join the Army under the Command of General Howe; The Transports appointed to carry them are now in the Clyde, ready to take Troops on board, and the *Flora* in on the Way thither to take them under Convoy, and proceed to join General Howe's Army accordingly; and having so done her Captain is directed to put himself under your Command.

Since the appointment of Lord Viscount [Richard] Howe to the Chief Command of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels in North America, My Lords have thought it necessary to Order Captn [William] Hotham, to proceed thither in the *Preston*, with a distinguishing Pendant & with a Captn. under him; And I am to inform you the *Eagle* in which Lord Howe will hoist his Flag as well as the *Preston* are now at Spithead & ready to put to Sea, But those ships with *Emerald Brune* & *Republic*, the *Jersey* Hospital Ship, *Strombolo* Fireship & *Carcass Bomb* are all unavoidably detained at Spithead waiting the arrival (which however is daily expected) of a body of about 9,100 Hessian Troops; but so soon as that happens, and the arrangement which always attends upon so great a number of Troops are made, they will sail with the Transports having the said Troops on board, together with those appointed to carry a Party of His Majestys Foot Guards somewhat exceeding 1,000 Men.

There will go under this last mentioned Convoy the several Navy Victualler's named in the Margin, (except the *Alborough* whose destination in [is] changed from Boston to Quebec) loaded with four months Provisions for 10,000 Seamen, the particulars of which will be transmitted to you by the Commissrs of the victualling, there will sail at the same time a Storeship with all kinds of Naval Stores to replenish the Magazines at Halifax, but she

will be ordered to call first at Boston to give opportunity for any part of the Cargo to be taken out that may be wanted for ships which may be there at the time, & in this you will please to govern yourself as you shall see fit.

There is in a Naval Storeship which sailed with Sir Peter Parker a Compleat Set of careening Geer; Another is put on board the Storeship aforementioned; And a third Set with a further assortment of Stores is providing & will be sent as soon as possible to be made use of at such Ports or Places as the same may be found applicable to.

Besides the provisions now sending out for the Fleet which are calculated to serve to the 4th of December next, a further supply for 4. Months for 13,000 Men is collecting, which their Lordships expect may sail in about Six Week; & by the end of August the like supply will be ready, which when arrived it is computed will serve to the beginning of August, 1777. And in the Orders for furnishing these Supplies, the Commissrs of the Victualling are directed to provide & send sufficient Quantities of Candles for the time, and for the Number of Men last mentioned.

My Lords have frequent accounts of the assiduity of the Rebels in sending out Vessels with Trade to foreign Parts to barter for Arms and Ammunition, which make their Lordships extremely solicitous it may be watched, and prevented as far as possible; and of which they have great hopes from the Number of Ships and small vessels employ'd under your Command, & the Orders given to the same purpose to the Admiral's commanding at Jamaica, Leeward Islands & in the Mediterranean, their Lordships cannot doubt of your vigilance, as you, and every other Officer in His Majesty's Service, must be sensible the putting a Stop to this intercourse is of the first importance, & cannot fail of producing the most desirable Effects. By a Vessel which came from Philadelphia with Flour &c for Nantz, where Arms & Ammunition were to be taken in exchange, but which was seized on the Passage by the Mate & Seamen & is now brought into Bristol, their Lordships have learnt several particulars proper for your Information, & the same are therefore transmitted for that purpose in a printed Paper accompanying this, which is found to correspond with the whole of what the Mate gave in upon examination in their presence; the Ship & Cargo are order'd to be proceeded against in the High Court of Admiralty, and in case of being condemned there, it is apprehended the Court will order a Considerable part, or perhaps the whole of the Value to be given to the Mate & Seamen as a Reward for their Loyalty in seizing the Vessel aforementioned, and which it is their Lordships directions you make known as fully as you have opportunities of doing in hopes it may prove an Encouragement to others to do the same Justice to their Country as has been done by those Men I am &c

P: S:

By the *Canceaux* 19 April

A Duplicate sent 26th April with all its Inclosures, by Commodore Hotham
A Copy also given to Lord Howe.

[Enclosure]

- A. A List of Ships & Vessels which sailed under Convoy of the *Ranger* Sloop from Plymouth.

<i>Thunder</i>	
<i>Thunder</i>	Bomb Vessels Tender
<i>Nancy</i>	Ordnance Storeship
<i>Content</i>	Transport
<i>Neva</i>	Do
<i>Adml Shuldham</i>	Do
<i>Adventure</i>	A Treasury Victualler.

- B. A List of Ships which sailed under Convoy of the *Greyhound*.

<i>Elizabeth</i>	}	Ordnance storeships
<i>Russian Merchant</i>		
<i>Charming Sally</i>		
<i>Hope</i>		
<i>Waters</i>	}	Army Victuallers
<i>Mars</i>		
<i>Sally</i>		
<i>Bell</i>		
<i>Howe</i>		
<i>Levant</i>		
		with Provisions.

- C. A List of Ships which sailed under Convoy of the *Juno & Blonde*.

<i>Pallas</i>	}	<i>Devonshire</i>	}	Ordnance Storeships
<i>Royal Britain</i>		<i>Fleetwood</i>		
<i>Lawrie</i>		<i>Charming Nancy</i>		
<i>Harmony</i>		<i>Helen</i>		
<i>James & John</i>		<i>Woodland</i>		
<i>Providence</i>		<i>Friendship</i>		
<i>Nancy</i>		<i>Hopewell</i>		
<i>Elizabeth</i>		<i>Prince George</i>		
<i>Martha</i>				
<i>Peggy</i>		}	Transports	
<i>Apollo</i>				
<i>Polly</i>				
<i>Prince of Wales</i>				
<i>Minerva</i>				
<i>Lord Sandwich</i>				
<i>Union</i>				
<i>Content</i>				
<i>Margaret & Martha</i>				
<i>Three Sisters</i>				
<i>Stag</i>				

D. A List of Ships which sailed under Convoy of the *Carysfort & Pearl*.

<i>Lucretia</i>	<i>Monimia</i>
<i>Rosseau</i>	<i>Myrtle</i>
<i>Fidelity</i>	<i>London</i>
<i>Caesar</i>	<i>Christie</i>
<i>Brittania</i> (1st)	<i>Charming Sally</i>
<i>Kitty</i>	<i>Grace</i>
<i>Britania</i> (2d)	<i>Amity's Successian</i>
<i>Favorite</i> (1st)	<i>Success's Increase</i>
<i>Henry</i>	<i>Garland</i>
<i>Adamant</i>	<i>Lively</i>
<i>Woodcock</i>	<i>Friendship</i>
<i>Sisters</i>	<i>Elizabeth</i>
<i>Ostenbotten</i>	<i>Kent</i>
<i>Speedwell</i>	<i>Providence</i>
<i>Favorite.</i> (2d)	<i>Patty</i>
<i>Gale.</i>	<i>Sarah</i>
<i>Champion</i>	<i>King George</i>
<i>John</i>	
<i>Lilly</i> (1st)	
<i>Mermaid</i>	
<i>Rainbow</i>	
<i>Hunter</i>	
<i>Thetis</i>	
<i>Lilly</i> (2d)	

E. A List of Ships which are to sail under the Convoy of the *Tartar*

<i>Speke</i>	Hospital Ship
<i>Elizabeth</i>	Treasury Victualler
<i>Alborough</i>	Navy Do
<i>Henry</i> }	With Stores for Sloops
<i>Boreas</i> }	& Batteaux in Canada
<i>Sally</i>	} Ordnance Storeships
* <i>Union's Success</i>	

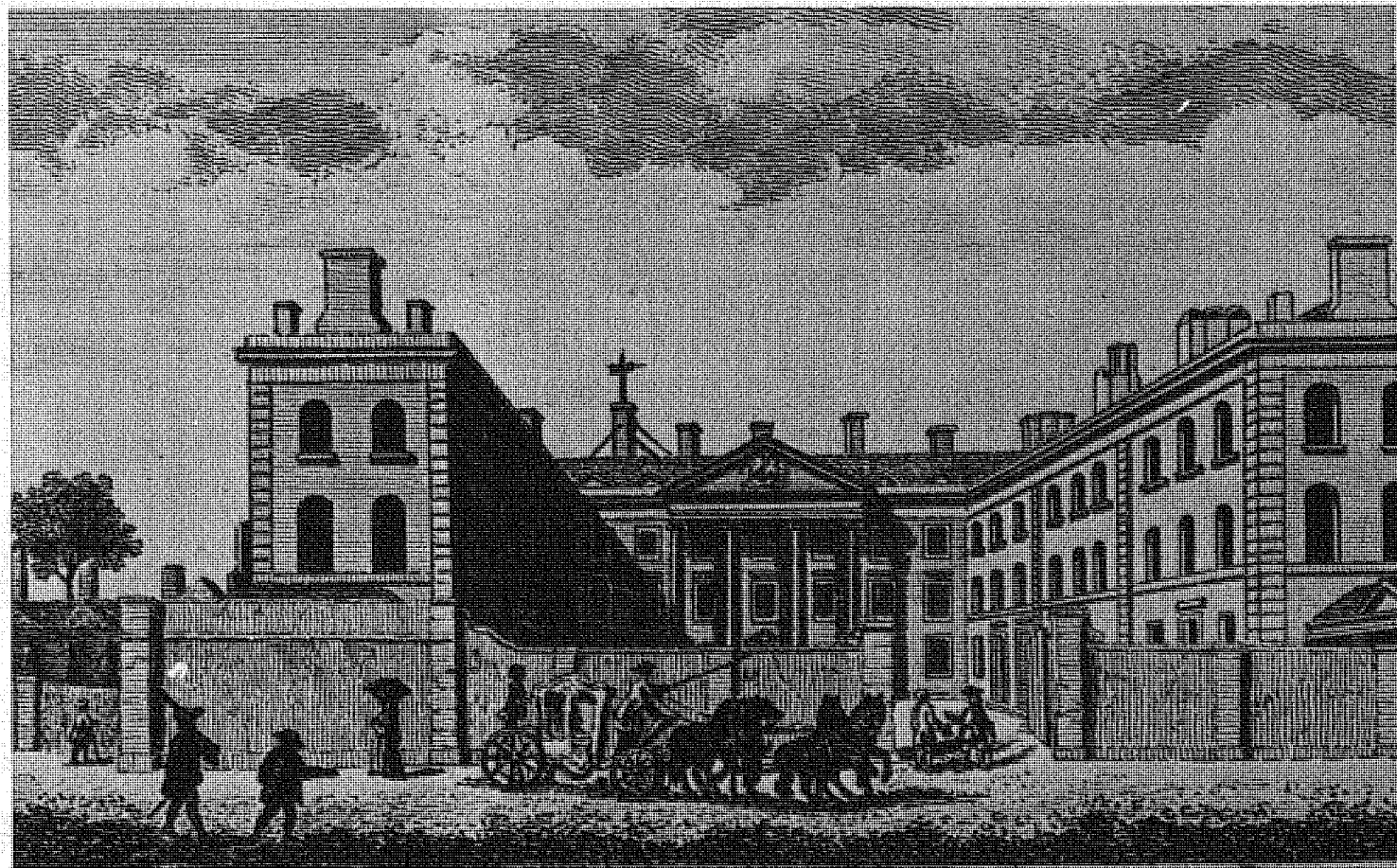
*Did not arrive in time

See order & Ltr & answer 13 & 14 May

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551. 457-65.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LIEUTENANT HENRY MOWAT,
H.M. ARMED VESSEL *Canceaux*, SPITHEAD¹

Whereas you will receive herewith a Packet for Vice Admiral Shuldham Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America; You are hereby required and directed to put to Sea, with the very first opportunity of Wind and Weather, in the vessel you command, and make the best of your way with the said Packet to Boston in New England; where you



Admiralty.

T. Simpson

are to deliver it to him, and then, putting yourself under his Command, follow his Orders for your further proceedings.

In case upon your arrival at Boston you shall not find the abovementioned Vice Admiral there, you are to proceed in quest of him to such other part of the Coast as you shall learn he is gone to; and, upon joining him, to act as above directed.

Given &c the 18th April 1776.

Sandwich J: Buller Palmerston

By &c P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 34.

“A LETTER FROM THE MATE OF THE SHIP *Dickenson*, LATELY BROUGHT INTO BRISTOL.”¹

As the news-papers in general have given accounts very different from the truth, of a transaction in which I have had a principal, and I trust a laudable part; I beg you will, in order to prevent any future misrepresentations of this affair, assure the Public, that the *Dickenson*, of which I was mate, sailed from Philadelphia for Nantz, and that she arrived in a distant latitude before the Captain was at liberty to open his instructions.

After he had read them, he informed me, that he was directed by the Congress to proceed to Nantz, and there to take in gunpowder and military stores for the use of their forces. The information alarmed me; but as it would have been imprudent, if not dangerous, in an individual, to have declared his objections to the service without sufficient support, I concealed my sentiments till I made myself acquainted with those of my shipmates; and finding them as averse to the cause of the rebels as myself, I immediately went down to the cabin, and acquainted the Captain that we had determined to proceed to England; and as he was no longer commander of the ship, he must deliver up his keys and papers. He readily complied; and to do him strict justice, he considered himself merely as a passenger, and behaved extremely well. Indeed, the unanimity which prevailed among us, prevented any opposition on his part; and this was so manifest, that it would have been madness or folly in the extreme to have contended against us.

This, Sir, I assure you, is the exact truth of the whole transaction, notwithstanding what has been asserted to the contrary.

I was ignorant of the destination of our ship, till our arrival in a particular latitude. The duty which I owe to my King and to my country would not, and I hope never will, suffer me to engage in so wicked a business; and under the influence of the same principle, I also thought it incumbent on me to prevent, as far as I was able, others from entering into it.

At all events, I have acted agreeably to my conscience; and it affords me infinite satisfaction, that I have had it in my power to shew my attachment to my native country, by setting an example of loyalty, in company with my

ship-mates, that may perhaps deter the Congress from pursuing this method of obtaining guns and ammunition for the future.

I am, Sir, your humble servant,

John Sands.

Thursday morning, 18th April

1. *London Chronicle*, April 18 to April 20, 1776.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, APRIL 16 TO THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1776

London, April 18.

Letters from Cadiz, by the *Myrtilla*, Calon, arrived at Falmouth, bring advice that three American vessels were put in there, loaded with the produce of their country, which the Spaniards took off their hands, and paid them in dollars.

The *Atlantic* and *Weazel* sloops of war have taken two American vessels trading on the coast of Africa, and carried them into Sierraleone.

19 Apr.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO WILLIAM EDEN ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 19th April. 1776

My Lords Commissrs of the Admty having received a Letter from Lieut Walton of the *Wells* Cutter dated 16th inst at Newport [Nieuwpoort] relative to the Brigg *Charming Peggy*, Gustas Cunningham [Gustavus Conyngham] Master, which has been seized in that Port, I am commanded by their Lordships to send you inclosed a Copy thereof for Lord Suffolks information, And am &c

P S.

Wm Eden Esqr Secretary to the Earl of Suffolk.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 466.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 19th April. 1776.

The West India Merchants have applied to my Lords Commissrs of the Admty for the protection of their Homeward bound Trade, and their Lordships having sent directions to Vice Adml Gayton Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels at Jamaica, to appoint Convoy to see the trade from eighty to one hundred Leagues Clear of that Island, to Vice Adml Young Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels at Barbadoes & the Leeward Islands, to appoint Convoy to see it, from eighty to one hundred & Twenty Leagues clear of Anguilla; And my Lords being desirous that the Trade, should have every Protection that can be given to it, they therefore command me to signify their direction to you (in addition to those aforementioned) that you order the Captns of such of His Majesty's Ships and Sloops under your Command as you shall think fit, to cruize occasionally off the Bermuda Islands, and in the Tract of the Homeward bound

West India Trade, with Instructions not only to use their best endeavours to secure the Trade of His Majesty's Subjects, but to take or destroy any Rebell Cruizers they may happen to meet with in those parts. I am &ca

P.S.

By the *Canceaux*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 469.

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

Monsieur le Comte

London 19th. April 1776

I owe you an apology for the stupid absence of mind with which I persisted, on Tuesday, the 16th., in dating all my letters Tuesday the 12th. This correction is important only as regards my long letter, because this date of the 12th contradicts several subsequent facts which are there announced. . . .

News by the last vessel.

South Carolina, who hitherto has done nothing but stammer, at last speaks as clearly as the other colonies. She has her little fleet of three vessels all equipped, six thousand men in good order, and above two hundred pieces of cannon, forming batteries all round Charlestown, which she does not want to have burnt like her sister of Massachusetts.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1325.M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

No. 15

London, 19 April 1776

Although the ship for Lord [Richard] Howe has arrived in Portsmouth and is ready to sail, this Admiral who was to leave last month is still here. People are beginning to wonder and I believe that the Ministry has been concerned about it for some time. Today, I was telling the Prince of Masseran, a student of physiognomy, that the faces of the Minister in general had been looking rather meditative and sad for some time. He replied that he had made the same observation.

Speaking of observations, My Lord, I have one concerning certain facts and which will be more positive if it turns out to be true. On the 17th of this month, we received intelligence from Portsmouth that an order had arrived there, by which ammunition and rigging for one year were to be put on board three guard ships: the *Marlborough*, the *Royal Oak*, each of 74 guns, and the *Worcester* of 64. We had also received information from this port on the 12th that the order had been given to fit out the *Centaur*, of 74 guns, for an eight months journey. This ship was found to be in such decayed a state that the builder advised the Admiralty of it and deferred carrying out the first orders. I had inquiries made at the Office of the Navy today in order to receive confirmation of such an extraordinary armament. It was found that they had no knowledge of it and that they did not believe

this fact to be true; consequently, I will not be able to confirm if for a few days. Assuming that it is true, it would seem more probable to me that, because of the shortage of transports, it had been decided to carry ammunition, victuals and other necessary articles on board warships. The season for warships to sail to India is passed and will not return before the month of October. Furthermore, if the Government had taken such a strange decision, even at this time of the year, the President of the Company would know something; and I can assure you, My Lord, that his information which he receives from the Government, is quite contrary to the notion of sending a new Squadron in that area.

One might conceive, perhaps, that this armament and the delay of the Hessian troops are deliberate moves in the speculation of events which the Portugal affair could bring about. I confess that I can hardly believe this; besides, why should these ships be fitted out for one year if they are to go on an expedition or a cruise in European waters? . . . There are presently in Portsmouth 40 transports on which the detachment of the Guards will embark, several frigates ready to sail for America, and the ship *Preston* of 50 guns destined for Quebec. Furthermore, fifteen transports arrived in Deptford from Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Hamburg; they will take on horses for America.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, APRIL 19.”¹

Commodore Hotham is come down here from London; he is going out in the *Preston* to America, to command under Lord Howe.

We hear the Guards are to embark here on board the transports on Monday next.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 20 to April 23, 1776.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM F. B. BARNARD TO HIS BROTHER,
DATED MADEIRA, APRIL 19.”¹

The *Boreas* frigate, Capt. [Charles] Thompson, is here, and has seized a brig from London bound to St. Augustine, for having 100 barrels of gunpowder on board. She is called the *Aurora*, Capt. Crow.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 4 to June 6, 1776.

20 Apr.

Public Advertiser, SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1776

London [April 20].

The Lieutenant of the Tender on the Impress Service at Bristol, seized the *Dickenson* the instant she arrived, and claims her under the Act of Parliament for himself. The Mate also, as well for his Loyalty as his Trouble, expects her; and as he has no legal Right to her, the Navy Officer insists upon having her. This Matter has therefore been given to the Crown Law-

yers for their Opinion, and it is said they are divided; some think the Lieutenant entitled to the Ship, others the Mate, and some think neither are, but that she is the Property of the King.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

No. 12

Versailles, 20 April 1776

During the Conference we had on the 16th, M. de Paul spoke to me of the adventure that befell the American ship bound for Nantes and taken to Bristol.² Among the details you sent us and those found in the gazettes I see nothing that may incriminate us or even the French merchant to whom these expedition was destined. It appears that this was a mere commercial undertaking especially since the Capt. had been advised to bring back his cargo's worth in money if he could not obtain arms and powder. Without doubt, England could not fancy to require that we close our ports to the Americans and that we be deprived of the American goods we would like to have. The King has sent instructions to all ports in order to prevent the delivery of war ammunition to the Americans and that is all his friendship for the King of Great Britain will allow, because if arms and powder are an item of contraband with respect to the attitude of the English towards America, they are merely a trade item as far as we are concerned. However positive the King's orders may be in this respect, I could not guarantee that war ammunition is not exported any more than the British Ministers could disclaim such traffic between England and the Colonies. The attitude of merchants is the same everywhere pressed by their determination to make a profit, they are not impressed by law and they are skilfull in finding ways to avoid them. . .

M. de Paul claims that one of the two Frenchmen who appeared in Congress as the so-called deputies of our country is on his way back to France. I do not know who it is, probably some merchant's clerk who went and begged Congress for contracts, or some adventurer. We are not lacking men of his kind and we would not be sorry if they would go and live in some other country but France. I am curious to find out about the one whose return has been announced, as well as the purpose of his trip. You can imagine that if he showed himself in Philadelphia as an official representative, he will have no reason to be happy about this deceit of his.³

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

2. The *Dickinson*.

3. M. Penet, a member of the firm of Penet & Pliarne was on his way back to France.

22 Apr.JOHN BODDINGTON TO GEORGE JACKSON ¹

Sir

Office of Ordnance 22d April 1776.

The Lieutenant General and Principal Officers of the Ordnance, direct me to acquaint you for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the

Admiralty that the undermentioned Ordnance Transports have agreed by Charter Parties to receive Naval Officers on board.

The *Rebecca* – Hugh Corphen Master – For Halifax –
ordered to Portsmouth to wait for Convoy

The *Sally* – Thompson Master – For Canada
ordered to take Stores and Men at Plymouth and proceed to Plymouth
to join the *Tartar* Captn. Ommany.

The *Union's Success* – Stephen Ingram Master – For Canada –
is to take a Detachment of Artillery on board at Portsmouth and then
join the *Tartar* at Plymouth

The *Cadiz Packet* – William Collins Master – For Boston –
will be Ordered to Portsmouth to wait for Convoy. I am Sir [&c.]

John Boddington

P.S. All the beforementioned Vessels will Sail this Week if the Provisions
from the Victualling Office are sent on board the *Union's Success* in time.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/4012.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, APRIL 20 TO TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1776

London, April 22.

The two fleets destined for America are to sail, one for New York, the
other for Boston. Those which sailed from Corke the 8th instant were
bound to Quebec.

The *Clarissa*, Capt. Bissell, is seized at Georgia by the Provincials.¹

The *Anniley*,² Capt. Wardwell, and the *Charming Nancy*, Capt. King,
both arrived at Savannah, are detained there by the Provincials.

1. This information is completely reversed. The *Clarissa*, Richard Bissell, master, and owned by
Roch and Lopez, merchants in Rhode Island, was seized by H.M. Sloop *Raven*, at Savan-
nah, January 20, 1776, Shulldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
2. The *Unity*, according to the *Public Advertiser*, London, April 17, 1776.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, APRIL 22.”¹

Friday the *Camilla*, a new ship of 20 guns, was launched from this
dock-yard. She is this day taken into dock to be sheathed, and is expected
to be commissioned for America.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 23 to April 25, 1776.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO MONTAUDOUIN BROTHERS & CO., NANTES¹

Versailles, 22 April 1776

You have probably learned, Gentlemen, what happened to the snow
Dickenson which had left Philadelphia for Nantes and was taken to Bristol
by her own crew.

According to the papers found on board, it appears that this vessel was
addressed to you and that you were requested to assist her in selling her car-
go and supply in return several items among which a small quantity of war
ammunition or money if it should not be available

The reputation enjoyed by your firm is proof that you are unable to engage in any correspondence or traffic which might be suspect or contrary to the service of the King and the good intelligence that reigns between His M[ajesty] and the British Crown. But we learn from the public papers that two Frenchmen went to English America and that they were introduced or introduced themselves as agents, that one of them was supposed to come back to France and had been supposed to be on board the snow *Dickenson*. This mission which is absolutely known to us seems to be rather strange and I ask you to tell me if you have any knowledge of these two French men, the object of their journey, and finally to send me all the information you may have on this matter as soon as possible.

I do not think necessary to recommend that you keep secret the contents of this letter.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy. See also Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1327.

23 Apr.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, APRIL 27 TO TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1776

Edinburgh, April 23.

The 42d regiment, or Royal Highlanders, which embarked at Greenock on Friday se'nnight, are still lying there, as they got orders to wait for General Frazer's regiment, and to sail together, under convoy of the *Flora* frigate. It is thought Frazer's regiment will not be ready to embark for some days yet. Many of the transports that are to carry over these troops have mounted guns, ready to defend themselves in case of any attack from the American privateers.

Public Advertiser, TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1776

London [April 23].

Letters from Lisbon bring Advice that a Ship called the *Hancock and Adams*.¹ Capt.—[Smith], was arrived there from Philadelphia, with a very valuable Cargo to the Portuguese, it being fine Wheat, &c. the Produce of that Country; the whole very acceptable at this Time at Lisbon, they being in Want of Corn. The same Letters mention, that the Captain declared that the Americans were determined to open a Trade with every Power in Europe, excepting England; with them they would never trade till they were left in quiet Possession of their full Rights and Liberties, according to the Charters granted and confirmed to them.

1. The *Hancock and Adams*, 100 tons burden, was the property of Blair McClenachan, a prominent Philadelphia merchant.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, APRIL 20 TO TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1776

London, April 23.

Letters from Lisbon, dated the 7th of April, mention, that seven ships from Philadelphia had arrived there with corn and flour, and that they were to take loading and return to Philadelphia the first opportunity.

Among the above ships is one called the *Hancock and Adams*, Capt. —, with a cargo of wheat and other produce of that country.

The *Sampson*, Capt. Farquhar, from London, which sailed from Poole in August last, for America, is safe arrived at Philadelphia, after being out 18 weeks.¹

Letters by yesterday's Irish mail say, that a vessel, arrived at Belfast from Bourdeaux, brings advice, that three ships belonging to the Provincials were lying in that port when she sailed — two of them had delivered cargoes of tobacco, and the other flour, and they were then taking on board goods, but could not tell of what kind.

1. At the time this was written, the *Sampson*, Captain Farquhar, in the employ of Robert Morris, was bound to Europe with a cargo to be exchanged for gunpowder.

New York Packet, MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 1776

London, April 23.

There is such a want of seamen, that the *Resolution*, sloop of war, Capt. [James] Hawker, which is sailed from the Downs for Haverfordwest, to take under convoy some transports bound to America, had no more than four sailors on board, besides the officers. They depend on getting men at Haverfordwest.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Canceaux* ¹

April 76

Single Anchor at Spithead

Tuesday 23d

A M/ loos'd F: To sail inclinable to clear at noon weighd; turning to windward—at 2 PM came too wth the Bt Br 10 Faths Gilhacker NbE inclin[able] to Calm at 6 PM weighd ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.

2. Upon the promise of a post captaincy at the first opening, and with a promotion to "Master & Commander" of a ship at Boston, Henry Mowat was returning in the refitted *Canceaux*. "On this foundation," he wrote, "he readily Sett out for America." *Collections and Proceedings of the Maine Historical Society*, 2nd series, II, 357-58.

25 Apr.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 25th April 1776

My Lords Commrs of the Admty having received the inclosed Petition from George & John Buchanan & Co representing that in Septr last they sent their Ship *Glasgow*, Soloman Townsend, Master, from Fort William in Glasgow with 260 Passengers to New York, in North America; That on her arrival there Captain Vandeput of the *Asia* prevented the Landing of the Passengers and sent them in the said Ship to Boston where they were landed on the 8th December and the Ship detain'd by your Order til the 6 Janry: and therefore praying for Redress; I am commanded by their Lordship to desire you will report to them a full state of the Case, that such direction may

be given thereupon as to them. Shall seem proper, And with your Report you will please to return the same Petition to &ca

P. S

Vice Admiral Graves – Town

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 493.

DIARY OF THOMAS MOFFAT ¹

April 23 weighd (in the *Canceaux*) from SpitHead and anchord off Yarmouth.

Apr 25th passd the Needles with a fair Gale

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, APRIL 25.” ¹

The following frigates, of 32 guns each, are now in commission at this port, and fitting with the greatest expedition for America, viz. *Amazon*, Capt. [Maximilian] Jacobs; *Diamond*, Capt. [Charles] Fielding; *Lark*, Capt. [Richard] Smith; *Richmond*, Capt. [John Lewis] Gidoin.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 25 to April 27, 1776.

THEODORE CANNON TO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IRVING, GUERNSEY ¹

[Copy]

Painbeuf sur Loire
the 25th April 1776.

I arrived here only Saturday Night [April 20], where I found under Sailing Orders a Brig belonging to Philadelphia commanded by John Forrest. Her Burthen 180 Tons or upwards. She was chiefly loaded with Amunition & Fire Arms of all kinds. This I find to be the third has been here & sailed since Janry last – Vizt a large Sloop about 80 a 90 Tuns, a Schooner, same burthen, & this Brig who sailed, with the Wind at N W last Munday.

You may assure your friends at Londn that these Vessels will continue to come here & to Bourdeaux during the Summer on account these Ports give into the Bay of Biscay, they suppose they do not run the risk to come to them they do them in the Channel, where they can hardly escape our Men of War. I heartily wished to be invested with a power from Government & a Man of Warr or two near me to receive my Instructions, these Vessels would not get off I assure you – I wrote Mr Corbet from Grandville about this matter & mentioned to him that as I am a Person in the Mercantile business I could go from One to the other of these Sea Ports unnoticed, & having some Ships stationed to receive my Instructions or Orders in the manner I mentioned to you, I could by that means detain & cause to be taken every one of these Americans after they should have sailed. This I am willing & will be happy to do provided the Government will make it worth my while, otherwise I assure you the bad Encouragement I recd in 1770 damps my proceeding any more on my own private Expence. There never was such a Commerce carried on in this country before as there is now in the Articles of Fire Arms & Ammunition (i e) amongst the private Merchants for I am well assured that Governmt nor any under his command know not

any thing about the matter – I forgot to inform you that this last Brig Cap. Forrest has cleared out from this Place with part French Sailors on board & under French Colors pretending to be bound to St Domingo, so you see what a Scheme they have taken up for the Deception, and you may conceive that it requires a Person of some Penetration to enter into a certain knowledge of discovery of such Plans, & you may depend on it they'll make use of some such Machination to better convey their matters into a fair way of escaping suspicion.

I hope you'll judge it necessary & of use to Govt to convey this matter to the knowledge of your friends immediately, & I shall be glad to render any service in my Power to my King & Country.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/162, 446.

26 Apr.

LIEUTENANT COLONELS WILLIAM ERSKINE AND ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL TO
CAPTAIN JOHN BRISBANE, H.M.S. *Flora*, GREENOCK ¹

Copy.
Sr

Greenock 26th April 1776

Knowing well that your sailing Orders are of too positive a nature to admit of any delay in the execution of them, it would be highly improper to solicit an Extraordinary extension at this Juncture, did not an absolute necessity require it.

By contrary Winds above one half of our Battalion Accoutrements all our Swords & Officers Fuzees, part of our Camp Equipage & the whole Ammunition of the Regiment did not arrive at the Carron from England before the 24th of this Month – An Officer with a Detachment is now employed in forwarding these Articles with the utmost Expedition to Greenock, and from the Accounts receiv'd from him late last Night, we have reason to believe the whole will arrive at Greenock upon the 28th at farthest. This being the Case we hope you will join in opinion that it is absolutely necessary for His Majesty's Service that the Fleet should remain for that time at Greenock than that the Troops who are destined for immediate Service, should proceed to North America without their Accoutrements & Ammunition. We have the honor to be &c.

Will^m Erskine Lt Coll of the 1st Battn 71st
Arch^d Campbell Lt Col. of the 2d Battn 71st ²

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 37c.

2. This letter and a similar one from Adjutant General Robert Skene were sent to Philip Stephens this date, *ibid.*, 37b. The Admiralty in turn forwarded them to Lord Germain "for His Majesty's Information," PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 60–61.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM HOTHAM, R.N.¹

Whereas Lord George Germain, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, hath by his Letter of this date, signified to Us His Majesty's Pleasure, that the Body of Hessians mentioned in the inclosed List, who are arrived at Spithead under the command of General [Leopold Philipp Frei-

herr von] Heister & also the detachment of British Foot Guards under the command of Brigr Genl [Edward] Matthew destined for North America, should proceed thither under proper Convoy as soon as possibly may be, without waiting for the other Hessians who are expected; And whereas we intend that His Majesty's Ship the *Preston* already put under your command, together with the other Ships & Vessels as named in the Margin² whose Commanders are directed to obey your Orders, shall proceed with the said Troops to the place of their destination; You are hereby required & directed to take all His Majesty's said Ships & Vessels under your command, and, as soon as the Embarkation of the abovementioned Hessians under the command of Genl Heister & the Guards abovementioned shall be completed on board the Transport Vessels prepared for their reception (Lists of which you will receive from their respective Agents who are directed to follow your Orders) you are to take the said Vessels & any others having Hessians on board which may arrive at Spithead before you Sail, and also the Store-ships & Victuallers named in the inclosed List & such others as may be at Spithead bound to North America & ready to Sail, under your Convoy; And then, putting to Sea with the very first opportunity of Wind & Weather proceed with them down Channel, and, when you get twenty Leagues to the Westward of the Lizard, you are to hoist your Broad Pendant on board the *Preston*; and opening the inclosed Sealed Pacquet, carry into execution the Instructions * you will find therein contained for your farther proceedings. Given &c 26th April 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

To Capt William Hotham

appointed to serve on board His Majesty's ship *Preston* at Spithead. By &c P.S.

*Secret.

By Express next day at 3/4 p 2.p.m.

A List of the Hessian Troops arrived at Spithead, under the command of General Heister.

Noms des Regiment	Totes
1. Regiment du Corps	688.
2. du Prince heriditaire	698.
3. du Prince Charle	690.
4. de Dittfourth	684.
5. de Donop	696.
6. de Losberg	687.
7. de Knyphausen	525.
8. de Trumbach	677.
Battaill des Grenadiers	
1. du Lieut Colonel de Linsing	548.
2. du Block	553.
3. du de Minnigerode	555.
Une Compagnie des Chasseurs	138.
de l'Artillerie	242.

Memo 154 of the Regt de Knyphausen are left at Bremer hesse not having room for them in the Ships which brought the above.

A List of a Storeship & Victuallers intended to proceed to North America, under convoy of Commodore Hotham^s Vizt

<u>Ships Names</u>	<u>Master's Names</u>	
<i>Cadiz Pacquet</i>	*Wm Collins — Ordnance Store Ship	} Navy Victuallers at Spithead.
<i>Success</i>	Chris Ouston	
<i>Shipwright</i>	Thos Kay	
<i>Nancy</i>	Josh Clarke	
<i>Success's Increase</i>	Edwd Curtis	
<i>Integrity</i>	Jno Sanderson	
<i>Stanly</i>	Henry Holt	
<i>Britannia</i>	Thos Hayman	
<i>Providence</i>	Rph Richardson	
<i>Medway</i>	Rt Anderson	

*provided she arrives in time being on her way to Spithead.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 47-50.
2. Vessels named in the margin: "*Brune* [Captain James Ferguson], *Emerald* [Captain Benjamin Caldwell], *Jersey* Hos[pita]l Ship [Captain William A. Halsted], *Strombolo*, *Fireship* [Lieutenant Charles Phipps], *Carcass* B[om]b Vessel [Captain Robert Dring]."
3. *Ibid.*, 51, 67-68, Hotham came under Vice Admiral Shulldham's command upon arrival in North America. Captain Sir George Collier, H.M.S. *Rainbow*, received orders to place himself under Hotham's command May 1.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN CORNTHWAITE OMMANNEY,
H.M.S. *Tartar*, PLYMOUTH¹

You are hereby required & directed to make enquiry for the Hospital Ship, Victuallers & Storeships mentioned in the inclosed List, which are bound to Quebec, and have been ordered to Rendezvous at Plymouth, and, as soon as they shall be all assembled, you are to take them, and any others which may be at that place bound to Canada & ready to Sail, under your Convoy, and, putting to Sea with the very first opportunity of Wind & Weather, make the best of your way with them into the River St Lawrence; taking all possible care for their protection & security during the passage; and, repairing to the Isle aux Coudres (which is the place of Rendezvous for the Ships & Troops destined to serve in Canada) you are to dispatch the several Pacquets you will receive herewith, from Lord George Germain, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, to General Carlton; and, if you find any Officer of His Majesty's Ships in the said River Senior to yourself, to deliver to him the inclosed Pacquet, Addressed to such Senior Captain, and to follow his Orders for your further proceedings; But, if you shall not find any Officer there senior to yourself you are to open the last mentioned Pacquet & put in execution the Orders you will find therein contained; And, also in conjunction with the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Land Forces, to pursue such Steps as shall be judged necessary for the Establishment of His Majts Government within the Province of Quebec & for repel-

ling any hostile Invasion of it by His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects from the other Colonies; And, during your continuance on this Service, You are to consider yourself under the command of, and to follow such Orders as you shall receive from Vice Adml Shuldham, or the Commander in Chief for the time being, of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels in North America. Given & 26th April 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

By &c PS. By a Messenger at 4 p m.

A List of Ships ordered to Rendezvous at Plymouth & intended to Sail from thence under Convoy of His Majesty's Ship *Tartar*.

<i>Speke</i>	Hospital Ship
<i>Elizabeth</i>	Treasury Victualler
<i>Alborough</i>	Navy Do
<i>Henley</i>	} With Stores for Sloops & Batteaux in Canada.
<i>Boreas</i>	
<i>Sally</i>	} Ordnance Storeships.
<i>Union's Success</i>	

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 53-54.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM HOTHAM, H.M.S. *Preston*, SPITHEAD ¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 26th. April 1776.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty aware of the necessity there is for your being apprized of the place of your destination before you sail from Spithead in order that you may issue to the several Captains & Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under your command as well as to the Masters of the Transport Vessels & other Vessels under your Convoy, directions to what place they are to proceed in case of separation, command me to acquaint you that their only motive for sending to you their Instructions (which you will receive by this night's post) sealed up with Orders – not to open them til you get Twenty Leagues to the Westward of the Lizard, is merely that those Instructions may come to your hands unopened; And that, therefore, notwithstanding their directions to the contrary you are at liberty to open those Instructions immediately after you receive them, the better to enable you to fix a Rendezvous in case of separation, and to give such other Orders as shall appear necessary; taking care however to keep those Instructions a profound secret, and to issue the Orders you may give in consequence sealed up, with very positive and strict injunctions to the parties concerned not to open the same except in case of separation and being under a necessity for so doing. I am &ca.

Ph^p Stephens ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

2. *Ibid.*, the same letter, leaving out the underlined words, was sent to Captain Henry Davis, H.M.S. *Repulse*, on May 21.

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

Monsieur le Comte

London, 26th April 1776.

I take advantage of a reliable opportunity to converse with you freely on the only really important affair of today – America, and everything connected with it.

I had a long conversation, the evening of the day before yesterday, with the man whom you have thought it your duty to prevent entering France. ²

In bringing us together, M. de Laur[aguais] faithfully recounted to me all that they had said to each other in my absence, and likewise informed him of all that had passed between himself and me, before taking me to him.

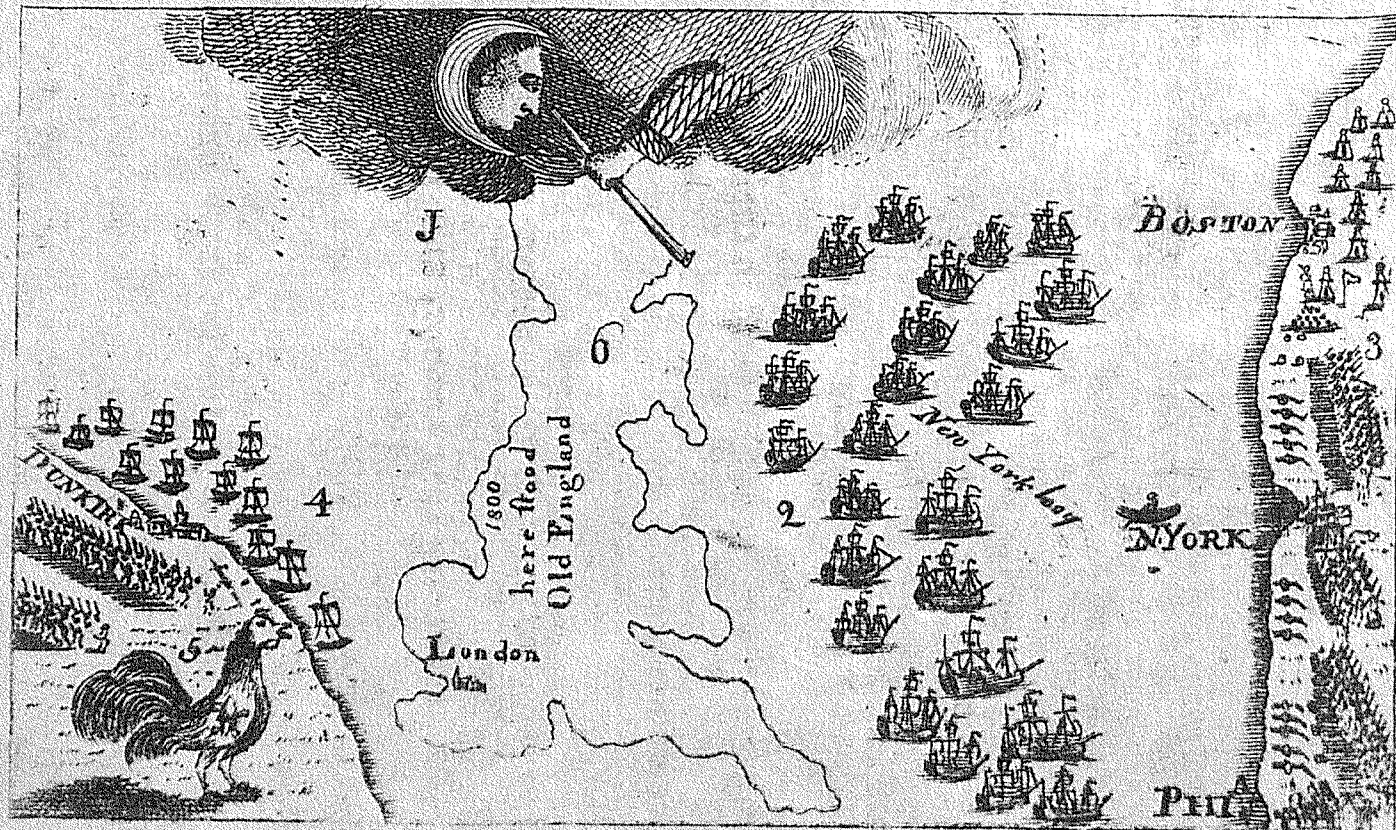
This man appeared to me to be rather stupified than astonished at the absolute contradiction of his news which your long despatches brought you from the South. He cannot imagine whence the error can come. But his informants have so much interest in not deceiving him, that he believes he is well-informed. Moreover, perhaps Congress sent those two Deputies to the Governors of the Spanish possessions in America, or else to the commanders of their squadrons, without having sent them as far as Madrid.

For the rest, he is expecting immediately very certain news of all these matters, and of their sequel. He is informed that they have arrived in Holland, whence they are to be sent to him by very safe means, and in twelve days I shall know what to tell you of them. ³ Meanwhile, he does not cease asking whether we will absolutely do nothing for them. And, without wasting time in repeating to me how important their success is to France, because he does us the honour to think us in accord with him on this point, he simply says to me: – “We want arms and powder, but above all we want engineers. There is nobody but you who can help us, and who have a great interest to do so. And what we most need is some good engineers.” I reply to him that this last matter is of extreme difficulty, because we cannot send men without giving them a commission: that these men talk, and it is that which compromises, whereas inanimate help is mute. “Well then, give us money,” he replies to me, “we will get engineers from Germany, Sweden, Italy &c. – and you will not be compromised.” This, Monsieur le Comte, is our position, what do you wish me to reply?

Since the arrival at Bristol of the vessel intended for Messrs. Montaudouin of Nantes, concerning which so many representations have been made to me, and which you have been informed of, our friend has asked me to forward secretly to them the enclosed letter. I have the honour to send it to you, you can post it without adding a single word thereto, simply recommending it secretly.

The Americans are in other respects in as good a condition as possible. The army, the fleet, provisions, courage, all are excellent. But without powder and engineers, how conquer, or even defend themselves? Shall we let them perish rather than lend them one or two millions? Are we afraid that this money will not come back to us, in one way or another, after the war is over?

The present STATE of EUROPE & AMERICA
OR
The MAN in the MOON taking a View of the ENGLISH ARMADA.



Note, Monsieur le Comte, the terror caused to England by the most absurd report which seems to come from France, and judge thereby of the real state of their affairs.

Colonel St. Pol [Horace St. Paul] brings to London a false and ridiculous report of a pretended new treaty between France and Spain; immediately all securities fall in price.

It is rumored here foolishly and secretly, that the French have taken Jamaica, and notwithstanding that everybody says it is impossible, and that the report is laughed at as well as they can, that does not prevent securities falling immediately in the market.

The least panic with regard to us, has this certain effect on all the public funds.

So, when Lord North said yesterday, in the Lower House, that the understanding between France and England was all the more perfect, that this understanding was much more necessary to the French than to the English, the whole Parliament had the common sense to laugh in his face.

And when he added that, in spite of Dr. [Richard] Price's dreams, the nation had never been so flourishing, the whole Parliament again had the good sense to laugh in his face. But they ceased laughing, when that transient impulse gave way to the indignation of the orators of the Opposition. And without entering into all that was said yesterday in this House of Commons, because it has doubtless been reported to you, I cannot help enlarging on all the debates which have taken place there.

Weakness and terror, that is all that is to be seen there; and the Minister continually closely questioned as to the intentions and proceedings of France, without a single word of reply being obtained from him.

Why have the French, says one, 7500 men in the Isle of Bourbon? To this, not a word.

Why, says another, have the Spaniards nine war vessels at Hispaniola, with which they no doubt protect the commerce of the continent? No answer.

Governor [George] Johnston[e] rises. Why have the Spaniards independently of the fleet in America, two fleets at Carthage and Cadiz ready to set sail. And why do you answer nothing, when I am certain of a coming war between France and England? Absolute silence.

Charles Fox supports this, saying: — what forces do you intend employing, then, against a fleet of 45 American privateers, good sailors, active, brave soldiers, protected by 20 roadsteads and ten seaports; protected by 20 foreign war vessels, always ready to help them with supplies, protected by two powerful nations, soon ready to help them openly and recognise them as allies? Still no answer.

Why, asks Mr. [Isaac] Barré, does Lord Howe, who ought to command the fleet, not do so? No answer.

The Speaker of the Commons, seeing the Minister without an answer, made reply, but without answering Mr. Barré's question, which was repeated by the latter with warmth.

Then Charles Fox, in an inspired tone, invokes, interrogates the honour of the Ministers, and replying to himself, he says; — “For a long time past, the honour of the Ministers has been a chimera, it is null, and has no voice in the unfortunate public affairs of England.”

It is clear, Monsieur le Comte, that he who answers nothing here, is silent, because he has nothing to answer: terror and anger on one side, weakness and embarrassment on the other, that is the true picture. And you will be still more convinced of this truth, if you recall the nature of all their treaties with the Germans, and especially if you examine the nature and the rate of the new loan.

For every £100 sterling lent to the Government, there will be given an acknowledgement for £78 sterling, and 3 lottery tickets, worth £10 sterling each, and £30 sterling together, which gives at the commencement £8 sterling profit to the lenders, and, through the fluctuations of the market they have already risen, although not issued, to £11 sterling. Add to this 3 per cent interest which the Government will pay for the £78 sterling, and it will be found that it is borrowing at more than 14 per cent. These proofs of their embarrassments appear to me unanswerable. But when it is proved that they cannot stand more than one campaign at this horrible price, is it then really true, Monsieur le Comte, that you will do nothing for the Americans, which may put them on a level with their enemies?

Will you not have the courage to once more show the King how much he can gain, without striking a blow, in that one campaign? And will you not try to convince His Majesty that this poor help which they ask, and upon which we have been debating for a year past, must enable us to gather all the fruits of a great victory, without having gone through the dangers of a battle: that this help may bring us, while we are asleep, all that the shameful Peace of 1762 made us lose: and that the success of the Americans, reducing our rivals to be nothing more than a second-rate power, replaces us in the first rank, and gives us, for a long time, preponderance over all Europe.

What greater object can occupy the King's Council? And what force your pleading will have, if you introduce there the contrary picture of all that the defeat of the Americans may cost us! 300 millions, our men, our vessels, our islands, &c. For after all, once united against us, their troops in good training, and their boldness increased by such a great success, it is but too certain that they will those very Frenchmen to sustain a fatal war, who could, with two millions, plunge them for ever into a peace equally shameful and ruinous.

In spite of the danger which I run, in writing such bold things to you from London, I feel myself twice as French here as in Paris. The patriotism of these people revives mine. It even seems that the precarious and dangerous state in which I find myself, through the suspicions and the severe inquisition to which all my doings are subjected, makes my zeal more ardent.

However, do not neglect, Monsieur le Comte, to urge M.de Sartine respecting my safety: it is the least thing due to me. The King and he have had the kindness to provide for it; but those same merchants, bankers, bro-

kers, goldsmiths, &c., who, secretly questioned by the Ministry, have testified that I was in treaty with them for money exchanges, will not fail to reply soon that this is but a lure – a trap, if they do not see me carry my proposals into effect, and proceed from the order to the purchase. Two suspected Irishmen have been arrested here. I have desired that I might be in a position to defend myself alone, and without committing the King, or you, in case the same thing should happen to me, until it may please His Majesty to acknowledge me, or it becomes absolutely indispensable. Till then, I am a dealer in Piastres or Moidores. In this character alone, well defined, I should, if necessary, be defended by the nation against the administration, and I should gain this case with costs. But another lawsuit! I am rather tired of them, I assure you. I hope (contrary to M. de Lauraguais' opinion) that they will not go so far as to arrest me when they see me carry out effectually a commercial affair acknowledged by the nation.

The public papers have no doubt informed you that Lord North has laid before Parliament the account of last year's expenses, amounting to £9,097,000 sterling, and how to meet present needs, he has in hand, he said, £9,118,444 sterling, counting in advance the three items – exchequer bills, creation of sinking funds, and the loan at 3 per cent which I mentioned above: which make together an item of £6,300,000 sterling, so that, striking a balance, there remains in the treasury, to subjugate America, £21,444 sterling. The rest will go as events may allow.

Such is, at the moment I write to you, Monsieur le Comte, – such is the state of England, America, Parliament, the public funds, and of the most devoted of all your servants – myself.

I have omitted to tell you that an answer was much pressed for in Parliament as to what had become of a frigate of observation sent off Brest to follow the fleet which should leave there, and that in this matter as in the others, Lord North remained silent.

Confer about it, I beg you, with M. de Sartine.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1328.

2. Arthur Lee.

3. A dispatch for Lee, from the Committee of Secret Correspondence, dated December 12, 1775, was entrusted for delivery to William Story, who was bound to England, via Holland. The letter was left by Story with M. Dumas, a friend of Franklin, who managed to get it to Lee through Rotterdam. Story was searched upon his arrival in England. Wharton, ed., *Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence*, II, 63, 87.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

No. 17

London, 26 April 1776

The first division of Hessian troops, composed of eight thousand men arrived in Portsmouth day before yesterday. Some of them will be transferred onto new vessels because these troops are too crowded on those which brought them here. The troops gathered in Glasgow were to embark yesterday, and those that had been waiting in the area of Portsmouth for some time will board ship tomorrow. Before the end of next month Eng-

land and Ireland will be completely uncovered and at the mercy of the good faith of their neighbors.

I managed to obtain a copy of the letter from the purchaser of Congress in Philadelphia to Messrs. Montaudoin, merchants in Nantes, such as it was given to the Captain of the ship brought to Bristol by her own crew which was composed only of 4 Scotch sailors, 4 Irish and one English. There was not a single American on board, which was most careless in my opinion. The Frenchman who is the object of so much talk embarked early last February in Philadelphia on a ship in ballast which Congress had chartered for this purpose after changing her crew and giving command to a French Captain who speaks Dutch. I assume she has reached France by now. The Ministers here have not said a word about it and I do not believe that it was only to make conversation that M. de Paul spoke to you about it, My Lord.

The Office of the Navy has not confirmed in their entirety the news from Portsmouth relative to the three ships that I had the honor to mention to you in my last dispatch. But they gave us the information that the *Worcester* and *Non-Such* of 64 guns had received the order to go on cruise. One is a guard ship in Portsmouth and the other in Plymouth. The news concerning the *Worcester* were confirmed in Portsmouth from whence we received intelligence that this ship had taken 250 men in supplement from the other guard ships and was to sail day after tomorrow with two frigates, still unknown, in order to establish her cruise along the Coast of the Islands West of Great Britain. It is considered a favorable station to surprise the American ships bound for the French or Spanish Ports. We are waiting for the confirmation from Plymouth with respect to the orders given to *Non-Such*. As for *Marlborough* and *Royal Oak* of 74, our correspondent in Portsmouth told us on the 25th instant that these ships seemed to be destined to cruise in the Channel during the summer.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, APRIL 26.”¹

Yesterday sailed from Spithead his Majesty's ship *Tartar*, Capt. Ommaney, with expresses for Boston.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 27 to April 30, 1776.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS¹

[Extract]

M. de Beaumarchais

Versailles, 26 April 1776.

I received, Sir, on the 21st. and 23rd, your private letters of the 16th. and 19th. instant. My last courier having been despatched on the 20th., I have not had sufficiently safe opportunities to write to you, and I do not think the post is one of them. Not, however, that our letters might not be read there; it is not a question of a plot between us, but I begin to think that the Governments so extolled for liberty are much more suspicious than

ours. I cannot help laughing to myself at the stir that is made over the *Dickenson* affair; I see nothing in it more interesting than the profit which the capturing crew will draw from it, unless perhaps that Lord Rochford, your friend, who regretfully sees himself removed from public business, seizes on insignificant circumstances, and attaches great importance to them, to constitute himself a secret Ministry. The King approves, Sir, that you should not refuse the overtures which that ex-Minister may make to you. You are prudent and cautious, I should be without anxiety, even if you had a more important commission than that which M. de Sartine has given you. It was fortunate for you, however, that you had it, since it has served to avert all suspicion which they were disposed to conceive at your frequent journeys to London. It must be confessed that these English, whom we thought men, are much below women, if they are so easily frightened.

I have handed your letter to M. de Sartine; he read it before me, and he promised me that my courier should bring you his reply. I hope he will refuse nothing which you have requested; but if it should not suffice to strengthen your stays in order to cure Lord Rochford's distrust, what could he do to you? You are not in connection with proscribed people; and, moreover, you have no dealings which can compromise you. . . .

We have not yet a report from Germany of the departure of the first division of the Hessians; apparently there is a lack of vessels. If they are delayed ever so little, they may very likely not arrive at their destination until the end of the season fit for operations.

I have nothing but thanks to offer you for the news from America which you are kind enough to communicate to me. If South Carolina has joined the Colonies, it is a fresh incident which may bring a change in the plan of campaign. England is very powerful, but perhaps not sufficiently so for the engagement which she has entered into.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1329.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS ¹

[Extract]

M. de Beaumarchais.

Versailles, 26 April 1776.

I have laid before the King, Sir, the letter which you did me the honor of writing to me on Tuesday the 16th. and not the 12th. instant. I have the satisfaction of announcing to you that His Majesty has strongly approved of the noble and frank manner in which you repelled the attack made on you by Lord Rochford on the subject of the American vessel destined, it is said, for Nantes, and taken to Bristol. You said nothing but what His Majesty would have prescribed to you to say, if he could have foreseen that you would have been called upon to give an explanation on a matter so foreign to the concerns with which you are charged. If they have in London no other evidence than that which has been made public in the English papers, and which has been sent to me by M. de St. Paul, it must be acknowledged that they are hasty in their judgments. Far from finding therein any proof

of connivance on the part of the correspondent Montaudouin, the consigner feels so little able to count on this resource that, in his instructions to the captain, he recommends him to exchange his cargo for a certain quantity of arms and powder; if he could not procure the latter, to substitute saltpetre for it, and in default of that, to bring back the value in money.

By Lord Rochford's tone he would seem to argue from an agreement which obliged us to make England's interest our own. I do not know of this agreement, and it does not exist in the example which England gave us at the time when she thought she could injure us. Let only the conduct she observed towards us during the troubles in Corsica be recalled – the help of all sorts which she sent there without any sort of regard for us. I do not quote these examples to authorise us to follow them. The King, faithful to his principles of justice, does not seek to take advantage of the situation of the English to increase their embarrassments; but neither can he take away from his subjects the protection which he owes to their commerce. It is out of friendship for the King of Great Britain, and not at all from an obligation resulting from any engagement, that the King has been induced to forbid in his ports the shipment of munitions of war for North America; but this prohibition cannot be made more general. If these goods are contraband with regard to the English, who have the misfortune to be engaged in a war against their Colonies, they are objects of commerce for us, who do not participate therein, and nothing prevents the English from buying them themselves, if they fear the Americans will find means to procure them; but it would be against all reason and decorum to pretend that we must not sell any of these articles to any one soever, because it would be possible that they might pass through second hands to America. Moreover, the English have sufficient forces at sea to intercept the vessels which may attempt to introduce into that part merchandise called contraband; they have no reason to complain that we hinder and embarrass their cruisers; they may even be assured that we shall never reclaim any of the American vessels which they may seize, provided that they are careful not to capture them in sight of our fortresses, and under our guns.

Mr. St. Paul has spoken to me of the incident of the snow *Dickenson*, but with much less warmth than Lord Rochford to you. He was very careful not to suppose that the merchant Montaudouin ought to be punished; all his force was directed against the noble ambassador who had presented himself to Congress in our name. If we were disposed to enter into intercourse with the insurgents, we should not need to send anyone to America for that purpose, and if we did send someone, we should choose him judiciously enough to cause less notice. I do not know who the pretended French nobleman is, whose return is announced to us. Would it not be some ruined tradesman or some tradesman's clerk, who, seeing an opportunity of earning money, may have offered his services to Congress to establish a trading connexion? The English Ministry being much better informed than we of what goes on in our ports, I shall be obliged to them to make this pilgrim known to us; I should be very glad to have a conversation with him,

and if it is proved that he presented himself to Congress as an emissary of France, he will certainly be punished. The King is not disposed to allow such a criminal abuse, and whenever, Sir, you hear well-founded complaints, you will not compromise yourself in assuring that full justice will be done.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1330.

27 Apr.

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

[Versailles] 27 April 1776

I have seen, Sir, the copy of the decision passed by the Committee which met with the King. His Majesty's intentions as far as they concern me will be scrupulously obeyed. The instructions I shall give the officers commanding the frigates which will cruise in America will conform to those of which you sent me a copy and which were given to you by the Spanish court. ² I will have the honor to show them to you before I send them.

1. AMAE, *Correspondance Politique, Angleterre*, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

2. See Instructions of the Spanish Court, February 26, 1776.

MONTAUDOUIN BROTHERS & CO., NANTES, TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

Monseigneur

The despatch with which you honoured us on the 22nd. has reached us by the ordinary post-courier today. We learnt on Tuesday of the adventure of the *Dickenson* through a bulletin of news from London which one of our friends sent us from Paris. The next day we received from Bristol copy of the letter which the captain had for us, and the *Bristol Gazette*, which has been copied successively by all the other newspapers. We judge that it is the captain who sent us the whole. We had not been informed of this consignment. We had, Monseigneur, three or four years ago, relations with those merchants of Philadelphia, and with others of that country, at the time when scarcity was causing anxiety in France, and we received from them flour and rice, which were of great help against the scarcity.

We have, Monseigneur, no knowledge of the two Frenchmen who are said to have gone to English America. ² If any vessel comes into our ports from that country, we will do our utmost, with due circumspection, to learn the details of this affair, or romance, and shall have the honour of communicating them to you. If the affair is true, we think that these travellers may have come from St. Domingo, because there are frequent connections between those two countries, to the great prejudice of the French commerce. These travellers must have endeavoured to give themselves importance, or perhaps the Continental Congress may have thought it advantageous to its interests to announce them as important, in order to excite the people more and more to persist in the plan which has been adopted.

We are grateful for, Monseigneur, as well as honoured by, the justice which you deign to do us. We never allow ourselves to undertake any operation which might not be in keeping with the beneficent views of the

pastoral and paternal Government under which we have the happiness to live, and in cases which might appear to be susceptible of different interpretations, we should not fail, in order to decide them, to apply to the wise depositaries of the authority of our divine Monarch.

Allow us, Monseigneur, to take advantage of this opportunity to render to your knowledge and to your virtues the homage due to them, and which our heart has long since rendered you.

We are, with most profound respect, Monseigneur, [&c.]

Montaudouin Brothers.

Nantes 27 April, 1776

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1331.

2. Penet & Pliarne.

29 Apr.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM HOTHAM ¹

Grafton street [London]

29th April 1776

D: Sir I am today favored with your two letters of the 27th & 28th; In which your attention to every part of the uncouth Service you are unexpectedly saddled with, gives me cause to regret the delays that detain me here, only because I might take some of the trouble off of Your Hands. Next Wednesday is appointed for me to receive my civil commission, & to kiss hands upon that occasion. I am promised that all my Orders shall be made ready for me by that time; To read them over, meerly to see that I have been apprised of their Contents, will be the only remaining act which I shall have to do in Town. Hence, I reckon upon being at Portsmouth by Friday Evening at the latest. The Civil Branch of my appointment will however most probably detain me from Sailing, after you, if you should be previously departed for America, until about the Monday following. I shall in that case reckon, if we fail to cross upon each other in our voyage, that I shall have called off of Boston, and still be on the Spot to meet you by the time of your arrival at the Point of your secret destination.

Your own care about the State & preservation of the Flatt Boats, as well as the suggestions of the Builder, and assiduity of the Commissioner, cannot fail to engage the Approbation of the Admiralty & Navy Board; as fully as they certainly will every testimony dependant on me to impress a just sense of those merits and doubt not but that I shall have good opportunity to point them out, when we come to use the Boats on Service, as their condition for it, will be justly ascribable to those judicious precautions. Permit me to request, if you have leisure to do it, that you will assure the Commissioner of my grateful acknowledgements for those & other instances of his goodness: Particularly for the obliging offers of a retreat in his House; which however, my intention of embarking immediately after my arrival at Portsmouth will disable me from benefiting by as he has had the goodness to propose.

I much feared that the Genl [Leopold Philipp] Heister will find inconvenience from the unsuitable provision that was made for his Passage from the Weser. I was informed that a ship with particular good accomodations, had been provided for them to move into at Portsmouth.

It is reported here, that the General has pleaded to postpone his departure from Portsmouth, until the nine remaining transports shall be arrived. The Wind was to the Westward of the North this morning, and I am thence in hopes, I shall be in time to concert the arrangements with you, for the passage out & at the place of your destination, which may facilitate the principal service in view, and rendering me useful, furnish me an opportunity which I shall ever most ardently covet, to prove the particular esteem & regard with which I am Dr Sir [&c.]

Howe

Let me submit to your consideration whether it will not be of advantage to inquire of the Caps of the Frigates what Number of Men they can respectively furnish to employ in Flatt Boats, and I shall be glad to know the same of the *Preston*.

1. Collection of Lord Hotham, East Riding County, England.

JOHN BODDINGTON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Dear Sir

I have just received a Letter from on board the *Earl of Derby* Ordnance Transport belonging to the Earl Cornwallis Expedition Dated Maida [18] Mar: 1776 The *Acteon* Frigate and a Transport with part of the 33d Regiment were then at that Island, and had no doubt of reaching the place of Rendezvous in Time, The Men & Officers on board all well, I am Sr

J Boddington
Westmr 29 Apr. 1776

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/162, 395.

30 Apr.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL ROBERT MAN ¹

Whereas advices have been received that Ships and Vessels belonging to the associated Colonies in North America in open Rebellion against the King, are dispatched to the Ports of Spain and Portugal with Cargoes of Flour and other articles, in exchange for which they take in Arms and Ammunition for the use of the said Colonies; You are therefore hereby required and directed forthwith to send two of the Frigates, or a Frigate and a Sloop, of your Squadron to-cruize upon such Station (not to the Northward of the Rock of Lisbon) in this side of the Streights mouth, as, from the abovementioned advices or such other Intelligence as you may receive of the mode of carrying in [on] the aforesaid illicit Trade, you shall judge most likely for intercepting and seizing the Ships and Vessels employed therein; directing the Commanders of the said Frigates or Sloop to return to Gibraltar at such time as you shall judge proper to inquire for orders; and not finding any to the contrary, to return and cruize in like manner until further Order, or

til more important Service in the Mediterranean may make it necessary for you to call them off. Given &c the 30^t of April 1776

Sandwich J. Buller H. Penton

To Robert Man Esqr

Vice Admiral of the White, and Commander in Chief of His Majestys Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean

at Portmahon (Duplicate signed Sandwich J. Buller Palmerston sent same time to Gibralter)

By &c. P:S: (Sent by Post 3^d. May 1776)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 62, 63.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN CORNTHWAITE OMMANNEY,
H.M.S. *Tartar*, PLYMOUTH¹

By &c.

It being of importance that the *Speke* Hospital Ship now at Plymouth and destined for Quebec should be no longer delayed; You are hereby required and directed, in pursuance of the King's Pleasure signified to us by Lord George Germain, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, in his Lettér of Yesterday's date, so soon as the *Sally* Ordnance Storeship, which is now got to Portsmouth, shall arrive at Plymouth, to put to Sea with the very first opportunity of Wind and Weather, with the said Hospital Ship, Storeship, and such other Ships put under your Convoy as may be in readiness at Plymouth, and make the best of your way with them to the Isles aux Coudres, agreeable to our orders of the 26^t instant without waiting for the *Unions Success* ordnance Storeship if she should not arrive before you can put to Sea; But, if she should arrive before that time, you are to take her under your Convoy also and proceed as abovementioned.

Given &c the 30^t april 1776.

Sandwich H. Penton H. Palliser

By &c P:S: By Express at 4 o'Clock P:M

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 58-59.

1 May

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1776

London [May 1].

When the American Vessels which have lately traded with the Spaniards in the West Indies have had Cargoes of warlike Stores on board, they have hitherto sailed under Spanish Colours, and have even been accompanied with a Spanish Frigate, or other armed Vessel, till they arrived safe off their own Ports.

A Merchant in the City has received a Letter from Jamaica, wherein we are informed the Americans are now carrying on an amazing large Trade with the Spaniards at the Havannah, where there are at this Time between thirty and forty Vessels, which have all brought Cargoes from different Ports in America.¹

1. This item can be largely classed as propaganda.

HORACE ST. PAUL TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

No 7

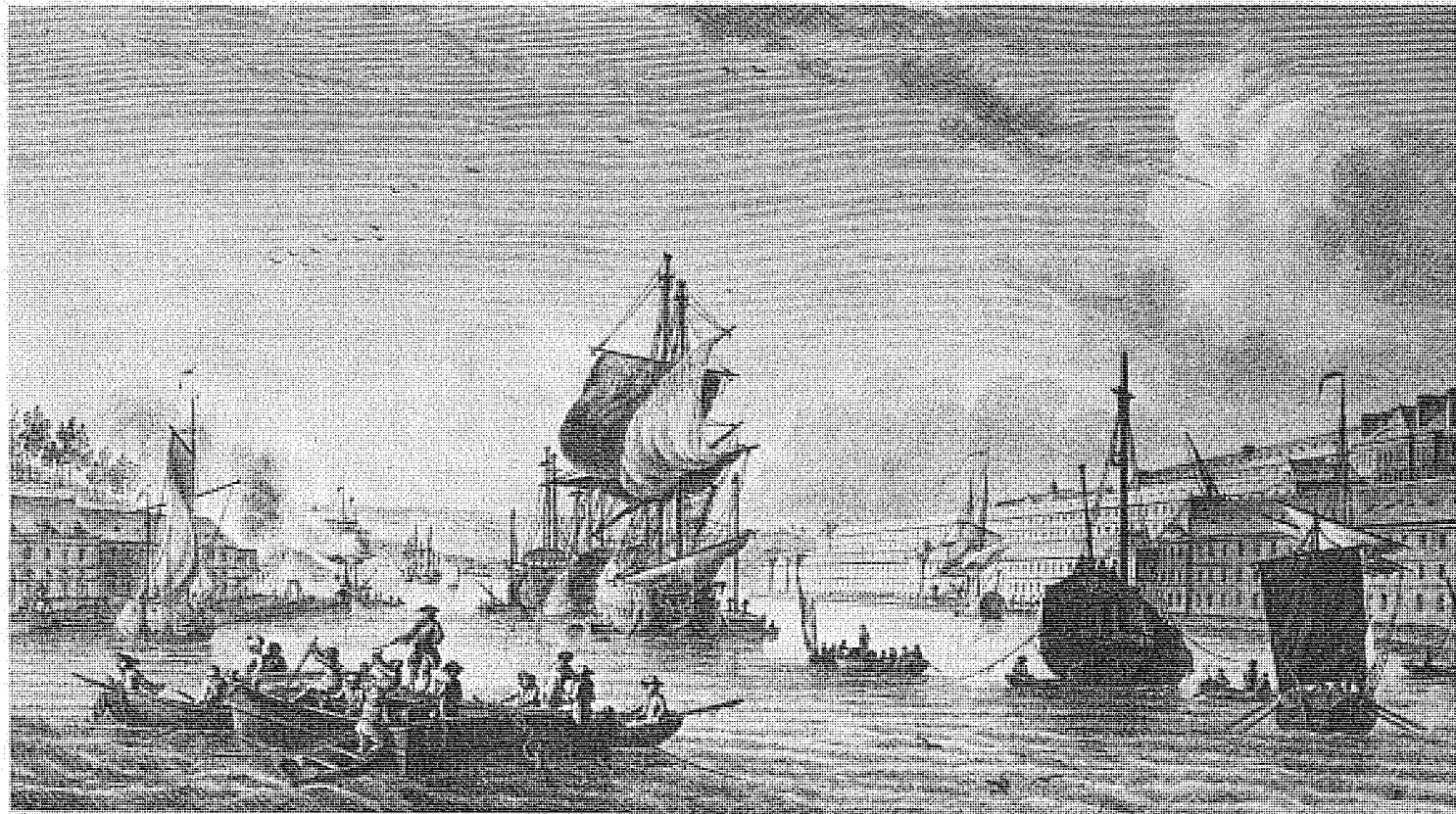
Paris May 1st 1776.

I was informed Yesterday that Orders were sent to arm a considerable Fleet in the French Ports, and I have every reason to give Credit to this Intelligence.

. . . M. D'aranda ² is said to have strongly represented the Necessity of this Courts remaining no longer in a state of Inaction, But of her making immediate Dispositions for the safety of her West India Islands; that If our American War ended successfully, our Strength and Power would be too much increased, & if on the Contrary we should not be able to reduce the Rebels to Obedience, that we shall probably then be tempted to fall upon some of their Colonies to repair Our Disgrace; And at all Events, that this Court should lose no time in putting her Islands in a state of Defence and Security, by immediately sending considerable Forces into that part of the World. This is the result of the different Informations which I have obtained. In consequence a Naval Armament is said to have been immediately ordered; and yesterday Evening in a Family whose Relations serve chiefly in the Navy, it was w[h]ispered that Orders had been certainly sent to Toulon & to Brest to arm 20. Ships, of which several of the [line] and the rest Frigates. No other Particulars were known, But You[r] Lordship may be persuaded, that I sha[ll] not rest, 'till I have sent you the detail of this Fleet. I have not be[en] able to learn that orders have been sent to any of their Troops to be in readiness. This morning I have been again assured that the Orders to prepare the Fleet were s[ent] and this comes from a quarter from which I have generally received very good Information, & it agreed in number with the account of Yesterday: this last Informer added, that his Opinion was, that this Court had been engaged by Spain to take this Step, pour Se mettre à L'abri de tout Evenement.

I must now mention, My Lord, I have good grounds to believe that for some Months past, there have been French Agents in England, Endeavouring to procure Sums of Money for the Rebels in America, from their Friends in England in order to convey them in French Ships to the French Islands, & from thence to the Congress. M. de Beaumarchais is I understand concernd in this Business, but he is not alone, within these 18. months he has made 8 voyages to London & in the Space of 3 weeks he went twice. I have employed some Persons here, to follow up this Object & to let me know all the particulars they can learn about it.

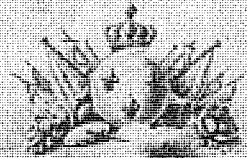
I understand that some time ago Several reformed French Officers, tho' none of any Note went to Holland, and embarked from thence for America, where they have taken service in the Rebel Army. I know it partly from the French Officers, who frequently apply to me to obtain Service in the Kings Troops there, many of whom assure me they are certain of obtaining the Consent of this Court. . . .



Del. Goussier del.

Gravé par F. Goussier.

LE PORT
Vu du Chenal devant le



DE BREST
nouveau quai aux canons

[Endorsed] Paris 1st May 1776 Mr St Paul (No 7) /Rd 6th by Express from Dover

1. PRO, State Papers, 78/299, 66-69.

2. Pedro Pablo Abarca de Bolea, Conde d'Aranda, Spanish ambassador to France.

2 May

GEORGE III TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, DESIRING A VOTE OF CREDIT ¹

[May 2, 1776]

Lord North presented the following Message from his Majesty:

GEORGE R.

His Majesty, relying on the experienced zeal and affection of his faithful Commons, and considering, that, during the present troubles in North America, emergencies may arise, which may be of the utmost importance, and be attended with the most dangerous consequences, if proper means should not be immediately applied to prevent or defeat them, is desirous that this House will enable him to defray any extraordinary expences incurred, or to be incurred, on account of military services, for the year 1776, and as the exigency of affairs may require. And his Majesty, having judged it expedient to issue his proclamation, in pursuance of an act of parliament, passed in the fourteenth year of his reign, for calling in the remainder of the deficient gold coin, doubts not but that his faithful Commons will enable him to make good the charges which shall be incurred in this service, and which cannot at this time be ascertained.

Referred to the Committee of Supply.

1. T. C. Hansard, ed., *The Parliamentary History of England from the Earliest Period to the Year 1803* . . . (London, 1813), XVIII, 1344. Hereafter cited as Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*.

LORD SANDWICH TO GEORGE III ¹

Admiralty. May 2nd [1776].

half past 8 o'clock P.M.

Lord Sandwich has the honor to Transmit to Your Majesty the letters just received from Admiral Shuldham.

Lord Sandwich has a private letter from the Admiral which he will send to your Majesty to morrow morning, but presumes to keep it this evening that it may be shewn to the Committee of your Majesty's servants who are to meet at nine o'clock; as it appears in that letter, that the army allmost totally subsists on what Mr. Shuldham has been able to spare from the Naval stock of provisions.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 355.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO GEORGE III ¹

Lord George Germain received the enclosed papers from General Howe about half an hour after five. Your Majesty will see that he has been obliged to quit Boston for want of Provisions and from the position of the Enemy. He has executed his plan with great ability. Lord George has summoned the Cabinet to meet at nine o'clock this Evening, as the House of Commons is now up. Your Majesty will perceive that the General intends attacking New Yorke after he has established his army at Halifax. Lord George wishes to know the opinion of the Cabinet, to be submitted to your Majesty, whether any alteration should be made in the Destination of the Hessians. He at present is of opinion that no Post would so essentially assist General Howe in his intended operations, as the Possessing of Rhode Island by the Guards and the Hessians. Your Majesty will be pleased to return the papers as soon as conveniently may be, and if your Majesty has any particular Commands Lord George will remain at home to receive them till he goes to the meeting.

Pall Mall. 5 minutes past 6 P.M. May 2nd 1776.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 355-56.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE COMMANDERS OF SHIPS AND VESSELS IN THE BRITISH NAVY ¹

GEORGE R.

(L.S.) Instructions for the Commanders of Our Ships and Vessels of War, In Consequence of an Act passed in this present Session of Parliament, prohibiting all Trade and Commerce with the Colonies of *New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, The Three Lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia*, during the Continuance of the present Rebellion within the said Colonies respectively; and enacting that all Ships and Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants of the said Colonies, together with their Cargoes, Apparel, and Furniture, which shall be found trading in any Port or Place of the said Colonies, or going to trade, or coming from trading, in any such Place, shall be forfeited to Us, as if the same were the Ships and Effects of Open Enemies; and shall be so adjudged, deemed, and taken, in all Courts of Admiralty, and in all other Courts whatsoever; and by Virtue of Our Commission granted under Our Great Seal of *Great Britain*, bearing Date the Second Day of *May*, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-six. Given at Our Court at *St. James's*, the second Day of *May*, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, in the Sixteenth Year of Our Reign.

I. That by Virtue of the above-mentioned Act of this present Session of Parliament, and of Our Commission aforesaid, the Commanders of Our Ships and Vessels of War are authorised and required to set upon by Force of

Arms, and subdue, and take the Ships and Vessels of or belonging to the Inhabitants of the said rebellious Colonies, together with their Cargoes, Apparel, and Furniture, which shall be found trading in any Port or Place of the said Colonies, or going to trade, or coming from trading in any such Place, and all such other Ships, Vessels, and Goods as are or shall be liable to Confiscation by the several Statute-Laws of the Realm, or pursuant to the respective Treaties between Us and other Princes, States, and Potentates, or the Law and Usage of Nations; but so as that no Hostility be committed, nor Prize attacked, seized or taken, within the Harbours of Princes and States in Amity with us, or in their Rivers or Roads within Shot of their Cannon, unless by Permission of such Princes or States, or of their Commanders or Governors in Chief in such Places.

II. That all Ships carrying Soldiers, Arms, Powder, Ammunition, or any Naval or Warlike Stores or Provisions, or other Goods, Wares, Merchandizes, or Effects, to any of the said rebellious Colonies, for the Use, Benefit or Advantage, or on Account of the Inhabitants thereof, shall be seized as Prizes, except Ships and Vessels laden with Provisions or other Stores for the Use of Our Fleets, Armies, or Garrisons, or for the Use of the Inhabitants of any Town or Place garrisoned or possessed by any of Our Troops, or of any Colony or Province, County, Town, Port, District, or Place, which may or shall be proclaimed by lawful Authority to be at the Peace of His Majesty, or except as in the said Act of the present Parliament is excepted.

III. That our said Commanders of our Ships and Vessels of War shall bring such Ships, Vessels, and Goods, as they have seized, or shall seize, and take, to such Port of this Our Realm of *England*, or some other Port of Our Dominions as shall be most convenient for them, in order to have the same legally adjudged in Our High Court of Admiralty of *England*, or before the Judges of such other Admiralty Court as shall be lawfully authorised, within our Dominions, except as in the said Act is excepted.

IV. That, after such Ships, Vessels, and Goods, shall be taken and brought into any Port, the Taker, or one of his chief Officers, or some other Person present at the Capture, shall be obliged to bring or send, as soon as possibly may be, Three or Four of the principal of the Company (whereof the Master, Mate, or Pilot to be always Two) of every Ship or Vessel so brought into Port, before the Judge of Our High Court of Admiralty of *England*, or his Surrogate, or before the Judge of such other Admiralty-Court within Our Dominions, as shall be lawfully authorized as aforesaid, or such as shall be lawfully commissioned in that Behalf, to be sworn and examined upon such Interrogatories as shall tend to the Discovery of the Truth, touching the Interest or Property of such Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels, and of the Goods, Merchandizes, or other Effects found therein; and the Taker shall be further obliged, at the Time he produceth the Company to be examined, to bring and deliver into the Hands of the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty of *England*, his Surrogate, or the Judge of such other Admiralty Court, within Our Dominions, as shall be lawfully authorized, or others commissioned as aforesaid, all such Papers, Sea-Briefs, Char-

ter-Parties, Bills of Lading, Cockets, Letters, and other Documents and Writings as shall be delivered up, or found on Board any such Ship. The said Taker, or one of his Chief Officers, or some other Person, who was present at the Capture, and saw the said Papers and Writings delivered up, or otherwise found on Board, at the Time of the Capture, making Oath that the said Papers and Writings are brought and delivered in as they were received or taken, without any Fraud, Addition, Subduction, or Embezzlement.

V. That such Ships or Vessels, Goods, Wares, Merchandizes, and Effects, taken by any of Our Ships or Vessels of War, shall be kept and preserved, and no Part of them shall be sold, spoiled, wasted, or diminished; and that the Bulk thereof shall not be broken before Judgment be given in Our High Court of Admiralty of *England*, or some other Court of Admiralty lawfully authorized in that Behalf, that the said Ships or Vessels, Goods, Wares, Merchandizes, and Effects, are lawful Prize.

VI. That no Commander or other Officer of any of Our Ships or Vessels of War shall, unless in Case of the greatest Necessity, ransom any Ship or Vessel, taken as Prize, when such Ship may be brought into some Port of Our Dominions (except the Ports of the said rebellious Colonies or Plantations); and in Case any Ship or Vessel, taken as Prize, shall be ransomed, the Reasons of ransoming any Ship or Vessel, and any Persons on Board the same, and the Conditions of such Ransom, shall be transmitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and to the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty; and preparatory Examinations upon the standing Interrogatories shall be taken as in Cases of Prize, and a Condemnation of such Ransom shall be had according to the ancient Course and Practice of the Admiralty.

VII. That no Commander or other Officer of any of Our Ships or Vessels of War do presume, upon any Pretence whatsoever, to ransom or release any Prisoners, unless such as may be necessary to navigate the Ship which shall be taken and ransomed.

By His Majesty's Command,
Geo. Germain.

1. Cornwallis Papers, NMM.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM SPITHEAD, MAY 2." ¹

It is expected we shall sail to-morrow morning for Boston, under the command of Commodore William Hotham, who is to hoist his broad pennant on board the *Preston*, a 50 gun ship. The ships which go under his command, are, the *Jersey* hospital ship, the *Emerald* of 32 guns, the *Brune*, of 32 guns, the *Strombolo* fire ship, the *Carcass* bomb, and all the transports which are ready. There are upwards of 100 sail of transports now here, all of which have foreign troops on board. We have on board five small casks and thirty small chests of Spanish dollars, amounting to 35,000 l for paying the marine troops at Boston.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 2 to May 4, 1776.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO LOUIS XVI¹

Sire, [Versailles] May 2, 1776,

I have the honor of submitting to your majesty, the paper which is to authorize me to furnish a *million of livres for the use of the English colonies*, if you should deign to ratify it with your signature. I add to this, Sire, the draught of the reply which I mean to make to Mr. Beaumarchais; if your majesty should approve of it, I beg that it may be returned to me without delay. It shall not go forth in my hand-writing, nor in that of any of my clerks or secretaries: I will employ that of my son, which cannot be known; and, although he is only in his fifteenth year, I can answer positively for his discretion. As it is of consequence that this operation should not be detected, or at least imputed to the Government. I propose, if your majesty consents, to call hither the Sieur Montaudoin. The ostensible motive will be, to ask an account of his correspondence with the Americans, and the real one, to charge him with the transmission to them, of the funds which your majesty is pleased to grant them, *directing, at the same time, all the precautions to be taken, as if he advanced the funds on his own account*. On this head, also, I take the liberty of requesting the orders of your majesty. That being done, I will write to the Marquis Grimaldi. (Secretary of Foreign Affairs in Spain;) I will inform him in detail of our operation, and propose to him (*de la doubler*) to do the same.

1. U.S. Congress. House. *Caron de Beaumarchais*. Serial Set No. 178, House Reports 220. 20th Congress, 1st Session, 15-16.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 2 May 1776

Regardless of what certain people say with respect to the wealth of England, I would rather call it a case of swelling. I prefer the plumpness of France in spite of her limited regimen. Everything here is real: fertile land, precious goods, clinking cash; a lack of credit would not affect any of this.

This affair of the snow *Dickinson* is coming up again. There has never been so much noise about such an insignificant happening. However I want to go the bottom of this correspondence of the brothers Montaudoin. Even now I am convinced that they never had suspect dealings with anyone in the country whence they received mail: the letters that were published verify it. In general, I know that they are quite honest merchants with a good reputation, enjoying great credit and deserving all confidence.²

Many thanks, Sir, for the intelligence you sent us. It was considered and appreciated. I expect that we will soon receive very interesting news and that we will be enlightened as to the fate of Quebec.

1. AMAE, *Correspondance Politique, Angleterre*, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. See *Bristol Journal Extraordinary*, April 8, 1776. While the cargo of the *Dickinson* was consigned to Montaudoin Brothers at Nantes, and letters found on board were addressed to the same firm, Vergennes' contention was that such proof did not indicate that the French merchants were previously aware that they were to be so addressed.

MARQUIS DE GRIMALDI TO PRINCE MASSERANO ¹

Your Excellency:

The Governor of Cadiz has just informed me that an English naval sloop called the *Transport*² arrived in the bay on the 13th of last month under Captain Charles Egan with some packets of letters for the British Consul. As soon as she had discharged her commission, the sloop made sail again, but, while going out the entrance to the Port, she met an English galley entering. After firing four cannon shots at the galley, she followed it until its sails were lowered, and she could confer with those aboard.

In view of the fact that two similar incidents occurred in the Canaries, as I wrote Your Excellency on the 2nd of last month, I spoke to the English Ambassador about it. From the reception given my comments, I can conclude that these incidents might be the result of some Admiralty orders that have not been well explained and which the officers of the Navy are interpreting from their own viewpoints. Hence, I feel it required that I make some appropriate reflections on the case to Your Excellency.

Any Sovereign is absolute master of his dominions, including his ports and does not permit hostile actions nor any detentions to be practiced in them. Surely England would not tolerate such excesses to be committed in her ports by the warships of other powers, regardless of pretext. Therefore, do not cease to make the Minister understand how disturbed the King is, because the ships of His Britannic Majesty overwhelm our sincerity and good relations with abuses, making it necessary for His Majesty to give strict orders to prevent such occurrences.

At the moment Lord Grantham gave us the order of his sovereign, which contained certain sections that can be referred to only as new insinuations of restriction, the most positive orders were given in order that the greatest caution be observed in this matter. American ships belonging to the rebel Colonies were not to be permitted to load munitions and weapons for offense against England in our ports. But, despite having seen the excellent results of our good will and relations, we experience each day on the part of many English persons only arbitrary and violent actions that have become insupportable. The repeated protests that we have based on so many details are until now totally useless.

His Majesty wishes that Your Excellency make the Court understand how sensitive he is to similar incidents and how much he will be mortified by new offenses of the English Navy, which can occasion disgust and disturb the peace that His Majesty desires to maintain and that is of such great interest to both monarchies. God grant to Your Excellency [&c.]

Marquis de Grimaldi

Aranjuez, 2 May 1776.

1. AHN, Estado, Legajo 4281, p. 39-41, LC Microfilm.
2. The name given the vessel is exact from the Spanish text.

3 May

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM EDINBURGH, MAY 3." ¹

Monday last the transports, with the 42d, or royal highlanders, together with General Fraser's new raised regiment of highlanders ² on board, set sail from Greenock for America under convoy of the *Flora* frigate. Several of the transports mounted from 10 to 16 guns.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 7 to May 9, 1776.

2. The 71st Highlanders.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir,

Admiralty Office 3d May 1776.

Having laid before My Lords Commissrs of the Admiralty your Letter of the 30th past, signifying Lord George Germain's Desire, that the necessary Orders may be given, for Victualling 120 Persons on board the *Samuel & Elizabeth* Transport, taken up by the Board of Ordnance, for carrying to Boston what remains of the Stores for General Howe's Army, and also sundry Artificers & Drivers; Their Lordships directed the Navy Board to give the necessary Orders for that purpose; and they having in Return acquainted My Lords, that they find, upon Inquiry, the said Vessel is not above 190 Tons, and is only 4 feet 2 Inches high between Decks, which will not admit of above one Tier of Cabbins, so that, in case she is loaded with Stores, she cannot receive more than 30 Persons with Convenience, and moreover that she is under Repair, and probably will not be ready in less than a Fortnight; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, for Lord George Germain's Information. I am &c

Ph^p Stephens.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 59-60.

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

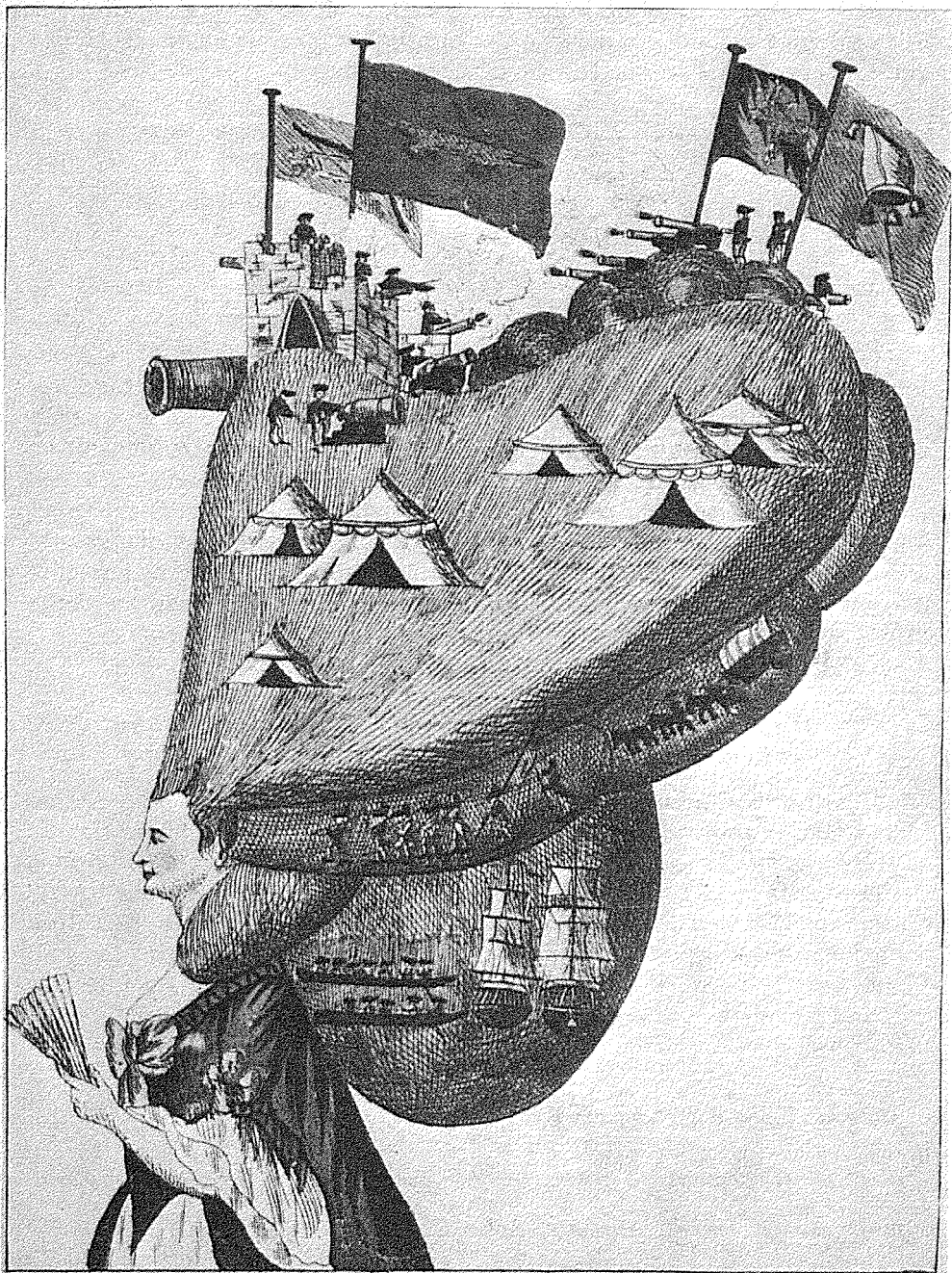
[Extract]

London, this Friday, the 3d of May 1776

There is nothing very important here except the news received three days ago concerning the evacuation of Boston. The evacuation took place on 17 March. The letters from the English general and the officers were dated 24 March on board the ships that sailed for Halifax. They left without destroying Boston and it is said that they did not remove the cannon from this city. The embarkation was not disturbed by the Provincials who undoubtedly gave them this opportunity to escape.

The Government passes on this news with an appearance of mystery and calculation, trying hard to make it look like a feint ordered by the ministers. But it won't do! It is too obvious that the English were chased from Boston because they could not hold any longer for lack of supplies.²...

This evacuation, the entry of general [Charles] Lee into New York with 22 thousand men, ³ all the suspects being chased from this city; these Hessians who are still at home from what you wrote me, although here they are said to have left a long time ago; all this confirms what I wrote you in my last



NODDLE ISLAND or HOW we are DECEIVED.

May 12 1776 by D. W. S. Strand

Cartoon satirizing official British accounts of the evacuation of Boston.

dispatch: the Americans are doing quite well in all respects, except for the lack of engineers and powder. Ah! Count! Powder and engineers, I beg you! I do not think I ever had a wish dearer to my heart.

1. AMAE, *Correspondance Politique*, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.
2. For a more detailed account of the evacuation, see Garnier to Vergennes, May 8, 1776.
3. An exaggeration of 20,800; Lee had two Connecticut regiments of 600 men each.

PRINCE MASSERANO TO MARQUIS DE GRIMALDI ¹

[Extract]
No. 255.

London, 3 May 1776

. . . As regards the *Worcester* and the *Nonsuch*, I wished to find out details through Lord Sandwich. He told me that it was true that the ships were armed, but that it had nothing to do with the Portuguese. I asked him where they were going, and he told me it was a secret. Demonstrating that he did not wish me to speculate on it, he told me he had despatched orders yesterday morning to the captains, instructing them to examine all American shipping flying the English flag, trading with the islands and European ports, for the purpose of stopping them from taking materials of war and carrying them to the Rebels, . . . The coasts of Holland are being closely watched, because they are intuitively distrustful of them.

1. AHN, Estado, Legajo 4281, 79-80, LC Microfilm.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM HOTHAM, R.N.,
ST. HELENS ¹

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury having directed Messrs Harley and Drummond Contractors for remitting Money for the use of His Majesty's Forces serving in North America, to put about £200,000, on board His Majesty's Ships preparing to sail thither; You are hereby required and directed to order the Captains of the Ships of your Squadron named in the Margin ² to receive & take Charge, of such part of the said Money as hath been, or may be, sent on board them respectively before they sail; and to deliver the same upon their arrival in North America agreeable to its consignment. Given &c. the 3d May 1776.

Sandwich J. Buller Palmerston

By &c. P.S. By Express 9. P.M.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 66.
2. Vessels named in the margin: "*Preston Rainbow Emerald Brune Jersey Hosp'l Ship*."

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM HOTHAM, R.N. ¹

Lord George Germain, One of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, having this day, desired that 200 Barrels of Gunpowder for the Use of the Troops now ready to proceed from Portsmouth may be received on board His Majesty's Ships appointed to Convoy them to North America; You are therefore, hereby required and directed to cause the said Gunpow-

der to be immediately received on board such Ship or Ships of the Squadron under your command as you shall judge most proper, for the use of the said Troops accordingly. Given &c. the 3 May 1776.

Sandwich J. Buller Palmerston

By &c. P.S. By Express 9. P.M.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 66-67.

JOSEPH HARDY TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

Copy

My Lord,

Cadiz 3d May 1776.

In my last I acquainted your Lordship that a Ship was arrived in this Port from Philadelphia. Her Cargo consists of three thousand five hundred Barrells of Flour, which by the Papers signed by the Officers of the Customs, was cleared out for Falmouth, but the Cargo is consigned to a Spaniard here, who it is said is the Owner of it, which I do not believe. I am inclined to think he serves only for a Cover to the real Property – The Master of this Ship informs me that the Americans have been well supplied by the French, both from Europe and Martinique with Gun powder and other Commodities, and by the Spaniards from Porto Rico, and that he left a French Vessel at Philadelphia, which had brought from Martinique a considerable Quantity of Gunpowder, Sugar and Coffee. This Man has served for some Years as a Petty officer in His Majesty's Ships, and he assures me that it is next to an Impossibility for a Ship of War to approach the City, by reason of the extraordinary Preparations made in the River Delawar, both above and under Water. He seems strongly of Opinion that all the Colonies to the Southward of the Four New England Governments are far from wishing for Independency, but are rather desirous of a Reconciliation.

The Flota will certainly sail to-morrow Morning if the Wind and Weather permits, which at present promises favourably.

I am with the greatest Respect, My Lord &c.

Jos^h Hardy

P.S. His Majesty's Frigate *Enterprise* and *Zephyr* Sloop have been for several Days cruising off this Port, and have chased and searched some Vessels very near the Entrance of the Bay, which proceeding gives great Umbrage here, and I fear will cause Complaints from the Court of Spain.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/139. Hardy was British Consul at Cadiz.

4 May

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM KIRKWALL, IN ORKNEY, MAY 4.” ¹

The Ship *Marlborough*, of Whitby, Capt. Walker, arrived at Stromness the 1st currt. after a Passage of Thirty-one Days from Savannah, in Georgia. She brings little New[s]. The Provincials, they say, have burnt five British Ships in that River, one of them valued at upwards of 20,000 l. His Excellency, Sir James Wright, Governor, had his Baggage on Board

that Vessel, besides a considerable Value belonging to his Secretary and Domestic. Sir James was then at Boston. They add, that the *Raven* Sloop and another Ship of War, had been there for some Days before they sailed, which put a Stop to the Career of the Provincials, and obliged them to retreat from that Part of the Coast.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, May 23, 1776.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO COMMODORE WILLIAM HOTHAM, H.M.S. *Preston*,
SPITHEAD ¹

Sir,

[Admiralty] 4th May 1776

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received a Letter from Vice Adml Shuldham dated the 23d of March last, giving an Account of the Embarkation of His Majesty's Forces from Boston and of the Resolution taken to proceed with them to Halifax; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, and to send you by Express their additional Order of this date, for proceeding to the last mentioned place, or to such other as you shall learn the said Vice Admiral & General Howe shall be at, in case, upon your approach to the Coast of America, you shall find the Wind unfavorable for your proceeding to Rhode Island agreeable to their former Orders. I am &ca

Ph^p Stephens.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

LIST OF BRITISH SHIPS OF WAR AT OR GOING TO AMERICA ¹

Admiralty Office [London] 4th May 1776.

A List of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America, and of such as are under Orders or intended, to proceed thither forthwith, vizt

Rate	Ships	Guns	Men	Commanders.
<u>In North America.</u>				
4	<i>Chatham</i>	50	370	} Vice Admiral Shuldham Capt John Raynor
3	<i>Asia</i>	64	500	
4	<i>Renown</i>	50	350	Capt Geo. Vandeput
"	<i>Centurion</i>	50	350	" Frans Banks
5	<i>Phoenix</i>	44	280	" Richd Brathwaite
"	<i>Roebuck</i>	44	280	" Hyde Parker Junr
"	<i>Niger</i>	32	220	" A. S. Hamond
"	<i>Orpheus</i>	32	220	" Geo. Talbot
6	<i>Cerberus</i>	28	200	" Chas Hudson
"	<i>Lizard</i>	28	200	" John Symons
"	<i>Leverpoole</i>	28	200	" John Hamilton
"	<i>Fowey</i> *	24	160	" Henry Bellew
"	<i>Scarboroughh</i>	20	160	" Geo. Montagu
				" Andw. Barkley

Rate	Ships	Guns	Men	Commanders.
"	<i>Mercury</i>	20	160	" Jas Montagu
"	<i>Rose</i>	20	160	" Alexr Scott
"	<i>Glasgow</i>	20	160	" Tyrm Howe
"	<i>Lively</i>	20	160	" Thos Bishop
Slo.	<i>Tamar</i>	16	125	" Edwd Thornbrough
"	<i>Merlin</i>	16	125	" W. C. Burnaby
"	<i>Nautilus</i>	16	125	" John Collins
"	<i>Falcon</i>	16	125	" John Linzee
"	<i>Swan</i>	14	125	" Jas Ayscough
"	<i>Otter</i>	14	125	" Mattw Squire
"	<i>Kingsfisher</i>	14	125	" Alexr Graeme (acting)
"	<i>Raven</i>	14	125	" John Stanhope
"	<i>Scorpion</i>	14	125	" Hble Jno Tollemache
"	<i>Senegal</i>	14	125	" Wm Dudingstone
"	<i>Viper</i>	10	110	" Saml Graves (acting)
"	<i>Hunter</i>	10	110	" Thos Mackenzie
"	<i>Cruizer</i>	8	80	" Fras Parry
"	<i>Savage</i>	8	80	" Hugh Bromedge
"	<i>Hope</i>	14	50	Lieut Geo Dawson

Car Swi

Schor	<i>Hinchinbrook</i>	6.	10	30	" Alexr Ellis
"	<i>Halifax</i>	6.	10	40	" Wm Quarme
"	<i>St. Lawrence</i>	6.	10	30	" Jno Graves (1st)
"	<i>St. John</i>	6.	10	30	" Wm Grant
"	<i>Gaspee</i>	6.	10	30	" Wm Hunter
"	<i>Magdalen</i>	6.	10	30	" Joseph Nunn
Brig	<i>Bolton</i>	6.	10	30	" Edwd Sneyd
A. Vessl	<i>Cherokee</i>	6.	8	50	" John Fergusson
Storesp	<i>Adventure</i>	4.	8	40	" John Hallum

* Order'd to Newfoundland to be under the Command of V. A. Montagu.

Rate	Ships	Guns	Men	Commanders	Disposition
<u>Sailed from England</u>					
4	<i>Bristol</i>	50	365	{ Comdr Sr Peter Parker Capt. Jno Morris	} Under the Command of Sir Peter Parker
6	<i>Solebay</i>	28	200	" Thos Symonds	
"	<i>Actaeon</i>	28	200	" [C]r Atkins	
"	<i>Active</i>	28	200	" Wm Williams	
"	<i>Syren</i>	28	200	" Tobias Furneaux	
"	<i>Sphynx</i>	20	160	" Anty Hunt	
Slo	<i>Hawke</i>	10	110	" R. P. Cooper	
Bom	<i>T[h]under</i>	8	80	" Jas Reid	

Rate	Ships	Guns	Men	Commanders		Disposition
Slo	<i>Ranger</i>	8	80	"	Roger Wills	} Gone as Convoy to the Stragling Ships of the above Squadron & to return immediately to England
4	<i>Experiment</i>	50	300	"	Jas Wallace	
6	<i>Milford</i>	28	200	"	Jno Burr	} to Boston
6	<i>Greyhound</i>	28	200	"	Archd Dickson	
A. Ves	<i>Canceaux</i>	8	55	Lt	Hy Mouat	
4	<i>Isis</i>	50	300	Capt	Chs Douglas	} To Quebec, & to follow the Orders of Vice Admiral Shuldham.
6	<i>Triton</i>	28	200	"	Skefn. Lutwidge	
"	<i>Surprize</i>	28	180	"	Robt Linzee	} To Quebec, & then to Newfoundland to join Vice Adml Montagu
Slo	<i>Martin</i>	14	100	"	Henry Hervey	
5	<i>Pearl</i>	32	220	"	Thos Wilkinson	} To Quebec with Seven Battalions from Cork.
6	<i>Carysfort</i>	28	200	"	Robt Fanshaw	
A. Ves	<i>Lord Howe</i>	20	200	Lt	Thos Pringle	} To Quebec with Troops and Provisions.
"	<i>Bute</i>	20	200	"	Anty Parry	
5	<i>Juno</i>	32	220	Capt	Hugh Dalrymple	} To Quebec with the 1st Embarkation of Brunswickers.
"	<i>Blonde</i>	32	220	"	Phil Pownoll	
6	<i>Tartar</i>	28	200	"	Corn. Ommaney	} To Quebec with with an Hospl Ship, Storeship & some Victualers.

NB. These last Seven are afterwards to follow the Orders of Vice Adml Shuldham, or the Commander in Chief for the time being, in North America.

Under Orders to proceed
forthwith, Vizt

3	<i>Eagle</i>	64	520	} Right Honble Lord Howe Capt Hy Duncan
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Rates	Ships	Guns	Men	Commanders.	
4	<i>Preston</i>	50	350	{ Comdre Hotham	} With such of the 1st Embarkation of Hessians as are arrivd and the De- tachment of British Foot Guards, to General Howe.
5	<i>Rainbow</i>	44	280	{ Capt Jno Robinson	
"	<i>Brune</i>	32	220	{ " Sr Geo Collier	
"	<i>Emerald</i>	32	220	{ " Jas Fergusson	
Hos S.	<i>Jersey</i>	24	140	{ " Benj Caldwell	
Firesp	<i>Strombolo</i>	—	45	{ Lieut Phipps p Order	
Bo	<i>Carcass</i>	8	70	{ Capt Robt Dring	} With the 2d High- land Battalions from the Clyde, to Do
5	<i>Flora</i>	32	220	{ " Jno Brisbane	
5	<i>Repulse</i>	32	220	{ " Hy Davis	

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE ¹

Whereas by our Commission dated the 15 of February last, We have appointed your Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed and to be employed in the River St Lawrence and along the Coasts of Nova Scotia, the Islands of St John and Cape Breton, and thence to Cape Florida and the Bahama Islands; Your Lordship is hereby required and directed to repair forthwith to Portsmo where you are to take under your Command His Majesty's Ship the *Eagle*, whose Captain is directed to obey your orders; and hoisting your Flag on board her, put to Sea with the very first opportunity of Wind and Weather and proceed down Channell; and, when you get Twenty Leagues to the Westward of the Lizard your Lordship is to open the inclosed sealed Packet, and put in execution the Instructions you will find therein contained for your further proceedings. Given &c the 4t May 1776

Sandwich Palmerston H Penton

To The Right Honbe Richard Lord Viscount Howe, Vice Admiral of the White, and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed and to be employed in the River St Lawrence and along the Coasts of Nova Scotia, the Islands of St John and Cape Breton, and thence to Cape Florida and the Bahama Islands. By & P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 76-77.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE ¹

For the better maintaining a proper Government and strict discipline in the Squadron under your Lordships command We do hereby authorize and empower you to call and assemble Courts Martial in foreign Parts as often as you shall see occasion; And whereas Commanders in Chief of Squadrons of His Majesty's Ships employed in foreign parts have sometimes neglected to hold Courts Martial for enquiring into the occasion of the loss of His Majesty's Ships when such Misfortunes have happened whereby the Crown has been put to an unnecessary Expence and the officers and Company to great inconvenience by being kept out of their Wages; Your Lordship, is in case of such an accident to cause a Court Martial to be assembled as soon afterwards as possible, to try the officers and Company for the same and to transmit to our Secretary the proceedings and judgement thereupon by the first conveyance. Given &c the 4t of May 1776.

Sandwich Palmerston H. Penton

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 78.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE ¹

By Virtue of the Power and authority to us given, by an Act of Parliament made in the first Year of the Reign of King William and Queen Mary intituled "An Act for abrogating the oaths of supremacy and allegiance and appointing other oaths," We do hereby empower, direct and depute your Lordship to administer the Oaths and Tests, appointed by acts of Parliament, to such Officers as you may appoint to Vacancies; and your Lordship is to return to this Board their Subscriptions of the said Tests, together with Certificates under your hand of their having taken the said Oaths. Given &c, and the Seal of the Office &c the 4t. of May 1776.

Sandwich Palmerston H: Penton

By &c. P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 81-83.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE ¹

In case of the Death of any Officer of the Ships or Vessels under your command, or their dismissal by a Court Martial, Your Lordship is hereby empowered to appoint such other Persons, as, by the Quality of their employments ought to succeed to the Vacancy occasion'd thereby; particularly observing to appoint Commanders to be Captains of Post Ships in preference to Lieuts; And you are to take notice that we will not confirm any Officer appointed to Vacancies arising in any other manner. In cases of suspension, your Lordship is only to give Orders to Proper Persons to act until such suspension shall be removed, or we shall think fit to give directions therein; And you are constantly to transmit to Us, by the first Opportunity after appointing any Officer as aforesaid, an Account thereof with your reason for appointing him.

But whereas, notwithstanding Commanders in Chief of His Majesty's Ships employed abroad have been only empower'd to fill up Vacancies occa-

sion'd by the death of Officers or their dismissal by Courts Martial as above directed, it hath frequently happen'd that they have permitted Captains & Lieutenants to resign their employment on account of ill health, & have appointed Officers by Commission, to fill up the Vacancies which have arisen by such resignation, and sometimes removed Officers from one Ship to another, on such occasions, which has not only been attended with disappointment to the new made Officers as they could not be confirm'd but has subjected the King's Service to inconveniences and this Office to much perplexity; Your Lordship, is, therefore, hereby required and directed to be particularly careful never to allow of any such resignation, but when you shall find it absolutely necessary from a thorough conviction that the Parties applying to quit are really in such ill health as to be incapable of any longer continuing to execute properly their respective duties; And, whenever you shall give such permission to the Captain or Commander of any Ship or Vessel under your Command, your Lordship is to direct the Lieutenant of such Ship or Vessel to take upon him the Command, or, in case of giving such permission to a Lieutenant, to direct a Midshipman of the Ship or Vessel to which such Lieutenant belongs to act in his room (provided such Lieutenant or Midshipman be fitly qualified to take upon him such Charge) until our pleasure be known. Given &c. the 4th May 1776.

J.Buller C.Spencer H.Palliser

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 81-83.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE ¹

My Lord

[Admiralty Office] 4th May 1776

Lord Weymouth one of His Majesty's Principal Secretary's of State having transmitted to my Lords Commissioners of the Admty, a Letter which he had received from Sir John Dick His Majesty's Consul at Leghorne giving an account that an American Brig called the *Betsey* John Eastman Master had saild from that Port and was freighted there by Tuscan Vessels to carry Dollars to Alexandria as appears by the Copy of the Manifesto which accompanied the said Letter but that the Master instead of proceeding on his destined Voyage steered Westward and in the night forced the Supercargo and two other Tuscan Subjects into a little Boat with two Oars turning them adrift; and his Lordship having signified His Majesty's Pleasure that every proper St[ep] be taken for recovery of the effects & that the Master be brought to Justice for his infamous and wicked proceedings. In order to those ends, I have it in Command from their Lordships to send your Lordship a Copy of Lord Weymouth's Letter, together with a Copy of Sir John Dick's and the Manifesto aforementioned; and to signify their direction that your Lordship do comply therewith so far as in your power accordingly. I am &ca

P.S:

Lord Viscount Howe &ca &ca &ca – in Town

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 540-41.

MEMORANDUM BY THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

40. Press Warrants for Captains & Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in No America
 20. Do for Lieutenants of Schooners, arm'd Vessels &c. in Do
 Given &c. the 4th May 1776.

Sandwich Palmerston H.Penton

By &c. P.S.

Sent to Vice Admiral Lord Howe to fill up (the directions being left Blank for that purpose) to such of the above Officers as he should see fit Vide Letter to him of same date – NB. The above Warrants were the same as those of the like kind dated the 19th. June 1775 and sent to Vice Admiral Graves, except that, instead of the date of the Order in Council being expressed the 16th instant, in [it] was on the above express'd the 16th June 1775.

I. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 80-81.

DANIEL HARSON AND F. HAMMOND TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF BRITISH
 CUSTOMS ¹

Custom House Bristol 4th May 1776

Honble Sirs This Afternoon Mr. Wright Assistant to the Surveyor at Pill, has brought Us the 54 inclosed Packets and Letters which he Seized on board the *Christian* — Alexander Master from Georgia mentioned in the Postscript of our Letter of this days date.² The Captain has brought his Vessel up to the Quay by this Evenings Tide, and has this Instant been with Us. He says that he left Georgia the 29th. of March and Arrived here this Morning, he also says that the *Scarborough* Man of War Captain Barkley in company with several other Armed Vessels in the King's Service and two Transports came to Savannah the beginning of March and took from the several Vessels in the Port about 900 or 1000 Barrels of Rice for the Service of General How's Army, 300 of which Barrels were taken from Captn. Alexanders Ship which was almost the whole of his Cargo, for he has brought home only about Twenty Barrels of Rice and a few Deer Skins – The Captain likewise informs Us that the *Raven* Sloop of War Captain Stanhope came to Savanna a few days before he left it and brought Advice from Cape Fear, that General Clinton was Arrived there with the Forces under his Command and 'twas expected he would be joined by some Thousand of the Inhabitants well Affected to Government, indeed the Captain Adds, that the Majority of the people of property, in the two Carolinas and in Georgia, had the same Loyal and Friendly disposition towards Government and were very Desirous of getting rid of their present Slavish Dependance on their New Tyrannical Masters –

And the Captain thinks that all the people in Arms in Georgia do not exceed 400 Men –

The Captain about three weeks since spoke with a Vessel from Plymouth bound to Newfoundland which a few days before had seen and spoke

with another Vessel from Philadelphia with Dispatches for Government from the Congress. We are Your Honours [&c.]

Dan: Harson
F. Hammond

[Endorsed] Bristol 4th May 1776 Collector and Comptroller Transmit several Packets and Letters seized on board the *Christian* — Alexander Master from Georgia.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/148, 57-60.
2. The postscript referred to reads: "We just now hear that a Vessel called the *Christian* is arrived in King Road from Georgia; but as we have received no Letters from the Officer at Pill, and the Captain is not yet come up to Town, we can say nothing particular concerning her, nor do we know what news she has brought—D.H. F.H.," *ibid.*, 61-64. The papers brought by the *Christian* were sent from the London custom house to Lord Germain, *ibid.*, 53-56 and 61-64.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 4 May 1776

The silence maintained towards you by the English Ministry with respect to the American vessel *Dickenson* confirms the feeling I already had that M. de Paul had mentioned it to me of his own accord and without instructions from his Court. I hope that this Minister will have transmitted to Ld. Weymouth the answer which I gave him on this subject; it conforms with the King's inclinations demonstrated on different occasions to His British Majesty. But, at the same time, I had to inform M. de Paul that we could not carry our accomodation to the point of ruining our merchants by intercepting an important branch of their trade because of a quarrel which is foreign to us. In spite of the watchfulness on the part of the Court of London, the English ports provide insurgents with as much and even more ammunition than the other ports of Europe. Assuredly they cannot expect us to meet with more success than they themselves can manage. If they wish to pull our merchants out of the market they need only purchase themselves the goods sold to the Americans. To my knowledge, this is the only way to close the favorable market which the Americans have found in Europe, and will always find there, in spite of the repeated cruises and uproar of Great Britain. Besides, Sir, you are to keep these reflections to yourself; you will not use them unless the English Ministers converse with you on this subject, in which case you would present them as your own and not our suggestions.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

5 May (Sunday)

THEODORE CANNON TO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IRVING, GUERNSEY ¹

[Copy]

Sir,

Painbeuf the 5th May 1776.

I had the pleasure to write to you a few days back regarding Capt [John] Forrest who sailed from hence for America &c I have this day, to

beg you forward that matter here carried on in a very clandestine manner. The Irish Merchts of Nantz send to Ireland for Ships to come out here, under pretence, with Provisions, & then they load them with Ammunition &c for the French Plantations, as they represent, such as St: Domingo Martinico &ca There is now in this Place, came in last Saturday Week the 27th April, a new fashioned Snow from Dublin, laded Provisions at Waterford, & is come here comanded by John Curry, burthen about 250 tuns, named the *Experiment* whose Cargoe is now geting in all readiness composed of Guns, Gunpowder, the Chief part the latter, & bound for America. I suppose he'll be ready to sail in about a Month's time. I leave the matter to your conduct & remain.

Signed Theodore Cannon.

Postscript of Lt Governour Irvings

One William Williams and Thos Cock of Helfort near Falmouth Informed me that they sailed from Havre de Grace on the 7th instant that they left two American Vessels in the Harbour one called the *Morris* — Bell, Master a Sloop from Philadelphia — that the Master had put three of them into Goal for saying they would not serve against their Countrymen and beg'd they would report it at home. that they might get their liberty — Said both Ships were loading with Saltpeter and powder — that one American Ship sailed with them — and hoisted English Colours 'till they passed Cape Havre — and then hoisted French Colours.

I have but a very superficial knowledge of Mr Canon — he was here for some days — in his way to France — not long ago — I am told he is a Merchant.

[Endorsed] Extracts from Lt Governour Irving's Letter Guernsey 20th May 1776 —

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/162, 447.

6 May

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

[London, May 6, 1776] ²

My lord, It is not a small task to transport to America in a short time 34 thousand troops, cavalry, ammunition, victuals, artillery, wagons, pack-horses and all the paraphernalia required for the operations of such a large army which will land far away on an enemy shore, among fanatic people determined to destroy everything they will not be able to defend. The surplus of ships used in the European Trade is hardly adequate to carry out such a vast undertaking hampered by increasing difficulties that arise from the lack of unanimity either in the Council or in the Nation. If we add to this the armament of 150 warships, the sailors, the victuals consumed by this fleet, it is not surprising that the combined progress of so many tasks is not as rapid as Lord Germain would wish, even if the first Commissioner of the Admiralty were as much inclined to favor the success of these operations as he appears prepared to hamper them.³ I believe, My lord, that we can at-

tribute to these reasons put together the delayed arrival of the foreign troops in the pay of Great Britain.

. . . Lord Howe was made a Commissioner with the most extensive powers as he had desired. He consented to share them with his brother as he was won over by the assumption that if he were to die so far away, provision should have been made for his successor and that the most natural way to ward off the inconvenience that would result from his death was to associate his brother with him. He leaves reluctantly, convinced that in this legislative dispute, the Congress will negotiate only with Deputies authorized by the legislative body, and that it will be possible to negotiate only with Congress. But he has accepted, and now the fate not only of the Ministry, but also of a great Empire, lies in the hands of two military men excessively proud of their name and their service and more accustomed to distinguish themselves through their valor than through their talent. All the Ministers have assured us that Lord Howe has received the most precise instructions to respect our Flag, our coast, our trade, our ships and everything that flies our colors. Lord Weymouth repeated this to me yesterday; Lord Sandwich told it to me again today. I am far from having any doubts about it.

In the present state of affairs, the Government received last night news dated 24 March to the effect that on the 17th of the same month General Howe had embarked with all his troops and that part of the population which had shown the most loyalty to the Government. They number fifteen hundred. Lord Sandwich told me today that this General had also embarked his artillery, that he had destroyed Castle William, that in his retreat he had not lost a single man, that he had sailed for Halifax; and furthermore that the fleet remained in control of the Port of Boston. But on the other hand I have been assured, and it seems more probable, that he has had to leave his artillery behind and that it was only after capitulation that he had left the city into which the Americans entered with drums beating. The Americans had found a way to establish themselves with guns on a small island called Nantasket located in the port and connected to the shore at low tide. This post had become so inconvenient for the city that General Howe had attempted everything to capture it, but to no avail: his attack had miscarried because of a storm and he had been repulsed with losses.⁴

I do not know whether it is this particular circumstance or a set of circumstances that determined General Howe to abandon Boston; but it is undoubtedly true that he was forced to leave against the wishes of the government which intended to make Boston a major point of support. Sir [Peter] Parker had even been ordered to reach this port with his squadron and his troops and one had counted upon the return of the transport ships presently in Boston in order to send part of the troops delayed by the lack of the said transports. Only a few days ago, the Comptroller of the Navy was saying that these vessels had not returned mostly because of the miscount of the number of transport ships. We can see today that General Howe sensing the

situation better than it was known in London thought it was his first duty to preserve his safety and to provide means of retreat in case of need.

One cannot yet guess the consequences that may stem from this event. The fear of losing control of Quebec has not affected the measures taken with regard to this problem; but the certainty that Boston is lost at the very moment when the Army was about to go there and run all the operations of the campaign from there, must cause some perplexity in the Council of His British Majesty. It seems that everything which had been planned has become impracticable and is sinking into an uncertainty all the more pernicious as the most precious moments of the campaign go by without producing anything but expenses in pure loss for the present but most embarrassing for the future, to say the least.

However a decision has to be made for one cannot let these Hessians fill the stage and become the laughing-stock in the road of Portsmouth in such an unfortunate war. In my opinion, the Ministry could not stand this shame. General Howe certainly moved a good distance away from New York, should they be sent there. I am inclined to believe, however, that it is their destination, if they are to leave. Furthermore, they will find there the army of General [Charles] Lee which could easily be reinforced by that of General Washington. Many people will undoubtedly consider this as a decisive advantage for the independance of America. Without carrying things so far, one may at least look at them as a major and unexpected reverse for the Government and which might prove a new source of courage for the Americans, if they needed it. . . .

The orders sent to the ships *Marlborough* and *Royal Oak* are less extensive than we had first been led to believe. These orders reveal only distant preparations for a summer cruise which will be preceded as in the years past by a visit of Lord Sandwich. The ships *Foudroyant* and *Raisonnable* have also received orders to perform exercises and drill their crews. *Worcester* of 64 guns sailed on the 30th of last month for a secret destination. Her crew numbers 500 and she carries victuals for six months. Our correspondent believes that she is destined to cruise off the Azores against American vessels that sail to Europe in order to obtain war ammunition. When she calls at Plymouth, she will be joined by *Nonsuch* carrying the same number of guns, victuals and crew.⁵ What surprises me most with respect to this cruise is the choice of ships of this strength since frigates or corvettes would have been better suited to cruise against merchant ships. This observation makes me suspect that the Government may have received some intelligence concerning the destination of that American squadron which sailed from Philadelphia last January, and which I had good reason to believe to be destined for Newfoundland. It seems to me, however, that if this had been their true destination we would have received some news by now, but since we have heard nothing we may assume that they have sailed on another course. If the Government has received any information, I would be in-

clined to believe that it is against this squadron that they have sent the two ships I have mentioned before.⁶

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol, 516, LC Photocopy.
2. Date established by the fact that Lord Howe, who left for Portsmouth on May 4, departed, according to Garnier, "the day before yesterday."
3. Lord Sandwich.
4. See Garnier's letter of May 8, 1776, when he had secured more accurate information of the evacuation of Boston.
5. H.M.S. *Nonsuch* sailed on May 1, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 8/52.
6. This was an erroneous impression voiced by Garnier; no vessels from England at any time pursued Esck Hopkins's first Continental fleet.

Public Advertiser, MONDAY, MAY 6, 1776

London [May 6].

Capt. Norman, of the *Dutton* Transport, who is arrived at Boston from London, writes, that some Days before he reached Boston, he was attacked by two American Privateers, but the *Dutton*, being a large Ship, and mounting 26 Guns, he beat them off after firing one Round at them.

The *Pacifick*, Dunn, an old East-Indiaman, from London, arrived at Boston, on her Passage met with an American Vessel laden with Flour, &c. which Capt. Dunn made up to, and finding that she was under American Colours, put some of his People on board her, and carried her safe into Boston.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE SECOND MATE OF THE *Georgia Packet*,
DATED DOVER, MAY 6, TO A GENTLEMAN IN SHIELDS"¹

We arrived here yesterday in ballast from Savannah, in Goergia.² The day before we sailed, some of his Majesty's ships, and transports with troops on board, entered the harbour, when the rebels, guessing we were about to depart, demanded our sails and running rigging, with orders to send them immediately on shore. Fortunately for us, some of the King's troops came to our assistance privately in the night, and the rebels finding us not inclinable to comply with their demands, came on board to force us to obedience.

On this a skirmish ensued, in which four of them were taken prisoners, and seven killed and wounded. On this the rest retreated, but we had two more engagements with them ere we got out of the harbour, without any loss on our side, except our boats, which they made capture of. Before this happened we were chartered for rice, and had part of our cargo, which the men took and put on board the transports for Boston.

All the inhabitants of Savanna, who wished prosperity to Old England, had retired into the Country, and left the rebels possession of the town, to debate the matter with the British forces.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 18 to May 21, 1776.
2. The *Georgia Packet*, Thomas Glenders, master, had forty-five whole barrels of rice on board, according to the report made by Captain Andrew Barkley, H.M.S. *Scarborough*, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir,

Eagle at Spithead May the 6: 1776

Having received their Lordships orders of the 4^t Inst: with several paper refered to therein, on the morning of the 5th, I set out immediately for this Port, and embarked on board the *Eagle* yesterday.

Commodore Hotham being then on the point of sailing from St Helens with the Transports &c under his conduct, I did not interrupt the execution of the orders he was under, to inform myself concerning the General [Leopold Philipp] Heister's Instructions & Intentions with respect to a suitable arrangement of the Naval Force to be hereafter employed under my command, in case he should see occasion to disembark the Troops in presence of an Enemy upon his arrival on the Coasts of America.

Being in other respects ready to proceed to Sea pursuant to their Lordships orders of the date before mentioned; It becomes requisite for me to represent to their Lordships, that the King having been most graciously pleased to appoint me One of His Majesty's Commissioners for restoring Peace to his Majesty's Colonies & Plantations in North America, and for granting pardons to such of His Majesty's Subjects there now in Rebellion as shall deserve the Royal Mercy: I am therefore to request their Lordships explanatory directions, whether I am at liberty to postpone my departure in consequence of their pressing order as aforesaid, now become necessary for the purpose of that Commission until His Majesty's further pleasure therein hath been duly signified to me.² I am Sir [&c.]

Howe

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

2. *Ibid.*, 2/552, 9-10, the Admiralty granted Howe permission to postpone his departure.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER IN THE GARRISON OF GIBRALTAR,
MAY 6." ¹

The *Enterprise*, a Frigate of 28 Guns, has brought in here an American Ship of 300 Tons, bound for some of the Spanish Ports. She is loaded with Wheat and Flour, and valued at 8000 l.² Several other American Ships are got into Lisbon and Cadiz, which the *Enterprise* is going to look after.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, June 5, 1776.

2. The ship *Aurora*, Captain Getsheus, was one of the seven vessels freighted by Willing, Morris & Co. under contract with the Secret Committee of the Continental Congress, to export provisions and invest the proceeds in arms and ammunition. Of her fate, Robert Morris wrote: "The Ship *Aurora* Capt Getshius was taken & Carried into Gibraltar by Sir Thos Rich in the *Enterprise* Man of War Willing Morris & Cos Friends there, got sight of their letters and defended the property, on Tryal the Cargo was acquitted & Vessell Condemned in Consequence of this the Nt Pceeds of her Cargo was remitted [&] ordered to Mess Wm Boynes & Co in Cadiz without Deducting the freight and on demand of the Owner Mr B. Gibbs Willing Morris & Co pd him the freight in Philada £857.5.11 Sterlg at the then Curr^t Exch[ang]e of 140 pC adv[anc]e 1200.4.3. Curry £2057.10.2, which is also charged to the Committee on WM & Cos. Contract Acct as mentioned above. sometime after this transaction WM & Co rec'd advice that [Sir] Thos Rich had Entered an Appeal from the Judgement of the Court at Gibraltar & that appeal not being decided the Nt Pceeds of the Cargo is hung up in London," Robert Morris Papers, HUL.

7 May

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL APPLEBY ¹

May [1776] Remarks &ca *Preston* at Saint Helens.
 Tuesday 7 at 5 a m made the signal & weighed in Company with his Majesty's Ships *Rainbow*, *Emerald*, *Brune Jersey*, *Carcass* and *Strombolo* Fireships and a large Fleet of Transports . . . at 6 a m fired a Gun and made the Signal for the Transports to make more Sail at Noon 88 sail in Company the Bill of Portland bearing NW $\frac{1}{2}$ W 8 Leagues.
 Moderate and hazey weather with rain at 6 p m made the signal and wore Ship & brot too maintopsail to the Mast and took in the 3 reef at 7 got down Top Gallant Yards in doing which William Fletcher and Patrick Keif Seamen were thrown overboard the former was drowned the latter by the assistance of the boat was got in $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 fired 3 Guns and made the Signal to wear & bring too on the other Tack at 12 fired 8 Guns for the Convoy to make Sail unbent sheet Cable 89 Sail in sight

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAPT. [JOHN HAMILTON] DEMPSTER, OF THE *Blue Mountain Valley* TRANSPORT, DATED NEWRY, IRELAND, MAY 7." ¹

I wrote you from America the misfortune which befell me in the loss of my ship, but as you probably never received it, I will inform you of the misfortunes that have befallen me from my leaving the Downs till my arrival in Ireland. I left the Downs towards the end of October last, when that dreadful gale of wind drove so many ships ashore on the coasts of England and Ireland. But I escaped from that tolerably well. The remainder of my passage was one continued gale of wind, until my arrival on the coast of America, where I found my ship disabled in every respect, being leaky, &c. having had a thirteen week passage. The moment I came off New York I sent my Chief Mate on shore for a pilot boat, in order to get on board the ships of war lying there, to demand assistance in carrying the ship into New York, where we might refit in Order to proceed to Boston, our intended port. But unluckily for me, as I afterwards learnt, my Mate was taken prisoner, and was obliged by threats to discover what the ship was, where bound, and of no force. Upon this intelligence, they fitted out four armed vessels, with about sixty men in each, in all upwards of 200 men, an overmatch (as you may easily believe) for a ship with four small guns and sixteen hands in all, after being 13 weeks at sea, and hardly able to keep the ship from sinking. When the vessels made their appearance I took them for vessels from the men of war, the officer who commanded the party being drest in the uniform of a Lieutenant of the Navy,² and I did not then know my Mate was taken prisoner. They boarded the ship in every part, and carried her about ten or twelve miles up the river where two of the King's ships

lay, to a place called Elizabeth-town, making a prize of the ship and cargo and myself a prisoner upon parole. After the Americans, by order of the Congress, had unloaded the ship, by an order from that same power I was set at liberty conditionally, that I should not go near either the army or the navy, but return to Britain the first opportunity, which I gladly embraced, by coming home in the *Catherine*, Capt. Moore, bound for Newry; and happy was I to get away, lest they had recalled this indulgence. I arrived here the fifth of May, after a pleasant passage of five weeks, and shall proceed with all speed.

(Signed) John Hamilton Dempster.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 18 to May 21, 1776.

2. The uniformed officer was Captain William Rogers, of New York, who in later years protested that he was never paid for his part in this capture. His protest, or rather, a fragment salvaged from the papers burned in the fire in the Albany State Capitol, read: "Capt Rogors tuck the Ship *Blew Mounon Valey* in the year 1776 Jany. She was Caried into Elizebeth town point he was promisd one 100 Guines by Lord Sterling for being the first that boarded her - her Cargo was Sold & he Receivd Nothing ther from the Agent Sued the purchaser of the Ship for the 100 Gunes and Never Refunded the Same to Capt Rogars altho he obtaind it," CL.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL LORD RICHARD HOWE ¹

[Extract]

[Admiralty Office] 7 May 1776

I have it in command to send your Lordship, at the same time for your information, Copies of the Instructions to the Captains and Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels named in the Inclosed Lists for proceeding to the River St Lawrence, the two first of which have winter'd at Quebec, and the remainder, (Except the *Tartar* now at Plymouth and under Orders to sail immediately) sailed from England on the Days against each express'd.

[Enclosure]

Rate	Ships Names	Commanders	When sail'd &c.
6	<i>Lizard</i>	Capt Jno Hamilton	16th Augst 1775
Schoor	<i>Magdalene</i>	Lt Joseph Nunn	24th April 1775
4	<i>Isis</i>	Capt. Chas Douglas	7th March
6	<i>Triton</i>	Skeft Lutridge	} 16th March
Transpt	<i>Lord Howe</i>	Lieut Thos Pringle	
"	<i>Bute</i>	Anty Parry	} 20th do
6	<i>Surprize</i>	Capt. Robt. Linzee	
Sloop	<i>Martin</i>	Henry Hervy	} 7th April
5	<i>Juno</i>	Hugh Dalrymple	
"	<i>Blonde</i>	Philp Pownall	} 8th do from Cork
"	<i>Pearl</i>	Thos Wilkinson	
6	<i>Carysfort</i>	Rob Fanshaw	} 8th do from Cork
"	<i>Tartar</i>	C. Ommanney at Plymouth under orders to sail	

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/552, 5-6.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN ¹

- May 1776 Moored at Spithead
- Monday 6th At 5 A M hoisted the Rt Honble Lord Viscount Howes Flag as Vice Adml of the White & Saluted Sir James Douglas with 13 Guns, returned equal Number, Sailed hence His Majesty's Ship *Brune* for St Hellens, loosed Sails to dry and furled them at Noon
- Tuesday 7th Variable Winds and Weather
- A M reced 30 Butts of Beer and returned Empty Cask At 6 Sailed from St Hellen's His Majesty's Ships *Preston*, *Brune* & *Jersey* with the *Str[o]mbolo* & *Carcass* Bombs and all the Transports with the Guards and Hessian Troops on board, Sailed hence his Majestys Ship *Rainbow* Fresh Breezes with some Squalls of Wind and rain
- P M received a Longboat load of Water

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/E/11, NMM Photocopy.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MAY 7." ¹

Yesterday Afternoon, about Five o'Clock, sailed his Majesty's Ship *Preston*, Commodore Hotham; *Rainbow*, Sir George Collier; *Emerald*, Captain [Benjamin] Caldwell; *Brune*, Captain [James] Ferguson; *Jersey*, Captain Halstead; *Strombolo*, Captain [Charles] Phipps, and *Carcass* Bomb, Captain Read, with the Transports with the Hessian Troops, Foot Guards, Artillery, and many Victuallers, under their Convoy, for North America. It is expected Lord Howe will sail on Thursday.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, May 9, 1776.

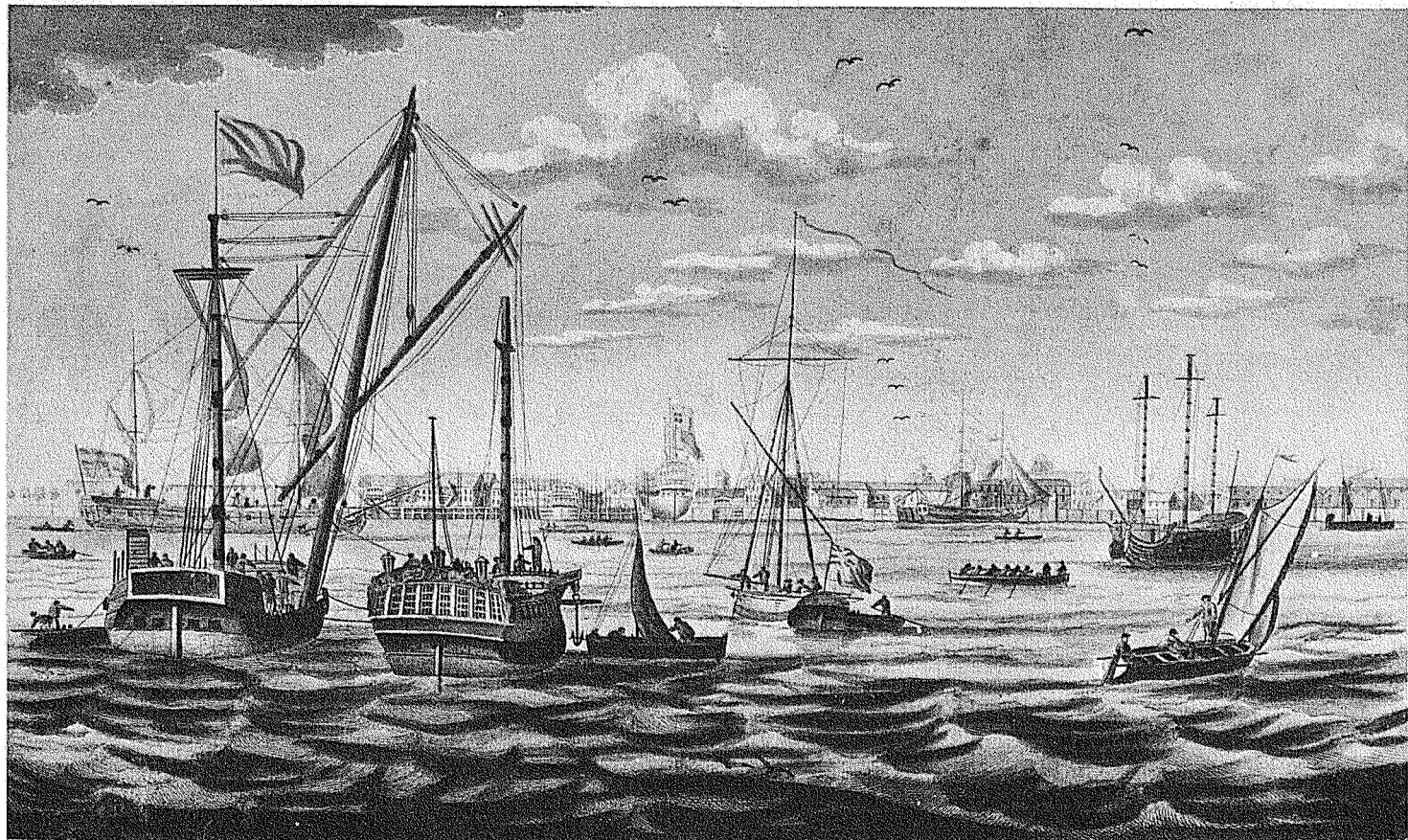
M. MONTAUDOUIN TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

Nantes 7th May 1776.

Monseigneur My house has received the letter with which you have honoured it. I make it my duty to communicate to you its very humble thanks for all the marks of kindness which it contains, and for your kindness in sending us the letter from London, and also for your offers and your wise observation concerning the reply. The letter, Monseigneur, is anonymous, and from a friend of the Anglo-Americans. I have the honour to send you a translation of it. The information which it contains may not be unworthy of the attention of the Ministry. Besides, I am eager, in this way to give you a mark of the confidence which I owe you and which you are so fitted to inspire, independently of the eminent position which you occupy in the State.

We have heard that two American vessels, which were to come here, decided to go – one to Lisbon, the other to Cadiz, where they have arrived.

You would render, Monseigneur, a great service to French tanners if you could induce the Court of Madrid not to require, on French-tanned leathers, higher dues than on those of Great Britain and Ireland. It seems



*View of His Majesty's Dock Yard in PORTSMOUTH,
in the County of HAMPSHIRE, on the British Channel.*

*Vue du Chantier de Sa. Majeste a PORTSMOUTH dans le
Comte de HAMPSHIRE, sur la c. Manche.*

that the celebrated treaty, which has, in a way, identified the two nations, gives us some claim to the preference, and, with strong reasons, to simple equality.

I shall always seize, with the greatest eagerness, every opportunity of proving to you the unlimited devotion, and the very profound respect, with which I am, Monseigneur, [&c.]

Montaudouin
Correspondent of the Royal
Academy of Sciences of Paris

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 863.

8 May

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, Wednesday 8 May, 1776

On the 17th of March, the English fleet, composed of 140 sails, that is to say many transport ships and very few Ships Royal, sailed [from Boston] for Halifax. The provincial fleet chased the rear and captured 10 or 12 of the worst-sailing ships.² Only God or the winds know where the others are now . . .

Five days ago 4 packet-boats left England: one for the fleet on its way to Halifax, the others for New York, Rhode Island and Quebec. The Ministry is really hard pressed, and although the papers relate that the 1st Hessian division left Portsmouth it was not certain yesterday still whether Lord Germain would not go to this port in order to urge or force the Hessian General to sail, which he will not do until all the troops have arrived.

Indeed I believe that the time is near when the Americans will be their own masters; and it is coming all the faster as General [Charles] Lee, after leaving 7000 men in fortified New York, departed with the 15 thousand men that remained in order to make straight for Quebec.³

If the Americans have the upper hand, as everything leads to believe, are we not going to regret deeply that we did not give in to their solicitations? Then, instead of having acquired, as we could have done it at little expense and without risk, certain rights on the gratitude of these neighbors of our islands, we shall have alienated them for ever. Since they will have won without us, they will make a good peace, but against us. They will avenge themselves of our harshness, at our expense.

Well! How important is a loan of two or three millions without compromising ourselves? Indeed, I can assure you on my sacred honor that I can get to them at second hand, even through Holland, all the assistance to which you will agree, without risk and without any other authorization but that which exists between us.

Even the appearance of an effort might be sufficient, because I know that the Virginians are now able to manufacture saltpetre in abundance, and that Congress, since its meeting in Southern Carolina, has decided that powder which was manufactured only in Philadelphia would be manufactured

in all the places where it is needed. Furthermore, the Virginians have 7000 regular troops and 70 thousand militia men, iron in abundance and manufacture almost as many weapons as all the rest of America put together.⁴ But engineers, engineers and powder! or the money to get them; this is the result of all my meetings.

1. AMAE, Correspondence Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.
2. The pursuing American schooners captured only one vessel from the fleet, the brig *Elizabeth*, a straggler.
3. Beaumarchais persisted in estimating Lee's army as 22,000 men, instead of 1200; and, while Lee had been ordered to Canada, the order had been almost immediately countermanded.
4. Where Beaumarchais picked up this melange of misinformation is not evident.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 8 May 1776

My lord, Nothing is more true than the intelligence I had the honor to send you concerning the fact that General Howe had not received any letters from the Government since 26 October. I could not believe this circumstance, but it is generally known and accepted today. Since that period the vessels carrying the dispatches from the Court to Boston were forced by adverse winds to make for the island of Antigua instead of reaching their destination.

The operations which decided General Howe's retreat are also known. After advancing their positions, the Americans erected batteries in different places, one among others on a point called Phipp's farm from where they greatly inconvenienced the city. But the true attack was being prepared near Dorchester. After effecting a lodgment, they began to bombard Boston from this high position with such advantage that there remained no other alternative but to dislodge them from that position or else abandon the city. General Howe decided on the first course and made an attempt against their position at the head of 2400 elite troops. Meanwhile a storm had come up and the continuous fire of the Americans prevented the landing. Back in Boston, the General who had apparently recognised the difficulty to capture that position even in calm weather called for the Select Men, some sort of Magistrates appointed by the people and whom General [Thomas] Gage had forbidden to leave the city. He entrusted them with the mission of finding General Washington in order to inform him that he wanted to leave Boston and embark; that he would not harm the city if the Americans would cease fire, but that he would destroy everything if they continued. The American General requested a letter from General Howe and promised to give it a suitable answer but the latter refused to submit and write to a rebel General.

The shelling started again: the Select Men were summoned again and enjoined to write General Washington and present to him that he should be satisfied with becoming master of the city, and that, far from gaining its destruction, it was to his advantage to preserve it. The American General sent this letter to the Provincial Congress gathered in Concord located a few

miles from the camp. It was unanimously agreed to let the troops embark peacefully, which was done on the 17th and the following days.

It appears to be an established fact that the General abandoned all the iron guns located on the lines, as well as the artillery horses. During the session on the day before yesterday, some members of the Lower House assessed the loss of the items which the General could not take with him to two hundred thousand pounds sterling; but this count may be exaggerated.

As for the article in the Gazette of the Court, it stirred up nothing but jeers, especially when in such circumstances it is followed by the pardons who are carried by Lord [Richard] Howe and M. [Henry] Strachey, the Secretary. The latter was secretary to the late Lord Clive during his last expedition to India. He is said to be a worthy man.² They do not speak so well of his superior's brains which are commonly thought to be rather confused. He left for Portsmouth from whence the English and Hessian troops sailed night before last.

The fleet which transports them consists of 135 transport ships. It is convoyed by a ship of 50 guns called *Preston*, a hospital ship also of 50 guns called *Jersey*, the Frigate *Rainbow* of 44 guns and the *Emerald* of 32, and two fire-ships. Lord Germain has just told me that he gave yesterday to Mr. Strachey the Commission and the instructions for Lord Howe, and that he expects this Admiral to put to sea today or tomorrow. He has been invested with the most extensive powers with this restriction, nevertheless, that he will not negotiate with Congress, but confer only with Deputies.

It was felt that His British Majesty could not promise in writing to have the Acts of the Legislative Body revoked. They would like the submission of the Americans by force, and they are rather embarrassed as to how to accomplish it while they do not know how to go about making peace. Lord Sandwich was telling me the other day that England would end this affair, but not as advantageously as we would do it in such a case because we would be satisfied with a complete and absolute submission, whereas the English Government is embarrassed with this word liberty; he talked further with sound reasoning on the drawbacks of the English Constitution with respect to the administration of the Colonies.

On the day before yesterday, the Lower House debated whether to vote an extraordinary million for the disposal of His British Majesty. This is the request which had been announced previously by Lord North. Before giving his consent, Colonel Barre³ deemed necessary to require that the House be informed of the situation in America. He requested to this effect that, as of the first of March last, the correspondence of the General in command of the Army and that of the Admiral in command of the fleet in Northern America be brought to the attention of the House. But this motion was rejected by a majority of 171 votes against 54.

You can see, My lord, that it is easier for the Insurgents to acquire cities in America than to obtain votes in the English Parliament. But at this point of the quarrel, the victories of the Ministry in Parliament will be useful only as far they will be followed by more real advantages in America. . . .

P.S. According to this evening's papers, it appears that the small American Squadron commanded by M. Hopkins sailed on a course quite opposite to the one which had first been suspected. They are claimed to have sailed for Florida and to have captured the Island of [New] Providence. If this information is correct the Navy will be in a better position to judge the degree of usefulness of such an undertaking.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.
2. Sir Henry Strachey, Secretary of the Howe Peace Commission, 1776-1778.
3. Colonel Isaac Barre, a defender of American rights in Parliament.

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1776

London [May 8].

The Cause of the Ships being burnt at Georgia arose from General Howe's sending some Transports for Provisions, the Officers of which seized several Vessels in the Harbour for the Use of the King's Troops, which so irritated the Inhabitants, that they rose and destroyed some of them, which obliged the Captains of the others to throw their Cargoes overboard and run for it, in order to avoid a like Fate.¹

The Fleet of American Privateers under the Command of Commodore Hopkins, which were sent out some Months since, and supposed to be gone to intercept the homeward bound Indiamen that touch at St. Helena, it now appears have made their first Attempt at New Providence, which they have the Possession of. This Island is so situated as to command the Jamaica and other West India Trade.

1. A badly garbled report of the rice ships at Savannah.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, MAY 8." ¹

This day orders were received for the Scavellmen and Labourers of the dock-yard, to work one tide a day extra.

Friday last sailed from hence for America, the *Diamond* frigate, of 32 guns, commanded by Charles Fielding, Esq.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 9 to May 11, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MAY 8." ¹

Sailed out of the harbour to Spithead, the *Egmont*, having been docked and refitted.

Lord Howe still continues here, and it is said will not sail till further orders.

The *Repulse*, Capt. [Henry] Davis, waits at Spithead, to convoy out the second division of Hessian Troops.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 9 to May 11, 1776.

CAPTAIN THOMAS RICH, H.M.S. *Enterprize*, TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

[Extract]

[Gibraltar, May 8, 1776] ²

... by the Order of Vice Admiral Robert Man, I have continued Cruiz-

ing from Cape Spartiel to Cadiz . . . On the 28. Ulto. I took the Ship *Aurora* of and from Philadelphia Own'd by Ben Gibbs of said place Freight'd with Eleven Thousand Seven hundred & Twenty Six Bushells of wheat & Six Hundred & Thirty Barrels of Flour, on account of Willing & Morris (the Delegates to the Congress for Philadelphia) & Consign'd to Gregory & Guille of Barcelona to be sold there both Ship & Cargo the ship & Freight to be remitted to Messrs. P: Thellusson & Co the Produce of the Cargo to Messrs. Wm Baynes & Co. both in London the Latter on a Seperate account. . . . off Cape Trafalgar examined ten or Eleven sail out of Seventeen but was unfortunate enough to Pitch upon the wrong and a large ship from America with wheat & Flour past by us, in sight and got into Cadiz. . . .

Herewith I transmit exact Copys of three Letters found on board the *Aurora*, being all I have got sight of excepting the Ship papers that are customary. The Master of whom since he has been tutored by the Friends of the Americans here Pretends to say the Cargo of said Vessel was Intend'd for the Payment of Debts in England as she sail'd the 17th March last or thereabouts. I have been thus Particular with a view of defeating such measures as may be made use of to destroy the real Intentions of Government, begging leave to Observe the snow *Dickerson* [*sic Dickinson*] which I've an account of being carried into Bristol by the Mate and crew give a Particular acct of the ship *Aurora* which I have taken (agreeable to my Orders received from Vice Adml. Man, in Obedience to their Lordships Orders to him the 2nd. September 1775.[]) being amongst the Ships and Vessels mention'd in the Publick Prints, to have sail'd with him or near about the time by Special Lisence of the Congress, for the Purpose of Lodging Sufficient Fund in the hands of Disaffected people in England for the Purchase & Payment of Gun powder & war like Stores, to be had and Transported to the rebellious Colonies in America I therefore pray their Lordships influence and Assistance in Proceeding against the said Ship *Aurora* her Cargo and all persons aiding and assisting therein, and am Sir [&c.]

Thomas Rich

[Endorsed] Recd. 12 July 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2389, Section 7, 15.
2. The date is approximated from the contents of the letter, and contemporary documents and letters relating to the capture of the *Aurora*.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GIBRALTAR, MAY 8.”¹

Three American vessels were brought in here yesterday by two of our cruizers, which they took just before they reached the Bay of Cadiz. They are laden with corn, flour, &c.

The Admiral, in consequence of some intelligence he has received from the seamen taken in the American vessels, who have entered on board his ship, sent to England for a reinforcement of light cruizers.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 4 to June 6, 1776.

9 May

EDWARD STANLEY TO WILLIAM KNOX ¹

Sir,

Custom:House London 9th May 1776.

The Commissioners having by this day's Post received another Letter from the Collector and Comptroller of Bristol transmitting a Paper delivered to them on the 7th Instant by the Master of the Brig *Christian*, lately arrived from Georgia, containing several particulars relative to the Situation of Affairs in Georgia; – I am directed to send You herewith a Copy of the said Paper, which You will be pleased to lay before His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, for his Lordships Information. I am, Sir,

Edw^d Stanley

[Enclosure]

Advices received by the Brig *Christian* Captn Jno Alexander arrived at Bristol in five Weeks from Georgia Vizt –

That the said Brig with several other Vessels, being nearly laden and ready to sail in the Months of December and January last; but were Stopp'd by orders from the Committee of Safety and Provincial Congress, – untill the 1st of March, when upon Application to the Commanding Officer of the Provincials they had permission to proceed on their respective Voyages which they were preparing to do, when Captn Barkley of the *Scarborough* Man of War, who had Arrived at Cockspur about 3 or 4 Weeks before the said 1st March with two Transports having Troops on board in order to procure Rice for his Majestys Garrisons at Boston, being seen coming up to Savannah, with the *Cherokee*, *Hichinbrook*, and two Transports Alarmed the Provincials who Expected the Town would be Destroyed, and therefore again stopped the Vessels that were laden, at the Town, and on Saturday Night the 2d March, the Troops from on board the Transports went privately on board several of the Merchant Ships then laying opposite the Town of Savannah, and remaining on board, on Sunday the 3d of March; when a Boat from the Town with orders for the Vessels to unreef their Rigging and send it a shore came along side the Vessels, some of the Troops being Disguised presented their pieces to the people in the Boat and ordered them on board, whereupon some little time after another Boat from the Shore, with 2 or 3 Members of the Provincial Congress on board, came to know the reason why their Officer in the first Boat was Detained? when they were likewise ordered on board on this the People on Shore having a Suspicion of Troops being on board; Hailed the Vessels to send the Prisoners on shore, or they would Fire and no answer being made, they began to Fire from the Battery Erected that Day, on shore; Sometime after which a general Fire ensued, and in the mean time a Boat from the Shore came onboard the *Christian* which lay along side the *Inverness*, and informed the Captain they were come to set the Vessels on Fire, desiring them to save what they could and go immediately on Shore, which they found it impossible to do, having no Boats, on board either Vessel, Wherefore after some Consultation among themselves, the Provincials determined to Fire the *Inverness* only,

whose Cargo was Valued at £20,000 Stg and to take their People on board the *Christian*, which being put in Execution the Ship was on Fire in several places before the said Brig could get clear of her; which was at last with difficulty effected, and luckily the *Inverness* got a ground, or would have set all the other Vessels on Fire, in the meantime the Troops Expecting the Ship on Fire, would be aboard them they left the Merchant Ships and landed on the Marsh opposite the Town – the Provincials on Shore seeing the *Inverness* a ground, then set a schooner on Fire and sent her under Sail among the Ships which unluckily burn't the Brig *Nelly*, belonging to Liverpool and a schooner belonging to Georgia, whereupon all the Vessels got up the River, out of reach of the Battery and the next Morning had orders from Captn Barkley of the *Scarborough* Man of War to bring the vessels to 9 feet drau't of water, in order to proceed by the back River on their intended Voyages, (the proper Channel having been stopped by the Provincials) which obliged the Vessels to throw over board, great Quantities of Rice before they could proceed to Cockspur, soon after they arrived there, Captn Alexander applied to Captn Barkley for leave to proceed on his intended Voyage which was not permitted, but the Commanding officers of the Troops, ordered the Vessels along side the Transports to discharge the Rice they had on board, for the Use of His Majesty's Troops, at Boston &c. soon after which the following Men of War and Transports sailed for Cape Fear and Boston at the same time with the *Christian*, and other Merchant Ships who received Instructions from Captn Barkley to sail in the following order

The Men of War &c. – Vizt

The *Scarborough* Captn Barkley 20 Guns

The *Tamer* Sloop Captn Thornbury [Edward Thornbrough] 16 Guns

The *Symetry* Transport Captn. — 16 Guns

The *Whit[b]y* Transport

Merchantmen Vizt

To lead	<i>Marlborough</i>	for	Whitby
2	<i>Adventure</i>		Jamaica
3	<i>Georgia Packet</i>		Scarborough
4	<i>Christian</i>		Bristol
5	<i>Fair Lady</i> (N.B. This Vessel did not Sail)		
6	<i>Live Oak</i>	for	Glasgow
7	<i>Charming Nancy</i>	belonging to London for	Tobago
8	<i>Samuel & Charles</i>		Barbadoes
9	<i>Christie</i>	Craig belongg to North Britain }	for Jamaica }
10	<i>Christie</i>		Lee – Glasgow
11.	<i>Maria</i> —		

To bring up the Rear the *St John* Sloop a Tender 4 Guns

There were besides left at Savannah

The *Raven* Sloop Captn [John] Stanhope

Cherokee Armed Vessel Captn Ferguson [John Fergusson]

Merchant Ships Vizt

<i>Georgia Planter</i> , Captn Inglis	} with Some others Names Unknown
<i>Unity</i> Captn Wardell	
a Brig Captn Ash	
<i>Beaufort</i> Captn —	
Capt Steel —	

The *Raven* Sloop of War which Arrived at Cockspur from North Carolina about Ten days before Captain Alexander Sailed brought an Account that Governor [Josiah] Martin had a Number of Inhabitants in Arms at Cape Fear in favr of Government and it was expected that many more would join them from the back Settlements as soon as the Troops arrived and had forced one of the Provincial Camps the *Raven* had taken a Ship belonging to Philadelphia with 2000 half Johannes on board, a Brig and a schooner belonging to Georgia with Flour and Gun Powder.²

[Endorsed] A Paper from Captn Jno Alexander containing several Particulars relative to affairs in Georgia —

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/148, 33-36. Stanley was secretary to the Commissioners of the Customs.
2. The ship *Rittenhouse*, *Georgia Packet*, and Sloop *St. John*, Shuldhams's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

Public Advertiser, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1776

London [May 9].

A Vessel is arrived at Bristol from Savannah in Georgia, which she left about the Middle of March last, and brings Advices, of which the following is the Substance: "That the Transports with Marines on board, which General Howe sent there for Rice, and other Provisions, arrived; that the People would not permit them to be furnished with a single Article; in Consequence the Marines attempted to land in their Boats, with a Design to carry off some Vessels that were lying in the Harbour loaded; but meeting with a very smart Attack, were compelled to make a precipitate Retreat to their Transports, upon which the loaded Ships (which belonged to suspicious Persons) were instantly destroyed by Fire. One was called the *Inverness*, and valued at 60,000 l. Sterling. The Vessel which brought this Intelligence to Bristol, has brought only twenty Barrels of Rice. She unexpectedly got out of the Harbour in the Night."

The Ships which were burnt at Georgia had been loaded for England some Time, and their Cargoes were supposed to be worth about 15,000 l. each Ship. The letting such valuable Ships go home to Great Britain, at this Time, was an Object of very serious Consideration, and could not be easily settled; but it is generally believed the News of the late Act, prohibiting all Commerce with America, served to fix the Georgians in their Opinion on this important Point, and it was resolved that they should not go. While Matters were thus agitated on Shore, the King's Ships in the Road had begun to take Rice and other Stores out of the Ship *Christian*,

Capt. [John] Alexander, which had just set sail for England, and had threatened to send their Boats and unmoor the other Ships that were loaded for Great Britain, if the Provincial Congress, or Committees, still detained them. This so exasperated the Populace, that they set Fire to the *Inverness*. The People on board, to save themselves, ran the Ship on Shore, and by that Means set Fire to the *Neddy* and *Polly*, of Liverpool, and two Schooners, which lay adjoining. There are other Accounts which say, that the Ship was actually set on Fire by an Order from the Committee, as the best Means of adjusting all Differences, and quieting the Populace without Bloodshed.

The Ministry have this Week received certain Advice, that the Congress had ordered out twenty Sail of Privateers, which carry from twenty to thirty-six Guns each, to cruize in and about the River St. Lawrence, in order to intercept some of the Transports from England: Notice of which was on Tuesday sent to Lord Howe at Portsmouth, that his Lordship may deliver out Orders to the Commanders of the Transports not to run from their Convoy, lest they fall into the Hands of the Americans.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MAY 9.”¹

This morning Lord Howe went on board the *Eagle* man of war at Spit-head, which saluted him by firing three rounds as soon as he got on board; several other ships that lay off this place likewise fired their guns, and in the afternoon they weighed anchor, were under sail till about six o'clock this evening, and are now out of sight. It is imagined they will join the fleet about Scilly.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 9 to May 11, 1776.

10 May

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A SHIP CARPENTER, NOW AT BELFAST, IN IRELAND, TO HIS FATHER, IN NEWCASTLE, MAY 10.”¹

You must 'ere now have heard of our Misfortune; the *Blue Mountain Valley*, which I sailed in from London with Provisions, in October last, was in January taken in Sight of New-York, by four American Vessels, commanded by one called Lord Sterling, who carried us into Elizabeth Town, about 18 Miles off New-York, where we were all kept Prisoners for two Months, but to the Credit of the Americans I must say, we lived very well, and were well treated: After that Time we were set at Liberty, by an Order from the Congress, to shift for ourselves, and had Passes given us to protect us from being impressed by the American Sea Officers. This was more than we expected. We most of us made for New-York, where all was in Confusion. I offered myself to a Vessel just going for Belfast, and luckily such a Hand being wanted, I was taken on board. . . . The Mate was detained at Elizabeth-Town, on account of the Information it was expected he could give the Americans.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, May 29, 1776.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, MAY 9 TO SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1776

London, May 10.

Arrived the *Elizabeth*, Capt. Campbell, from Philadelphia at Dover, loaded with flour and corn; she sailed the 12th of March; letters by her mention that they expected Commissioners there to treat with Congress; but as they had just received the restraining act before this vessel sailed, all thoughts of a reconciliation vanished.

On Wednesday orders were sent down to Deal for the *Winchelsea* man of war to come up to Chatham, to get ready for sea with all expedition; she is to go to America.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Eagle at Spithead May the 10th 1776.

Having received the King's final directions respecting the particular Commission with which I have the Honor to be by His Majesty intrusted; and the several Papers referred to in their Lordships secret Instructions of the 4th instant; I am preparing to put forthwith to Sea.

In respect to that part of their Lordships secret Instructions aforesaid which regards the employment of the Ships under my Command, for preventing all Trade and Intercourse with the Rebellious Colonies, according to the purport of the Act of the last Sessions referred to therein: their Lordships I flatter myself will pardon me, if in my anxiety to render the most exact Obedience to their Orders, I take the liberty to submit, that until His Majesty's Troops can repossess some Ports upon the Coasts of America, great Difficulties will attend the execution of their Orders in that particular; and that it will become impracticable in most part of the Winter-Season. I am Sir [&c.]

Howe

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE ¹

[Portsmouth] Friday, 10th. May.

This Day between 11 & 12, I embarked on board the *Eagle* Man of War of 64 Guns, which immediately fell down to St Helen's; where we came to Anchor, the Wind being foul, and some Arrangements being necessary to be made respecting our Apartments for Sleeping, &c.

Saturday, 11th.

Early this Morning we weighed Anchor, and sailed round the Easternmost Point of the Isle of Wight, called Dunnose. Observed a Merchant Vessel cast away upon the Strand. Proceeded with a slight Gale in a SW Course for Guernsey, in order to accommodate the Ship with Wine. Very pleasant Weather, affording a delightful View of the Southern Cliffs of the Isle of Wight, and a distant Prospect of the high Land about Peverell Point in Dorsetshire.

Sunday, 12th

Had a faint View of the French Coast about Cape Barfleur, this Morning. By our Course in the Night, had almost lost Sight of the Isle of Wight. I was much pleased with the Performance of divine Service this morning, and the order and Behaviour of the officers and Ship's Company upon the Occasion. The Deportment of a Chief inspires the Conduct of all his Subordinates; and it is remarkably the Case on board the *Eagle*. No Noise, Disorder, Swearing, or Immoralities; but an easy, manly Carriage seems to animate our whole Company. The French Coast became more distinguishable about Noon. We could see Towers & Trees through the Glass. Obligated to traverse, the Wind being contrary all the afternoon. Towards Evening came in Sight of I. of Wight. Tacked about a S.W. Course down the Channel.

1. Edward H. Tatum, Jr., ed., *The American Journal of Ambrose Serle, 1776-1778* (San Marino, Calif., 1940), 1, 2.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, DATED MAY 10." ¹

Yesterday passed by this place all the fleet, amounting to upwards of 120 sail, with the Hessian troops and guards, and train of artillery on board, bound to America, and the *Tartar* man of war, Capt. Ommaney, that was here, joined them.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 11 to May 14, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL APPLEBY ¹

May [1776] Lizard E 27:00 N 43 $\frac{1}{3}$ Leagues
 Friday 10 AM out all reefs and hoisted Commodore William Hothams broad Pendant which was by the *Brune & Emerald* saluted with 13 Guns each returned the same number at 9 the *Jersey Rainbow & Strombolo* returned the same number $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 the *Carcass* saluted with 13 Guns returned 11 made the *Rainbow & Strombolos* signal for a Lieut worked the Ventilator washed and cleaned betwen decks all the Convoy in sight. Light airs inclinable to calm pm fired 2 Guns and made the signal for the Convoy to come under our Stern

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS ¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 10 May 1776

You are hard to please if you do not consider the evacuation as important news, although I still do not know why and how it took place. I refuse to believe that General Howe abandoned this fortified town needlessly just for the fun of it. I will not ask you what the Ministers think or say about it. Most certainly they will try to put on a good appearance in the face of adversity; it is their role with regard to the public. But I shall remain unconvinced that they are very happy within themselves. It was to Boston

that the major part of their forces was to go, and it was from there that they were to make their most important strikes. Undoubtedly the Insurgents will not be so generous and leave the doors open to them. And now a new plan of campaign must be drawn precisely at the time when the operations were to begin. The result of this event which you consider with such indifference may well be that if the campaign is not a total failure it will be carried with very little vigor and it will be quite an accomplishment if they manage to secure a few positions from which they can attack the Insurgents more successfully another year. I do not know if the latter are lacking anything for their defense, but I have knowledge that they are quite skillful in obtaining all sorts of ammunition in great quantity from a neighbor of ours.² Regardless of the precautions taken in order to intercept this assistance, they will continue receiving it as long as they pay as quickly as they have been doing until now according to what I have heard. If you ask me what is the source of their money, I will answer you very simply, Sir, that I do not know. However, they must have plenty of resources since the merchants are so anxious to serve them.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. Referring to Holland.

11 May

GEORGE JACKSON TO NAVY BOARD ¹

Gentn

[Admiralty Office] 11 May 1776

Lieut Edward Thornbrough late of His Majestys Sloop *Falcon* having represented to my Lords Commrs of the Admty that he was shot through the thigh by a Musket Ball in endeavouring to take an American Schooner off Cape Ann at which time the Master & Gunner & 35 Men were taken Prisoners² And having transmitted An Account of Money which he paid for lodgings, Nurses Travelling charges &ca for the time he was under Cure Amounting to £ 73. 16.6 I am Commanded by their Lordships to send you his Letter & Account inclosed & to signify their Direction to you to sign a Bill on the Treasurer of His Majestys Navy for repaying him the Amount thereof if you think it is reasonable & to recommend it to you to make him such farther Allowances on Account of his said Would as the General Printed Instructions under the head of Gratuity to Officers Wounded in fight direct I am &c

G.J.: DS -

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/552, 28-29.

2. For account of incident see Volume 1, 1110-11.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 11 May 1776

You have already received instructions to express the King's intentions concerning the preservation of the peace and the good intelligence with England and I have repeated them on many occasions. I confirmed them

again recently to M. de Pol.² There have been rumors that we were about to arm a large Squadron. This Minister deemed necessary to speak to me about it without, however, giving the impression that he was questioning me. I answered him quite frankly that these rumors were unfounded and that even if they were, I would say so with the same frankness because we do not conceal from ourselves that it would alarm the Court of London and it would be against the King's principles or intentions to give them such cause for worry. I took this opportunity to renew our assurances given on so many occasions and I assured him that we trusted fully those received from the King of Great Britain. I added that we realized that the ministry was not the master of the nation, or even controlled the behavior of individuals, and that there might happen at the least expected moment against the express wish of both Courts an action which would not be within the powers of the British Ministry to stop or repress suitably. The memory of years past is reason enough to make precautions with respect to the future and one must not look for more complicated reasons behind the activity which may be noticed in our ports. Indeed, there is no other reason, and this is what you will explain to the Ministers, Sir, if they place you in a position to do it. You may even assure them that, as far as we are concerned, the preservation of peace is in their hands, and that their conduct will determine ours. We are just and honest, but we expect the same attitude from others.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. Horace St. Paul.

12 May (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN¹

May 1776	Moored at Spithead
Friday 10th	A M Unmoored and hove Short on the B:Br washed the Lower Deck. At 1 P M Weigh'd & came to Sail At 3 Calm Anchord with the BtBr in 13 fm Veered to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable, At 6 Weiged & ran down to St Hellens and Anchord in 10 fm water with the B:Br South Sea Castle N N E, Buoy of the Eggar W N W St Hellens Point So
Saturday 11th	At 5 A M Weighd & came to Sail Light airs and hazey sometimes Calm At 6 P M Dunnose NNE $\frac{1}{4}$ E 6 Leags
Sunday 12th	At 9 A M Tacked & at 11 Tacked The first & Middle parts light airs & Clear Latter light Breezes and fair At 8 P M Dunnose NE $\frac{1}{2}$ E 5 Leags

1. PRO, Admiralty I/E/11, NMM Photocopy.

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO COUNT LOUIS CHARLES DU CHAFFAULT ¹

Versailles, 12 May 1776

For you only.

I am sending you, Sir, new orders from the King concerning the operations of your campaign. Since the Intentions of the King are clearly explained in the instructions enclosed herewith I shall add nothing to them and I am convinced that you will execute these orders with all the care and precision required by the mark of trust which H[is] M[ajesty] has shown you in this occasion. I warn you, Sir, that you are not to disclose these news Instructions to the General Officers and Commanders of your Squadron; and you will take care to place under two envelopes, the first one marked for you only, all the reports which you will send me as often as circumstances will permit and by means indicated in these instructions.

I have the honor &c.

P.S. I enclose a code which you will use in the event that you should write to me by way of Portugal.

Other P.S. You will find, Sir, on the head of the book explaining the use of the code the watchword which you will use when you will write to me. This watchword is a combination of 36 characters. You will please mark your letters No.6 which is the number of your watchword.

1. AN, Marine, B4, 134, 158, 159, LC Photocopy. Count Du Chaffault was in command of the French squadron operating off the French coast in 1776 and 1777. In 1779, he took command of a combined French and Spanish fleet as successor to the Count d'Orvilliers and became an admiral in 1792.

LOUIS XVI TO COUNT LOUIS CHARLES DU CHAFFAULT ¹

Instructions from the King to M. Du Chaffault, Squadron Commander of the Navy

Versailles, 12 May 1776

His Majesty has deemed proper to make a few changes in the Instructions which he gave to M. Duchaffault on the 29th of March, 1776,² and he will explain again his intentions with regard to the line of conduct which this officer will maintain during his campaign.

Immediately after the three divisions which will compose M. Duchaffault's Squadron have joined off Cape St. Vincent where the general rendezvous was ordered to take place on 10 May according to the first instruction and which the division from Toulon will probably not be able to reach before a period between the 15th and 20th or the 25th of the same month, M. Duchaffault will leave the vicinity of the Spanish coast and set sail for Ouessant going as far as the opening of the Channel.

When he will have reached this point, he will detach from his Squadron a frigate and a corvette which he will direct to cruise along the Northern coast of Brittany, Normandy and Picardy, as far as Dunkerque.

Before reaching Ouessant he will also detach a frigate and a corvette whose mission it will be to cruise along the Southern coast of Brittany, Belle

Isle, Isle d'Yeu, the coast of Poitou, Saintonge, Guyenne and Gascony as far as Bayonne.

In compliance with this Instruction he will give particular orders to the Commanding officers of these frigates. He will add to these recognition signals and he will assign a rendezvous where the detached ships will rejoin the Squadron after fulfilling their respecting missions. Such rendezvous might be Ouessant being at the junction of both coasts to be covered by the said ships.

He will particularly recommend to the Commanding officers of the frigate and corvette sent into the Channel that they observe if the English have established cruises in the vicinity of French ports and question all vessels which they might meet, with the exception of English vessels, and thereby try to obtain intelligence as to which parts of the Channel are watched by English ships and frigates.

The Commanding officers of the two ships detached into the Gulf of Biscay will do likewise and will find out if the English have established cruises in the waters off the coast along which they will be sailing.

While the frigates and corvettes sent into the Channel and the Gulf of Biscay will be about their missions, M. Duchaffault will cruise with the rest of his Squadron between Ouessant and Cape Finisterre and he will return to Ouessant at the time when, according to his judgment, the ships detached into the Gulf will come back from their cruise; undoubtedly these ships will return sooner than those sent into the Channel. He will maintain the same cruise during the rest of his campaign, making sure to approach the coast of Brittany more often than the coast of Galicia.

M. Duchaffault will hail all vessels, except the English, which will come within range of his Squadron and will attempt to obtain intelligence with regard to the position of the ships of H[is] B[ritannic] M[ajesty] which might be cruising in these waters as well as their number and their strength. However, he will avoid interfering with the trade, noting that he need only maintain his cruise in such a way that the English will fear getting caught between land and the French Squadron and therefore will not sail in the vicinity of the Ports and Roads on the French coast in order to intercept the vessels from New England which might try to reach the said Ports and Roads.

He will not seek to meet the ships of H.B.M. but if such an encounter cannot be avoided he will use much courtesy towards them, and if he has cause to approach them he will do so only with the utmost reserve.

In the event that a Vessel from New England, belonging to the Insurgents, would be pursued by a ship of H.B.M. and would ask for the protection of the French Flag, M. Duchaffault will grant it to her, and if in spite of the declaration made to this effect the English ship still attempts to seize her, M. Duchaffault will oppose such an action and use the forces entrusted to him by His Majesty.

He will act likewise with regard to neutral Vessels having left European Ports and laden with ammunition or other kinds of assistance for the Insur-

gents in New England; and in the event that one of these Vessels should be pursued by English ships and would ask for the protection of the King's Squadron, M. Duchaffault would not allow that she be visited while under the protection of His Majesty's Flag.

It is possible that M. Duchaffault will meet cruising ships belonging to His Catholic Majesty while in the vicinity of Cape Finisterre; in which case he will show suitable courtesy and trust towards the Commanding officers of these ships and they will exchange any intelligence they may obtain with regard to the cruises established by the English or anything which may be useful to the Service of both Monarchs.

If His Majesty wants to communicate some urgent order to M. Duchaffault, he will address to him letters in duplicate to Brest, L'Orient or Rochefort, as well as Le Havre or Dunkerque. M. Duchaffault will order the Commanding officers of the frigates and corvettes that he will have detached to anchor in each of these Ports in order to pick up the packets that might have been addressed there and to send themselves to His Majesty from the ports where they will have anchored any information which they will deem interesting. He will expressly recommend that they do not stay in these Ports and even that they merely send their boat there while keeping under sail out at sea if the weather, the circumstance and the locality allow it.

M. Duchaffault will heedfully and exactly communicate to His Majesty any intelligence he may receive, and to this effect, he will send his packets by means of a cutter to the nearest Port.

He will not disclose the present Instruction to the General Officers and Commanders in his Squadron, and he will order the Commanding Officers of the frigates and corvettes that will be detached to keep secret the orders and instructions which they will have received from him.

He will make sure that the ships and other vessels of His Squadron beat to general quarters frequently by day and even by night, and he will recommend to the Captains and other Commanding Officers that they see to it that these calls to quarters be answered with the same care and precision as if they were about to give battle.

He will make evolutions as often as circumstances will permit either with the remaining ships once the others have been detached, or with the whole Squadron when all the ships will be gathered; furthermore he will act in accordance with the orders given to him in the Instructions of 29 March with respect to all matters which are not contrary to the present orders or which are not covered.

At Versailles, 12 may 1776
 [signed] Louis
 [countersigned] de Sartine

1. AN, Marine, B⁴, 134, 152-57, LC Photocopy.
2. The March 29, 1776 orders have not been located.

13 May

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir,

Admiralty Office, 13th May 1776

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received a Letter from Vice Admiral [John] Amherst, commander in Chief at Plymouth, dated the 10th instant, giving an Account that the *Sally* Ordnance Storeship arrived at that Port in the Night of the 7th and the next day about Noon His Majesty's Ship the *Tartar* sailed from thence with her and the five Vessels named in the Margin under Convoy;² And that since their Sailing the *Union's Success*, Ordnance Storeship bound to Quebec, is arrived at Plymouth to wait for Convoy, as also a Sloop from Portsmouth with 51 Artificers belonging to the Quarter Master General in America, and 5 Men belonging to the 31st Regiment, who were intended to have been put onboard the *Speke* Hospital Ship. I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, for Lord George Germain's Information. And am &c

Ph^p Stephens -

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 65.

2. *Speke*, Hospital Ship; *Elizabeth*, Treasury Victualler; *Alborough*, Navy Victualler; *Henly* and *Boreas*, "with Stores for Sloops and Batteaux in Canada," *ibid*.

14 May

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN HENRY DAVIS,
H.M.S. *Repulse*, PORTSMOUTH ¹

You are hereby required and directed to receive on board the Ship you command, the Bearer, Joseph Govier, a branch Pilot for the Delaware River, and bear him as Pilot Extra for Wages and Victuals until he shall be otherwise disposed of by order of Lord Viscount Howe, or the Commanding Officer of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels for the time being in North America. Given &c the 14th May 1776

Sandwich Palmerston C. Spencer

By &ca P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 88.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LIEUTENANT RICHARD PICKERSGILL,
H.M. ARMED VESSEL *Lyon*, DEPTFORD ¹

Whereas we intend that His Majesty's Armed Vessel the *Lyon* shall proceed to Davis's Streights for the protection of the British Whale Fishers who may be employed in those parts during the approaching fishing Season, and that she shall afterwards proceed into Baffin's Bay for the purpose of making Discoveries; You are, therefore hereby required & directed to use the utmost dispatch in falling down in her to Longreach, and in taking in her Guns & Gunner's Stores at that place agreeable to former Orders, and then proceed to the Nore; and, so soon as her Complement shall be completed from the *Conquistador*, for which we have given Orders to Commodore [George] Macken-

zie, you are to put to sea with the very first Opportunity of Wind and Weather, and make the best of your way to the South End of Disco Island, in the abovemention'd Streights, where the Whale Fishers usually resort at the beginning of the Season, and there make enquiry amongst them if they have heard of any arm'd, or other, American Ships in those parts belonging to the Inhabitants of His Majesty's Colonies now in Rebellion, and, if they have, you are to proceed in quest of them, and use your best endeavours to take or destroy them; You are afterwards to proceed to the North West part of the said Island, where the abovemention'd Fishers usually resort during the latter part of the Season, and make enquiry, and proceed in like manner; And, having so done, or not hearing of any American Vessels in those parts, you are at liberty, and are hereby required & directed to proceed up Baffin's Bay and explore the Coasts thereof, as far as in your judgement the same can be done without apparent Risque; taking care to leave the abovemention'd Bay so timely as to secure your return to England in the fall of the Year; and to return accordingly to the Nore, from whence you are to send Us an Account of your arrival and proceedings.

You are carefully to observe the true situation of such parts of the abovemention'd Coasts as you may discover, both in Latitude & Longitude, the Variation of the Needle; bearings of the Headlands; Height, Direction & Course of the Tides & Currents; Depths & Soundings of the Sea, Shoals, Rocks &c.; And to employ Mr Lane, Master of the Vessel you command (who has an Allowance for that purpose) in surveying, making Charts and taking Views of, the several Bays, Harbours, and different parts of the Coast which you may visit, and in making such notations thereon as may be useful to Geography and Navigation.

Given &c. the 14th May 1776. —

By &c. P.S.

Sandwich

Palmerston

C. Spencer

I. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 88-90.

M. MONTAUDOUIN TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

Monseigneur I have neglected nothing, as I have had the honour of promising you, in order to discover what could have given rise to what has been reported in the public papers, that one or two French officers had passed over to the Anglo-Americans. I conferred the day before yesterday with a captain of the merchant service here who has arrived from St. Domingo, and who is an intelligent man, without letting him know the object of my curiosity. He informed me, Monseigneur, that a German baron, whose name he cannot remember, and who, he thinks, was formerly in the service of Prussia, and wore the red ribbon [Order of St. Louis], had passed over to St. Domingo on a vessel from Havre. He says he saw him two or three times. This officer embarked at St. Nicolas Mole, a free port of St. Domingo, on an Anglo-American vessel, which safely carried him to Philadelphia, where he was received with acclamation, because he has served in the Cav-

ally, and they very much wanted to have some officer experienced in this direction, which is very little known to them.² This appears to me, Monseigneur, to explain what you desired to know. Moreover I think the Count d'Ennery will have informed M. de Sartine about it, or the Count de St. Germain. If he has not done so, the name of the officer might be found out at Havre, as he embarked there.

Nantes, 14th May 1776.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 867.

2. Baron Frederick Wilhelm de Woedtke, who arrived in New England, not Philadelphia.

15 May

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON,
JAMAICA¹

Vice Admiral Lord Howe Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America being directed to send such of the Ships and Vessels of his Squadron from time to time to Jamaica and Antigua as he shall judge necessary, to careen; And the Navy Board being directed to send our supplies of the proper necessaries for that purpose; You are, therefore, upon the arrival of any of the said Ships and Vessels at Jamaica under orders from the said Vice Admiral to careen there as aforesaid, to cause them to be careened and refitted with all the dispatch that possibly may be; and, on no account to detain them longer than may be absolutely necessary for that purpose, or to divert their Commanders from following afterwards, such orders as they may be under from his Lordship.

Given &c the 15th May 1776.

C. Spencer Lisburne H. Palliser

by the *Winchelsea*

The like to

James Young Esqr Vice Admiral of the Red

&c &c – at Antigua – By the *Shark* Sloop

By &c. P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 92.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 15 May 1776

I believe, My lord, that it is essential for England to defend with force the Portuguese possessions in Europe.

However, if the die is cast, and in spite of our combined efforts we find it impossible either to bring M.de Pombal to the terms requested by Spain, or to stop our ally and prevent the invasion of Portugal, it seems to me, My lord, that we should not waste a single moment and enter into secret negotiations with the Americans. Because England, compelled in such case to make peace at all costs with her Colonies, would throw herself at their feet in order to obtain from them the means that they alone can bring her to

wage an offensive war in America. I shall never believe possible the conquests of England in that part of the world without the help in men, victuals, ships, everything finally that the English drew from their colonies on the continent during the last war. Today, they have to exhaust Europe in order to supply their army in America. You can see, My lord, from the facts how fruitless is such an operation. You will conceive better than myself how much this difficulty would increase if these ships carrying supplies were to avoid on their way the the French and Spanish naval forces, their privateers, as well as the American privateers, if we had them on our side. And this will happen if we wish to ensure their independence, a price that they cannot expect on the part of Great Britain in reward for the services that they would render to her.

The supporters of this independence begin to complain bitterly of what they call our apathy at this time. The manner in which the Americans regard our interest had caused them to consider our secret or public assistance as infallible. The resentment against our indifference joined to the cruel inconvenience to which this People must submit in a struggle hand to hand against England and all her Navy, when they have none to oppose, may bring them to agree to a peace with the mother country all the more easily since we may expect that in such case they themselves would dictate the terms. America joined to England in order to take vengeance for our total inaction when she needed us presents a new scene in Europe; that of a powerful nation that knows her forces and which keeps them all active under the protection and conduct of the English flag.

I am most inclined to believe, My lord, that all the expenses which we might incur in preventing this union would be money well invested. ²

It is true that the small American squadron made a raid on the Island of [New] Providence and the governor escaped to St. Augustine. They removed a few hundred barrels of powder and were rumored to have sailed from there to Cape François. This is what this famous expedition which was to astonish Europe amounted to. ³

A packet-boat dispatched from Virginia by Ld Dunmore ran aground on the Sorlingues [Scilly] Islands off Cape Lizard. One assures that all the packets which it carried were lost although the crew escaped. This report aroused strong suspicions on the part of the opposition that the news was very bad, especially since Ld Sandwich confessed publicly that he expected nothing more of the expedition against Virginia after the complete scattering of Sir [Peter] Parker's fleet.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. Garnier's fears of a reconciliation between the American colonies and Great Britain closely parallels similar arguments used later in the year by Silas Deane, first American agent in France.

3. The facts were not as Garnier presented them. The Governor did not escape; the gunpowder did.

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1776

London [May 15].

A Gentleman just arrived from [St.] Augustine, says, he was present when Hopkins's Squadron took possession of [New] Providence; that they landed Six Hundred Marines, who marched as regular and made as fine an Appearance as any Troops he ever saw.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, MAY 14 TO THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1776

London, Wednesday, May 15.

His Majesty's ships *Daphne*, Capt. [John] Chinnery, *Unicorn*, [John] Ford; and *Hornet*, [Robert] Haswell, are all fitting out at Woolwich for the North America Station, and the artificers work double tides.

17 May

ORDER IN PRIVY COUNCIL RENEWING THE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE EXPORTATION OF GUNPOWDER, ARMS AND AMMUNITION ¹

At the Court of St. James's the 17 Day of May, 1776,
Present,

Whereas the Time limited by his Majesty's Order in Council of the 21st of February last, for prohibiting the Exporting out of this Kingdom, or Carrying Coastwise, Gunpowder, Saltpetre, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, will expire on the 23d of this Instant May; and whereas it is judged expedient that the said Prohibition should be continued for some Time longer, except in those Cases where (for the benefit and Advantage of Trade, and for the Use and Defence of Ships trading to Foreign Parts, and of the Transports and Victualling Vessels employed in His Majesty's Service) His Majesty, by His several Orders in Council, of the 13th and 27th of October, and of the 6th and 22d of November, 1775, and of the 5th and 19th of February last, has thought proper to permit and allow the Exportation of, and Carrying Coastwise, Gunpowder, Saltpetre, Arms and Ammunition under certain conditions and Restrictions mentioned in the said Orders – His Majesty doth therefore, by and with the Advice of His Privy Council, hereby order, require, prohibit, and command, That no Person or Persons whomsoever (except the Master-General, Lieutenant General, or Principal Officers of the Ordnance for His Majesty's Service, do) at any Time during the Space of Three Months, to commence from the said 23d Day of this Instant May, presume to transport into any Parts out of this Kingdom, or carry Coastwise, any Gunpowder, Saltpetre, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, or ship or lade any Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms and Ammunition, on Board any Ship or Vessel, in order to transporting the same beyond the Seas, or carrying the same Coastwise, except in the Cases comprized within the aforementioned Orders in Council of the 13th and 27th of October, and the 6th and 22d of November, 1775; and of the 5th and 19th of February last, without Leave or Permission in that Behalf first obtained from His Majesty

or His Privy Council, upon Pain of incurring and suffering the respective Forfeitures and Penalties inflicted by an Act passed in the 29th Year of His late Majesty's Reign, entituled, "An Act to empower His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Saltpetre, and to enforce the Law for empowering His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms and Ammunition; and also to empower His Majesty to restrain the Carrying Coastwise of Saltpetre, Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition." And the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, the Commissioners for Executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, the Master General of the Ordnance, and His Majesty's Secretary at War, are to give the necessary Directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

Steph. Cottrell.

1. *London Gazette*, May 14 to May 18, 1776.

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 17 May 1776

A week ago, a packet boat from Virginia sent by Lord Dunmore brought news to the government. But it was found to be so bad that it was decided to say that the trunk had fallen into sea during bad weather. Wonderful stratagem! Manifestation of a superior form of genius!

Another ship arrived from Canada yesterday. She was under order to fire one shot without entering the port. A boat left the harbor and made for the ship. A man jumped into the boat and the ship sailed away. This man ran to London without stopping. The subject of his dispatch could not be learned, hence the refrain: the news must be most inauspicious since they are wrapped in such mystery! ²

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. A Beaumarchais flight of fancy in both cases.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London 17 May 1776

No news has yet been received concerning the arrival of General Howe in Halifax. According to public opinion; this city is also the rendezvous point for the fleet that sailed recently from Portsmouth. Indeed, with the exception of Florida where the unhealthy climate is harmful for the soldiers, Halifax is the only base of operations that remains to England on the American Continent. From there she will be able to turn her efforts to Canada, either to regain Quebec if this city fell to the Americans, or preserve it if there is still time, then chase the enemy from the rest of the Province and make a breakthrough while opening a road to reach New England from the rear. This will be a rather difficult venture because the Americans sent a rather large number of troops to Canada, which the liberation of Boston enables them to reinforce easily. You must know also, My lord, that Doctor [Benjamin] Franklin left for this Province accompanied by a Catholic priest from Canada. ² The deputation of this man who can be considered as the

best head in the Continental Congress shows us that the Americans attach the greatest importance to bringing the Canadians to their side and make common cause with them.

After leaving a sufficient garrison in Boston under the command of General [Artemas] Ward, General Washington went to New York where he took command of General [Charles] Lee's army. This almost central position presents great advantages should he have to come to the assistance of the neighboring provinces. A body of troops was detached towards Virginia. Some say that Mr. Lee is in command, while others assure that he left for Canada on the 10th of March.

The complete scattering of Sir [Peter] Parker's fleet caused the failure of the expedition planned against Virginia, the season seems far too advanced now in order to make another attempt. It is all the more regrettable for the Government that this expedition miscarried since the inhabitants of this Province, which has an abundance of supplies of all kinds, are essentially in lack of Engineers, arms, war ammunition and clothing. This is also the case of the inhabitants of South Carolina. We can imagine the shortage of ammunition experienced by the Americans from the dangers they face each day in order to obtain them. They sacrifice ten ships loaded with produce of their country in the hope of having one return with a cargo of war ammunition.

You will recall, My lord, that the Continental Congress had posed to each Province the important question of complete separation from Great Britain without coming back. Of the thirteen united provinces, five declared themselves against independence, to wit: Georgia, South Carolina Maryland, Jersey and Pennsylvania. Virginia has not moved yet. You will observe My lord, that these provinces nevertheless agree to resist to the end all the laws to which the whole Continent objects and which started the present war.

The session of the 13th, of which I enclose an extract herewith,³ did little credit to the members. It showed clearly all the trouble taken by the Government to favor secretly the American trade, although it is prohibited by a formal Act. The development of its various maneuvers show how much it wishes to delay as long as possible an outcry on the part of the manufacturers by providing them under hand with an outlet through a clandestine Monopoly.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. Garnier had picked up an incomplete account of the mission to Canada undertaken by Franklin, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and Samuel Chase, accompanied by Carroll's brother, Rev. John Carroll, of Maryland.

3. *Ibid.*, "Extract of Debate in the House of Lords, 13 May, 1776."

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MAY 17."¹

Yesterday arrived at Spithead his Majesty's frigate *Ambuscade*, Capt. M'Cartney, and *Diamond* frigate, Capt. Fielding from the Downs, which are to convoy the rest of the Hessians for America.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 16 to May 18, 1776.

18 May

AMERICAN VESSELS CARRIED INTO GIBRALTAR ¹

Gibraltar, May 18.

Three American vessels were brought in here yesterday by two of the cruisers, which they took just before they reached the bay of Cadiz. They are laden with corn, flour, &c. and are valued at about 20,000 l. On board of one of these vessels, which had eight carriage guns mounted, were two American merchants, said to be men of property; the nature of the business they were going upon we cannot tell; however, just before she was taken, they put a small packet of letters into a canvas bag, with some shot of six pounders, which they threw overboard, and sunk it immediately; we understand there are numbers of vessels, from 150 to upwards of 300 tons, now on their voyage from different ports in America to Cadiz, which in all probability will be taken, the admiral having stationed all the vessels he can spare to cruize for them. One of the frigates on this station is constantly cruising off[f] the entrance of Cadiz bay, so that it will be very difficult if not impossible for them to escape.

1. *Maryland Gazette*, October 3, 1776.

20 May

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG, ANTIGUA ¹

Sir

20th May 1776

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admty to send you herewith, Duplicates of the Orders and Letters sent to you from this Office since the beginning of December last, mentioned on the other side hereof, and to acquaint you that the *Shark* by which you will receive them is sent out to reinforce your Squadron the better to enable you to intercept the Ships and Vessels belonging to the North American Colonies in Rebellion which may be found within the limits of your Command and also to give proper protection to the Homeward bound Trade from the Leeward Island pursuant to the orders you have received for that purpose, to which Objects you are to give your particular attention and at the same time I am directed by their Lordships to recommend it to you to give Strict Orders to the Commanders of the Cruizers which you may Station, from time to time for the first mentioned purpose, carefully to avoid cruising off[f] the Ports, or approaching so near the Coasts of the French and other Nations Possessions within the abovementioned Limits as to give any unnecessary Umbrage or Interruption to the Subjects or Trade of those Nations or any just cause of Complaint. I am.

P S. ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/552, 56-57.

2. *Ibid.*, 54-55, a similar letter sent this date to Vice Admiral Gayton via H.M.S. *Winchelsea* sent out to reinforce his squadron.

HORACE ST. PAUL TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

Note

Paris, 20 May 1776

M. de St. Paul has the honor to inform H[is] E[xc]ellency the Count de Vergennes that the English Ministry received intelligence that the following ships left Amsterdam a short time ago: the *Stadt Bourdeaux*, Claes de Heer Captain, carrying 400 barrels of gunpowder of 100 pounds each destined for Nantes, the *Vromo Ester Cornelia*, Hans Momse Captain, carrying 300 barrels also of 100 pounds each and the *Concordia*, Ysbrand Pieter Prevoort Captain, carrying 150 barrels of 100 pounds each; these last two ships are bound for Bordeaux. Since there can be no doubt that this gunpowder is destined for the English Colonies in America, M.de St.Paul received instruction from His British Majesty to inform the Count de Vergennes so that, following his promise to do all in his power, he will turn back from France any assistance to the Rebels and will make use of this opportunity to take the measures he will deem necessary and most adequate in order to prevent the Exportation of the said gunpowder.

This request conforms to the harmony and the good Intelligence that reigns fortunately between the two Crowns, and M.de St. Paul cannot doubt and H.E. will have the kindness to write at once to the Intendants of Bordeaux and Nantes.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

21 May

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO LORD DUNMORE ¹

My Lord,

Whitehall, 21st May 1776

I take the opportunity of the Reverend Mr Maddison, who is going back to Virginia, to acquaint your Lordship that the *Duke of Cumberland* packet Boat, on her return home, had the misfortune to strike upon a Rock off Scilly, and went down so suddenly that the Crew had only time to save themselves, and the three Frenchmen who your Lordship had put onboard, in their Boat, but all the Dispatches were lost with the Vessel.

This Misfortune is the more to be lamented as we are so long without any authentic Advices from the southern Provinces, and the Master reports that he had received Letters from all the Governors, as well, as from your Lordship and General Clinton; I trust, however, some safe opportunity will soon present itself of sending Duplicates, and that they will be accompanied with the agreeable Information of Lord Cornwallis's arrival, & of the happy Effects of the landing the Troops under his command. I am &ca

Geo: Germain.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353, 749.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN HENRY DAVIS,
H.M.S. *Repulse*, SPITHEAD ¹

Whereas the Transport Vessels, having on board the Two Hessian Regi-

ments named in the Margin ² with 154 Men belonging to the Regiment de Knyphausen and some other Persons under the Orders of Major General [Werner von] Mirbach, may be hourly expected at Spithead, being the remainder of those Troops which were intended to have composed the 1st Embarkation under the command of Lieutenant General Heister And whereas we intend that the Ship you command shall convoy the said Troops to the Place of their destination You are therefore hereby required and directed to hold yourself in constant readiness for sailing, and, the Moment they shall arrive at Spithead, and be in readiness to proceed, you are to take the Transport Vessels having them on board (a List of which will be delivered to you by the agent who has the care of them, and who will be directed to follow your orders) together with any Storeships, Victuallers or other Ships or Vessels bound to North America and ready to sail, which may be at Spithead, and then putting to Sea with the very first opportunity of Wind and Weather, proceed with them down Channel, and when you get twenty Leagues to the Westward of the Lizard, you are to open the inclosed sealed [*] Packet and put in execution the Orders you will find therein contained for your further proceedings. Given &c the 21st May 1776.

J: Buller Lisburne H. Palliser

*vide Secret Order Book

By &c P:S:

By a Messenger next day at ½ p. 10. pm.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 100-01.

2. In the margin: "Regiment de Mirbach Do de Rall."

22 May

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE ¹

My Lord

22nd May 1776

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received a Letter from Sir Stanier Porter Secretary to Lord Weymouth. enclosing an Extract of one which his Lordship received from Sir John Dick dated at Leghorn the 3rd May. 1776 giving an account that he had received Advice from Mr Hardy His Majesty's Consul at Cadiz that the Brigantine *Betsey* (mentioned to your Lordship in my Letter of the 4th inst) had been conducted thither by four Seamen, who disapproving of the Masters Conduct had on his going on shore at Teneriffe, put to Sea with the Vessel and proceeded to Cadiz as abovementioned. I am commanded to acquaint your Lorship, therewith, and have the honor to be [&c.]

P: S.

By the *Repulse*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/552, 62.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD
LORD HOWE ¹

Lord George Germain, one of His Majts principal Secretaries of State, having transmitted to Us a Copy of a Letter which his Lordship had received from Governor Tonyn, dated at St Augustine the 18th of March last, inclosing a Copy of one which His Excellency had receiv'd from Governor Brown, dated at Fort Nassau in New Providence the 4th of that Month, giving an Account, that the 8. armed Vessels therein described, laden with Troops from Philadelphia, had appeared off that Island, that Morning, for the purpose of carrying away by force His Majesty's Powder & Stores; that they had landed 500 Men and were in possession of Fort Montagu; that he expected a Visit from them at Fort Nassau before the next Morning and that finding the disposition of the Inhabitants such as could not be depended upon he had thought proper, with the advice of His Majesty's Council, to ship and send away the Powder to St Augustine, where it arrived on the day of the date of Governor Tonyn's abovemention'd Letter, and we having, since that, received a Letter from Lieut. [William] Grant commanding the *St John* Schooner, dated at St Augustine on the 18th March last, upon the same Subject & inclosing a Copy of a Letter which he had written to Vice Admiral Shuldhham upon the occasion; ² We send your Lordship Copies of all the said Letters for your more particular information and do hereby require & direct you, in case, from the Intelligence your Lordship may have received, it shall appear that the Rebels are in possession of the Bahama Islands, to take such measures as your Lordship shall judge proper to dispossess them; provided the other Services your Lordship may be employed upon will admit of your doing so.

Given &c. 22d May 1776.

J. Buller Palmerston H. Palliser

By &c. PS. By the *Repulse*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 102-03. Similar letter sent to Vice Admiral Gayton on May 23. *Ibid.*, 2/552, 73, 74.
2. The Admiralty also sent copies of Grant's letters to Lord George Germain. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/529, 68.

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1776

London [May 22].

Letters from Lisbon, by Monday's Mail, dated the 26th of April, mention, that the *Neptune*, Collins, from Philadelphia, with Flour, &c. was safe arrived there, and brings an Account of several other Ships loaded at the same Place for foreign Markets.¹

1. The *Neptune* was one of seven vessels freighted by Willing, Morris & Co., under contract with the Secret Committee of Congress, to export provisions and invest the proceeds in arms and ammunition. She was consigned to James Burn, Lisbon merchant.



Henry Temple, Second Viscount Palmerston.

ACCOUNT OF THE SHIP *Clementina* AT LISBON ¹

Dr The Owners of Ship *Clementina* Capt Patrick Brown in Account Curreant with Parsley & Compy. Cr

1776.			1776.	
May 18.	To Cash paid Warners fees	# 480.--	May 18.	By Neat proceeds of Freight
	Bellern port Charges	14# 620.--		made by her from Philadelphia
	Consolage	9# 000.--		Pr Manifest 1847#846.--
	Lisbon Port Charges	57# 418.--		
	Pilot in 4400. Pilot acct	<u>8# 4--.--</u>		
				89#918.--
	To Ship Chandlersstores	Pr Bill		14#885.--
	To Cost & Charges of 170 M Salt	Pr Invoice		266#582.--
	To Cash paid Capt Brown	Pr Receipt		86#500.--
22.	To Ballance hereof remitted to Battier			1389#961.--
	Forselin & Compy of London		R.	<u>1847#846.--</u>
	30 days a 66¼			Lisbon the 22 May 1776.

1. John Ross Invoice Book, 1776-1779, 21, 22, HSP.

MAY 1776

1135

23 May

THE ADDRESS OF GEORGE III IN PROROGUING THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN ¹

[House of Peers May 23, 1776]

My Lords and Gentlemen;

The conclusion of the public business, and the advanced season of the year, make it proper for me to give you some recess; but I cannot put an end to this session without assuring you, that the fresh instances of your affectionate attachment to me, and of your steady attention and adherence to the true interests of your country, which you have shewn throughout the whole course of your important deliberations, afford me the highest satisfaction.

No alteration has happened in the state of foreign affairs since your meeting; and it is with pleasure I inform you, that the assurances which I have received of the dispositions of the several powers in Europe, promise a continuance of the general tranquillity.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

It is with real regret and concern that I found myself under the necessity of asking of my faithful Commons any extraordinary supplies: I thank you for the readiness and dispatch with which they have been granted; and they are the more acceptable to me, as you have shewn, in the manner of raising them, an equal regard to the exigencies of the service, and the ease of my people; and you may be assured, that the confidence you repose in me shall be used with proper frugality, and applied only to the purposes for which it was intended.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

We are engaged in a great national cause, the prosecution of which must inevitably be attended with many difficulties, and much expence: but when we consider the essential rights and interests of the whole empire are deeply concerned in the issue of it, and can have no safety or security but in that constitutional subordination for which we are contending, I am convinced that you will not think any price too high for the preservation of such objects.

I will still entertain a hope that my rebellious subjects may be awakened to a sense of their errors, and that, by a voluntary return to their duty, they will justify me in bringing about the favourite wish of my heart, the restoration of harmony and the re-establishment of order and happiness in every part of my dominions. But if a due submission should not be obtained from such motives and such dispositions on their part, I trust that I shall be able, under the blessings of Providence, to effectuate it by a full exertion of the great force with which you have entrusted me.

1. Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 1365-66. The Parliament was prorogued to August 1, 1776, and was afterwards further prorogued to October 31.

LORD SANDWICH TO GEORGE III ¹

[Extract]

Admiralty May 23, 1776

Lord Sandwich has the pleasure to send to your Majesty the letter just received from Sir James Douglas by which it appears that in all probability the *Repulse* with the two Hessian Regiments will sail tomorrow . . .

The Comptroller of the Navy has just been here, and says that they have advices that ten thousand ton of transports are allready arrived in the Weser, so that it is to be hoped that the second embarkation of Hessians is in great forwardness.

The Navy Board have now 4000 tons of Transports unappropriated, and they are directed allways to keep that stock in hand to answer occasional demands.

It is with particular satisfaction that Lord Sandwich can now observe to your Majesty that this great work of compleating the transports is now brought to a conclusion with less delay and difficulty than might have been apprehended, and that it is to be hoped that whatever more may be wanted in this branch will for the future be easily supplied.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 361-62.

ARTHUR LEE TO CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS ¹

No. 1 [Copy]

London May 23d. 1776

Mr. Hortalez

Be persuaded that Count de — cannot in any manner embarrass you. I pray you to consider in your arrangements at the Cape, "that the want of Tobacco ought not to hinder you from sending out your supplies to the Americans, for Tobacco is so weighty an article that it will greatly impede the sailing of the Ships," and the essential object is to maintain the War.

1. Letters to Secret Committee, &c., 1776, SCHS. These are copies of five letters exchanged between Arthur Lee, using the name Mary Johnstone, and Beaumarchais, addressed as Hortalez, between May 23 and June 26, 1776. Apparently they were prepared for the Secret Committee of Congress in connection with Lee's contention that the supplies from France were to require no payment. The quotation marks seem merely to indicate the pertinent part of the letter.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN NATHANIEL BATEMAN,
H.M.S. *Winchelsea*, SPITHEAD ¹

You are hereby required and directed to put to Sea, with the very first opportunity of Wind & Weather in the Ship you command, and make the best of your way to the Island of Fayal, where you are to take in with all possible dispatch, a sufficient Quantity of Wine for the use of her Company; and then proceed without loss of time, to Jamaica, where you are to deliver the inclosed Pacquet to Vice Admiral Gayton or the Commanding Officer for the time being of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at & about that Island

&c.&c. and follow his Orders for your further proceedings. Given &c. 23d. May 1776.

J. Buller Lisburne H Palliser

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 104.

24 May

PHILIP STEPHENS TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE
ORDNANCE ¹

Gentn

24th May. 1776

Having communicated to my Lords Commrs of the Admty Mr Bodington's Letter of the 14th Instant representing that you have receiv'd His Majesty's Commands for sending Artillery and Stores to Virginia, and that Lord Dunmore having desired to have a very large proportion of Grape and Round Shot for 3 and 4 Pounders for use of the Tenders without Specifying any Numbers, you desire to be informed what number of Tenders may be employed at Virginia; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that the Vessels employed there under that description must have been taken up by Lord Dunmore of which their Lordships have not received any Account, or indeed if they had, cou'd take any Cognizance –

With respect to the Ships and Vessels employed upon the Halifax Station, Their Lordships direct me to acquaint you, that there are no precise Numbers allotted to that Station; but that as Halifax is the Port where all the Ships employed under the Command of Lord Howe must be refitted (except such as he may send to Jamaica and Antigua) they command me to send you the Inclosed Abstract of the Number and Classes of the Ships and Vessels employed under his Lordships Command for your Guidance in sending out Supplies of Ordnance Stores for their Use. I am &c

P. S

An Abstract of the Number and Classes of Ships under the Command of the Rt Hble Lord Visct Howe Vice Adml of the White and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America.

Rate	Guns	Number
3	64	1
4	50	7
5	44	3
	32	15
6	28	14
	24 & 20	12
Sloops		20
Schooners and other small Vessels		18
Bombs		2
Fireship		1

Hospital Ship -----	1
Storeship -----	1

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/552, 80-82.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON,
JAMAICA ¹

The King having been pleased under his Signet & Sign Manual to establish Instructions (bearing date the 2d Day of this Month) for the Commanders of His Ships & Vessels of War in regard to such Captures as shall be made by them, in consequence of an Act lately passed prohibiting all Trade & Commerce with the Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensilvania, the three lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina & Georgia, during the continuance of the present Rebellion with the said Colonies respectively; We send you herewith thirty Printed Copies of His Majesty's said Instructions and do hereby require & direct you to issue the same to the respective Captains and Commanders of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels under your Command, and to direct them to pay the strictest regard & attention thereto.

Given &c. 24th May 1776.²

Sandwich C. Spencer H. Palliser

By &c P.S. by the *Winchelsea*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 106-07.

2. *Ibid.*, 113-14, the same was sent to Vice Admiral James Young on May 25.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LIEUTENANT THOMAS DOD,
H.M. TENDER *Sandwich*, RIVER THAMES.¹

In case, upon your arrival at Shetland, you shall find that there is a greater likelihood of raising Voluntier Seamen & Landmen on shore than on board the Tender you command, You are hereby required & directed, in addition to former Orders, to open a Rendezvous at such Place as you shall think most proper; hiring a convenient Room for that purpose & applying yourself with the utmost diligence to that Service; causing Bills to be printed & stuck up inviting such Voluntiers to repair thereto, and subsisting such as may enter at the rate of nine pence a day each 'til you have an opportunity of putting them on board the Tender; which is to be in full for their Lodging also.

The better to enable you to carry on the Service, you are to take on shore with you one of your Petty Officers & four of the Ten Seamen whom you have been directed to employ; allowing the Petty Officer one Shilling & nine pence a day for his, and the Seamen one Shilling & three pence a day each for their Subsistence; And you are at liberty to charge two Shillings & Nine pence a day for your own subsistence during the time you & they shall be respectively employed on shore as abovementioned; taking care however, not to open a Rendezvous unless you have a good expectation of raising

more Men by so doing than by remaining on board the Tender, and not to continue on shore any longer than you shall find the Success answerable to such expectation; in order that all unnecessary Expence may be avoided.

As the nature of this Service may require some other Disbursements you are to use all possible frugality & good husbandry therein, as no unreasonable or unnecessary Expence will be allowed; And for your better guidance in the matter, you are to observe that your charges for the following Articles must not exceed the Rates against each exprest Vizt

	£.	s.	d.
Rendevous & Lodging rooms P Week	1.	11.	6
Entry Money to each Voluntier		1.	0
Beat of Drum, Fife Playing & all other Petty Charges P Week			10. 0

Stationary Wares, printing, fixing up & dispensing invitation Bills not to exceed £1.10.0 upon coming on Service for the first Month, nor to be more than 7s/6d P Month afterwards.

You are to draw upon the Navy Board for such Money as you shall have occasion for to carry on this Service, And to be very particular in keeping a regular Account of your Disbursements which you are to transmit to that Board Monthly; And, after you are recalled from this Service, you are as soon as possible, to deliver them a full Account of your Disbursements for the time you have been employed making Affidavit in the following form. Vizt

“This Deponent maketh Oath that the Sum charged against each particular Article in the beforegoing Account was expended for the purpose mention'd in such Article & no other.”

You are to transmit to the Navy Board, as well with your Monthly as also with your final Accounts, complete Lists of the Men you raise; shewing the times of their respective entries, as also when, and how, they are disposed of.²

Given &c 24th May 1776.

Sandwich C. Spencer H Palliser

By &c P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 107-10.

2. *Ibid.*, 96-98, this assignment of Lieutenant Dod is given in detail as an example of the extent to which the British Admiralty sought sufficient volunteers to man its expanding Navy. The efforts in and around London were indicated in the April 1, 1776 instructions to Lieutenant Cuthbert Collingwood. In addition, beginning also in April a half dozen lieutenants had been commissioned to tenders with orders to seek “voluntier” seamen and landsmen amidst the shipping in and around the harbors of Bristol, Whitehaven, Cork, Waterford, Dublin and Belfast.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 24 May 1776

The two Battalions of Grenadiers belonging to the first Hessian division and which had remained behind arrived in Portsmouth on the 21st instant. Everything had been ready for a few days in order to provide them

with water and all they might need as soon as they arrived. It will not be long before they sail: ² the North-Easterly winds which have been blowing for the past few weeks are most favorable to leave the Channel. It is believed also that they will hasten the crossing of the troops that left recently with Lord [Richard] Howe.

The Baron of Schliessen told me that the second division was in full march toward Stade. Horses and wagons are continually being loaded in Portsmouth. More transport ships are being chartered, and all the military preparations continue with the greatest activity. We are impatiently awaiting news from Canada which, in all appearance, will become the major theater of the war during this campaign. The uncertainty concerning the fate of Quebec became a matter of bets at the Stock Exchange where they gave up to 50 guineas to one hundred that Quebec fell into the hands of the Americans.

The frigate *Aldborough* coming from the Mediterranean ran aground in Plymouth road on the 19th instant and was almost entirely destroyed.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. See instructions to Captain Henry Davis, of H.M.S. *Repulse*, May 21, 1776, to take the Hessians under convoy, PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 100, 101.

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

Paris – Friday 24 May 1776

I have arrived, very tired, very harassed.² My first care is to ask your orders, and at what hour you will be good enough to give me an audience. It is three o'clock in the morning. My black servant will be at Versailles at your hour of rising. He will be back in time for mine, and I hope that he will bring me the news which I await with the greatest impatience; that is, permission to come and assure you of the very respectful devotion with which I am, Monsieur le Comte [&c.]

Beaumarchais

I sign, for I am so tired that perhaps you will not recognize my writing.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 871.

2. Beaumarchais had been in London discussing the arrangements with Arthur Lee for secret assistance to America through the grant of one million livres from the French Court. Out of these conferences came the still unanswered question. Was it a gift or was reimbursement expected? See Samuel Flagg Bemis, *The Diplomacy of the American Revolution* (New York, 1935), 35.

25 May

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG, ANTIGUA ¹

Sir

25th May 1776

Captn Chapman of His Majesty's Sloop *The Shark* (by whom you will receive this) being directed to deliver to you the several Packets from Lord George Germain, One of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, for the Governors & Commanders in Chief of His Majesty's-Islands within the Limits of your Command, against their Names Expressed on the otherside

Lon. Mag

Bribery

Lon. Mag. 1776



England

The BLESSED Effects of VENALITY. ^{Holland} Pub. ^{as by Oct divorca} May 1, 1776

Spain France

hereof; I am commanded by my Lords Commrs of the Admty to signify their directions to you to forward the said Packets agreeable to their respective addresses by the first Opportunities that may offer after you receive them. I am &c

P. S.

By the *Shark* at Plymouth

Honble Edwd Hay	_____ at Barbadoes	_____ 2 Packets
Craister Greathead Esqr	_____ Leeward Islands	_____ 1
Valentine Morris Esqr	_____ St Vincent	_____ 2
Rt Honble. Sr Geo: Macartney	_____ Grenades	_____ 1
Tomas Shirley Esqr	_____ Dominica	_____ 1

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/552, 82.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE ¹

Versailles, 25 May 1776

I have the honor, Sir, to send you a copy of the note in which M.de St Paul, Minister plenipotentiary of His British Majesty, denounces the expedition of several ships loaded with gunpowder suspected to be destined for the English Colonies; ² since you know as well as I do the King's intentions with respect to the subject matter of the protest from the Court of London, I can only rely upon the orders which you will deem proper to give accordingly.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. See note from Horace St. Paul, May 20, 1776.

BARBEU DUBOURG TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

Monseigneur

[Paris, May 25] 1776 ²

The absolute impossibility of procuring, by any other means, good arms for the defence of our friends, compels me to implore your powerful protection. I most urgently beg you to intercede on their behalf with the Count de St Germain, in order to obtain the favour which the Sire de la Tuillerie requests, ³ – to come to their assistance in so critical and so pressing a conjuncture. I have the honour to send his memoire herewith.

If I was not afraid of abusing your goodness, I would beg you also to ask the same minister for a licence to travel, for 3 or 4 years, for the Sire de Boisbertrand, ⁴ whose courage and zeal will ever lead him in the path of honour.

I am, with the most profound respect, Monseigneur [&c.]

Barbeau Dubourg

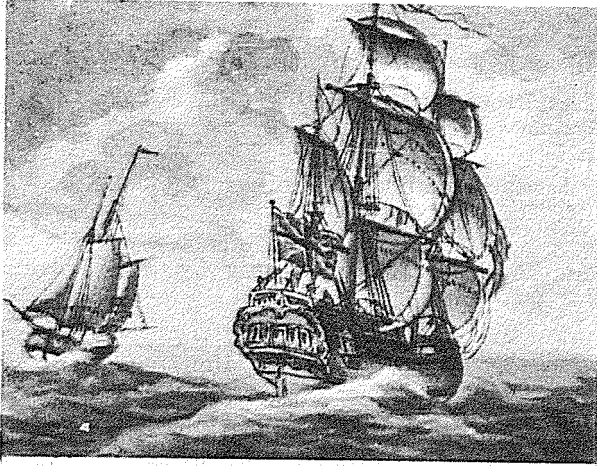
These fifteen thousand muskets will be drawn from the magazines of Lyons, or others equally far from the sea, and will come down the Loire well packed. At Nantes they will be stored in magazines outside the town and finally embarked without making the slightest extraordinary sensation.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 567.

2. The letter was endorsed by Vergennes "without date as to month." Stevens cited Doniol's *Histoire de la Participation de la France à l'établissement des États Unis d'Amérique*, I,

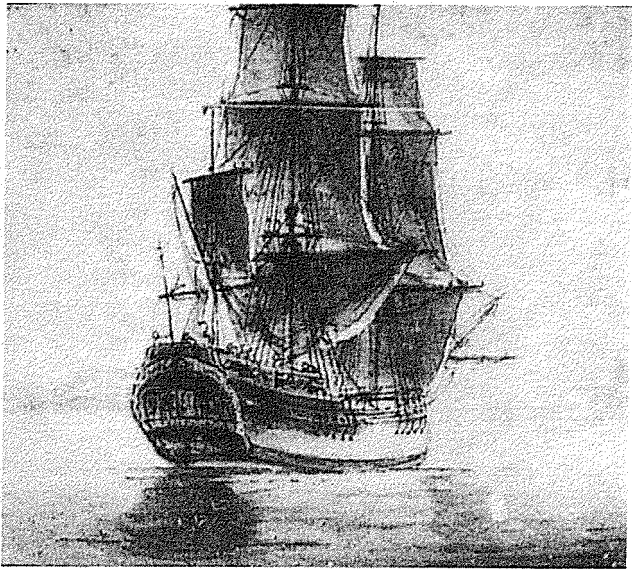
508, as dating it the end of June. The May 25 date is more likely. The contract of sale for the fifteen thousand muskets between de la Tuillerie and Penet & Pliarne is dated June 1, 1776, and could only have been negotiated after the former's memoir to Vergennes had been approved. And on June 12, 1776, Dubourg wrote Franklin that "The first part of those muskets is already on the route to Nantes."

3. M. de la Tuillerie, a manufacturer of arms, whose memoir promised to replace the fifteen thousand within a year.
4. In his letter to Franklin of June 12, Dubourg states that he was providing passage only to Boisbertrand, "a youth full of honour, courage & zeal." This statement also eliminates the end of June as the date of the letter.



AMERICAN THEATRE

From April 18, 1776, to May 8, 1776



AMERICAN THEATRE

From April 18, 1776, to May 8, 1776

SUMMARY

Toward the end of April 1776, the war in America was at a pause – a lull before the storm. Admiral Shulldham had arrived at Halifax with Howe's dispirited army. The Massachusetts authorities were cleaning up the debris and appraising the damage wrought by the British before their departure from Boston. The siege of Quebec was at a stalemate. Commodore Hopkins' fleet lay in New London, its crews decimated by sickness, and about to seek a safer haven in the Providence River. Privateering, voted by the Continental Congress, had been too recently authorized to show results as yet. General Washington, at New York, was preparing defenses to receive the enemy attack, which he wisely anticipated. On the British side, General Sir Henry Clinton, off Cape Fear, impatiently awaited the arrival of the long expected fleet under Sir Peter Parker, and Lord Cornwallis' five thousand men, for the proposed invasion of North Carolina. There had been a few naval actions; John Barry's capture of the sloop *Edward*, and Captain James Nicholson's brush with the sloop *Otter* in the upper Chesapeake Bay. British frigates continued reaping a rich reward among the unarmed merchant vessels carrying the produce of the Colonies to Europe and the West Indies in exchange for war supplies. Thirteen frigates on the stocks, from Portsmouth to Baltimore, were yet to be launched, and desperate but largely futile efforts were being made to cast their guns. From Maine to Georgia a determined people awaited the opening of the spring campaign.

18 Apr.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹*Chatham* in Halifax Harbour, 18th April 1776.

Sir, General Howe having thought proper to send three Transports with a Re-inforcement of the 47th Regt to General Carleton at Quebec, and having made application to me for a Convoy to conduct them thither, I am to inform you that I have Ordered Captain [George] Talbot of the *Niger* to take the said Transports under his care, and proceed with them accordingly. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

[Endorsed] 18 Apl 1776 Halifax V.A.Shuldham R 6 June

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL'S NARRATIVE OF PAROLE EXTENDED
GOVERNOR MONTFORT BROWNE ¹

[Lebanon, April 18, 1776]

His Excellency Govr Brown of New Providence, came with Coll Stewart on Wednesday the 17th instant – the Governor desired to know whether he was considered a Prisoner – if so what was his Crime? – I shewed him Admiral Hopkins's Letter – & informed him that it is my duty to hold him in the same Character the Commander in Chief of the Continental Fleet delivered him, and could not recede from it – I desired him to sign the Parole prepared, he would meet kind treatment according to his rank and quality – Many things were said – the next Morning I offered Govr Brown the foregoing Parole to Sign ² – He declined it as being dishonorable – He offered to conform to my Orders and Directions – He would do what I ordered – I recited the Parole He said – upon the Honor of a Govr and a Gentleman he gave his Parole to abide at Windham & Conform to the things mentione[d] until I received the order and direction of Congress – being informed of my being absent at the Assembly he must abide such time as was convenient for me – to this he complied – He had wished me to write to the Congress, for their Opinion – I desired him to give the particulars to be communicated – I would comply with his request – He further mentioned his bodily indisposition – his baggage being at New London, and several things doing for him there – which made it convenient for him to return to that place, which was consented to on his Parole, to return to Windham Wednesday or Thursday of Next week.

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, V, 393a, 393b, ConnSL.

2. *Ibid.*, 393a, preceding the narrative, Governor Trumbull had appended the parole Browne had refused to sign. It read:

I Montfort Brown Esqr Governor of New Providence, A Prisoner in the Power of the Governor and Council of Safety for the Colony of Connecticut, being delivered to them by the Commander in Chief of the Fleet of the United Colonies in America having been kindly treated and Protected by them and enlarged On Parole –

Do hereby Solemnly promise and engage on the Honor of a Gentleman – that I will not bear Arms against the American Colonies in any Manner Whatever for the Space of twelve Months or until I may be exchanged – nor during that Time take any Measures to give intelligence to the British Ministry or Ministerial Army or Navy – Or to any Person or persons whatsoever relative to the American Affairs – but will proceed with all convenient Speed to the Town of Windham in this Colony and peaceably abide within the limits of said Town ship – and submit myself to the further Directions of the said Governor and his Council of Safety. – That I will not directly or indirectly Attempt to procure any Person or persons to rescue me – and that I will not go on [board] any British Ship of War during the Continuance of my Engagements not to bear Arms –
 Colony of Connecticut
 Lebanon 18th April 1776

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD ¹

Sir:

New York, April 18, 1776.

I received your Favour of the 11th. Inst In Answer to Colonel [John] Glover's Application to you, I am of Opinion, that all Accounts respecting the armed Vessels should be paid by the Agents only; and as the Trial of the Prizes cannot be much longer deferr'd, they will have Cash, for the Goods which may be condemned, in their Hands much more than sufficient to answer the Demands upon them. If there is not a Probability of this, you will be pleased to give a Warrant for as much as will pay the Wages due.

The Ship *Jenny* and the Brigantine [*Little Hannah*] both taken by Commodore Manley, the former from London, the latter from Antigua, bound to Boston; are by what I can learn proper Vessels to be fitted out as Cruizers. You will, therefore, Sir, have a Person of Knowledge and Trust sent on Board to examine them. If the Report of them is such as they have been represented to me, you must have them purchased for Account of the United Colonies.

If Commodore Manley is in your Neighbourhood his Opinion of them must have Weight, and if they are fit for the Purpose, he will of Course, have his Choice of them & attend the fixing one of them out. His first Lieutenant can command the *Hancock* in the mean Time. The sooner this is put in Execution the better.

Nothing material to inform you of from hence. I am, &c.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 490.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety New York April 18th 1776 –

Whereas the provincial Congress of this Colony by their Order of the 18th of february last did forbid all Communication between the Ships of War in the Port of New York and the Ship in which Governor Tryon resides on the one part and all the Inhabitants of the Colony on the other except for supplies of necessary Provisions for the use of the said Ships only, under certain restrictions therein mentiond

And Whereas the said Congress on the 8th day of March last did resolve and order further Regulations for furnishing such Supplies as aforesaid upon express proviso however; that the said Supplies were to take place and be continued on Condition, that there should be no Obstruction given to any Boats or Vessels bringing Provisions, Provender or fire Wood to this City; which Obstruction has nevertheless been repeatedly given and the benefit of such Supplies are thereby become forfeited:

And Whereas the said Congress by a Resolve of the 15th of March last did among other Things authorize this Committee to execute or cause to be executed, Orders, Resolves and recommendations as well of the Continental as of the said Provincial Congress and also to comply as far as this Committee shall think proper, with any requisition by the Generals of the Continental forces or any or either of them.

And Whereas his Excellency General Washington has in writing signified to this Committee that he conceives any intercourse whatsoever with the Enemies on board the said Ships is injurious to the common Cause, by enabling them, while they are furnished with provisions, to continue in our Harbours, and maintain a regular Channel of Intelligence advancive of their own Plans, and to our great disadvantage and injury And has thereby requested our Assistance in putting a stop to this Evil and to cooperate with him in such Measures as shall be effectual either to prevent any future Correspondence with the Enemy, or in bringing to condign Punishment such Persons as may be hardy and wicked enough to carry it on. It is therefore Resolved & Ordered that no Inhabitant of this Colony upon any pretence or for any purpose whatsoever either in Person or in writing directly or indirectly do presume to have or maintain any Intercourse whatsoever with any Ship or Vessel belonging to or employed in the service of the King of great Britain or any of his Officers or Ministers, or with any Person or Persons on board of the same upon pain of being dealt with in the severest Manner as Enemies to the Rights and Liberties of the united North American Colonies.

Resolved and Ordered that his Excellency General Washington be furnished with a Copy of this and the foregoing Order and Resolve and be assured that this Committee will cooperate with him in the execution of the same and any other Measure which may be judged by this Committee to be advancive of the salutary purposes of his Requisition.

Resolved and Ordered that a Copy of the two foregoing Resolves & Orders be immediately published in hand-Bills and in all the public News Papers of this Colony

A true Copy from the Minutes

Rob^t Benson Secy

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Jovis, A.M.

April 18th, 1776.

Messrs. [Abraham] Vanzandt and [Thomas] Randall, of the marine committee, informed the Committee of Safety that the pilot boat, the *Hamden*, belonging to the Provincial Congress of this Colony is at Philadelphia, in the Colony of Pennsylvania; that she can not, with safety, be brought from thence; and that it is their opinion that the said vessel should be sold.

Mr. Van Zandt further informed the Committee that a small quantity of goods which arrived in the said sloop *Hamden*, and belong to the Colony, are in his custody: Thereupon,

Ordered, That the marine committee appointed by the Provincial Congress of this Colony sell the said sloop at Philadelphia, and pay the amount of the sales to the Treasurer of the Provincial Congress of this Colony. And,

Ordered farther, That the said marine committee do sell and dispose of the said goods and merchandise which were imported in the said sloop, and pay the amount of the sales thereof to the said Treasurer; and that they deliver in to the Provincial Congress, or Committee of Safety, an account of the amount of the sales of the said sloop and goods.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 413.

LORD STIRLING TO WILLIAM PAULDING ¹

Sir –

New-York, April 18th, 1776.

Thomas Vernon was some time since made prisoner on the evidence of one Craig; a copy of which I now enclose you, and I think was then examined by the Committee of Safety. The General desires me to transmit to you the enclosed letter from Vernon,² and request that the Committee would make such further inquiry into the matter as will enable them to determine whether it be worth while to keep him any longer prisoner, or not. I am sir, [&c.]

Stirling.

[Enclosure]

Craig, lately a soldier in the first regiment of Yorkers, declared that he was employed by one Vernom, a hatter, of this city, to rig out a sloop, the said Vernon had lately purchased by order of Governor Tryon, to be employed by the Governor as a tender or cutter, and occasionally to cruise in the North and East rivers: that the said Vernom was to be supplied by the said Governor with swivels for the said sloop; and that the said Craig went on board with the said Vernom of the *Dutchess of Gordon*, and there conversed with the Governor and the Attorney-Generals Kemper and Skinner, who urged him to be active in procuring as many men as possible, not only for the said sloop, but for the *Asia*, and other men of war soon expected

here; that about 50 or 60 soldiers now in town in the Continental service were engaged by the said Vernom for the service of the Ministry.

March 12, 1776

1. *New York Provincial Congress, II, 188-89.*
2. Of April 17, 1776.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH ¹

[Haverstraw] 18 April 1776

I recd a Summons to Council of the 11th but learnt that the Communication with the Ships was totally cut off by an Order from General Putman [*sic*] who had arrived in Town with Troops from Boston and afterwards by my Brother that no Council was held & I therefore conclude that the Assembly for want of a Prorogation 17 Inst is dissolved – He tells me that [Samuell] Bayard the Clerk of the Council was importunate with the Congress for Leave to go on Board with the Writ for deferring the Session – that [Alexander] McDougal pressed hard for it. That [John Morin] Scott was vehement in the Opposition and carried every Voice except McDougals. And upon this the Ships quitted the Harbour & fell down below the Narrows.

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith, 270.*

New-York Journal, THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1776

New-York, April 18.

The *Roebuck* man of war was at the Capes of Delaware last Friday week; put to sea that day, returned the next, with a schooner commanded by Seymour Hood, from North-Carolina, for Philadelphia: – They took 30 barrels of naval stores out of the schooner, then scuttled her, and gave the boat to the crew to go ashore in.¹

1. "Sally, Seymour Hood, master; E. Bachelor, owner; from Ocaisock [Ocracoke], North Carolina, to Philadelphia; with tar and turpentine; destroyed off Cape Hinlopen," Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix*, CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR.¹

April 1776

Moor'd off Sandy Hook The Light House EBN
Distance 1 Mile

Thursday 18th AM came in & Acnhd here the Brigg *Amazone*² from Guardalupe nothing in but Ballast, Sent in by the *Shulldham* Tender.

PM compleated our Water Cleard Hawse, employed Watering the Tender and Prizes³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.
2. The brig *Amazon*, John Clark, master, from Guadeloupe, "Said to be bound to Saint Peter[s]." She was sent to Halifax, Shulldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
3. *Ibid.*, two other prizes not mentioned in the journal are included at that time in the same list; the sloop *Diana*, Jonathan Haddon, master and owner, from Barnegat to Amboy, with a cargo of cedar rails; and the sloop *Industry*, William Roach, master, and James Wells, owner, bound from Barnegat to Stonington, Connecticut, with lumber. The *Diana* was listed as taken April 15, and the *Industry*, April 17, 1776. Both were sent to Halifax.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, April 18, 1776

A letter from General Washington of the 15th . . .

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of three;

The members chosen, Mr. [George] Read, Mr. [George] Clinton, and Mr. [Carter] Braxton.

A letter from Elizabeth Seymour, widow of the late master of the *Ca-bot*, was presented to Congress, and read:*Resolved*, That the same be referred to the Marine Committee.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Timothy Shalor for expences in bringing prisoners from Egg Harbour, the sum of £ 14.1.1 – 37.5 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.The Marine Committee having recommended gentlemen for captains of the *Hornet* and *Wasp*, the Congress proceeded to an election, and the ballots being taken, and examined,Mr. [William] Hallock was elected captain of the *Hornet*; and,[Charles] Alexander captain of the *Wasp*.²1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 291–93.2. Hallock had formerly commanded the *Wasp*, and Alexander was elected from the Pennsylvania fleet.PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO CAPE MAY COMMITTEE ¹

[Philadelphia] In Committee of Safety

April 18th, 1776

Gentlemen Your resolve of the 6th Instant has been laid before this board by Mr Thomas Leaming junr complaining of the practice of Pilots from this port boarding inward bound Vessels, for which we cannot account as it is not only contrary to the best regulations in our power, but also very improbable, as we do not suffer them to take their pilot boats with them and it is very unlikely they should accomplish such a design by means of a Skiff therefore we apprehend you must be misinformed by your Pilots as an Apology for infringing on the General Regulations, however this board sensible of the danger of such a practice to the safety of the Navigation of this river as set forth in your resolve, and desirous to guard against such a practice, request that you will use your best Endeavours to detect any delinquent and upon conviction we will cheerfully pay the Expence attending it.

1. HM 1579, HUL.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Special Meeting of the Committee on Thursday Morning 18 April 1776

Lieutenant [David] Plunket returned from Philadelphia, & brought a Letter from the President of the Continental Congress to this Committee, of which the following is a Copy –

[Here is inserted Hancock's letter of April 16, 1776, and the resolution of April 15 of the Continental Congress.]

Agreeable to the Intimation contained in the Resolution of Congress respecting Mr Alexander Ross & his Papers, Messrs Thomas Harrison, Benjamin Nicholson, & John Smith were ordered to enquire for, and secure said Ross's Papers, which they accordingly did, and report, that Mr Grant informed them, the said Papers were deposited in a Closet in his House, which he shewed to them, and which these Gentlemen then sealed up without seeing or examining said Papers –

A Copy of said Resolution was also sent to the Committee of Frederick County by the Post –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER, TO GOVERNOR ROBERT EDEN ¹

Sir In Times of public Distress and Convulsion when a free People are threatened with a deprivation of their civil Liberty, Exertions for its Preservation influenced by its purest Principles, and conducted with all possible Attention to Form and Ceremony we hope will not be considered, as an Indignity or Insult to any Rank or Station in the Community. The Proceedings, which your Excellency reprehends in your Letter addressed to Chs Carroll, John Hall & Wm Paca Esqrs and communicated by them to our Board, arose from an Impression, that we, who are entrusted with the public Safety, should pursue with Vigilance every effectual Measure, tho' the Danger to be guarded against, may rest only in Possibility. The intercepted Letters from Administration to your Excellency,² we own, furnish grounds for conjecture, and Apprehension only of your having held an injurious Correspondence; and whilst we reflect on the general Tenor of your Excellency's Conduct, the friendly Disposition you have often manifested and the several favourable and impartial Represen[tat]ions you have made to Administration of the Temper, and Principles of the People of this Province, we sincerely lament the Necessity of the Times, which urging us to guard against every Possibility of Danger, forced us to a Measure disagreeable to [us], and which may prove an unmerited Treatment of your Excellency. – We acknowledge, Sir we know of no Information you have given Administration countenancing or encouraging the Introduction of Troops into this Province: nor do we know of any measures whatever to have been concerted, or pursued by your Excellency injurious to this Province or America.

We thank your Excellency for your Resolution of continuing in your Station, as long as permitted, or the ostensible Form of the established Government can contribute to preserve the Peace of the Province, and we cheerfully acquiesce in your Excellency's Assurance, that as the Convention is shortly to meet, they shall find you here. As far as our Influence extends with that respectable Body, it shall not be wanting to remove every Obstruction to your peaceable Departure, whenever your Excellency's Continuance here shall become inconsistent with your Instructions, or your private Affairs shall demand your Return.

With ardent Wishes for a speedy Reconciliation upon honorable and constitutional Terms, We have the Honour to be [&c.]

Charles Carroll, V.P.³

[Annapolis] 18th Apl. 1776.—

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.
2. See Volume 3, 444 and 446.
3. Governor Eden's explanation to his Royal Council, June 7, 1776, reads:

Afterwards, the gentlemen waited on his Excellency, with Mr. Hancock's Letter and the Resolve of the Congress . . . Mr. Hancock's letter, accompanying and enforcing the said earnest request, was to the same amount; but the Governor not being favoured with copies of the letter or resolve, which he wished to have had, can only communicate this from memory.

The gentlemen then told his Excellency that the Virginia and Baltimore proceedings had been such towards them, that they looked on them to be at the bottom of this; that they were satisfied with what he had said, and in that reliance declined complying with the said resolve, intending to write fully to the Congress thereon. His Excellency gave them thanks for their good opinion of him, hoping they would not have any cause to repent it.

Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, VI, 735.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

No 123.

Sir

[Annapolis] April 18th 1776

Your Letter ² enclosing the Resolves of Congress was this Day delivered to us: we were furnished with the intercepted Letters some Time before the Receipt of yours, & had taken such Measures, as in our Judgment were competent to the Occasion. To dissolve the Government & subvert the Constitution by the Seizure & Imprisonment of the Governor, we conceived to be a Measure of too much Delicacy and Magnitude to be adopted without calling & consulting the Convention of the Province: we saw no Necessity urging us to such an Extreme, and were therefore determined not to expose the Province to immediate Anarchy and Convulsion, if an Assurance could be obtained from the Governor, that he would not depart before our Convention met to decide upon this important Business — He cheerfully gave us this Assurance and that we feel no apprehensions of Danger from him. Under those Circumstances we cannot comply with the Request of Congress in any other Manner than we have done, and flatter ourselves they will rest satisfied and consider us excusable.

We have apprehended Mr. Ross and shall keep him in Custody and examine him fully.³

Permit us, Sir, to assure you that we are determined to maintain the Rights and Liberties of this Country at every Hazard of Life and Property, and will vigorously pursue every Measure which the defence of America shall require.

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

2. See Hancock to Maryland Council of Safety, April 16.

3. This date Colonel William Smallwood notified the Council of Safety: "Colonel [Peter] Adams yesterday morning took Alexander Ross at Chester Town." Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 352, 353.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Syren*, CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX ¹

April 1776 [Cape Fear River] Fort Johns[t]on N N Wt
 Thursday 18th AM: at 2 fired 2 Guns & made the Sigl for unmooring at
 1/2 past weighed & came to Sail in Co the *Mercury* & two
 Tenders, at 7 saw a Sail in the Offing, at 11 spoke the *Anna*
Issabella Transpt with part of the 57th Regt sent a Pilot
 on board of her & the *Cruizers* Tender to see her in,² at
 Noon the *Mercury* & Tender in Co
 Cape Fear NNE 1/2 E Oak Island N 1/2 Wt 3 Leagues
 Light breezes & Cloudy with Thunder, Lightning & heavy
 Rain - P:M at 4 Cape Fear NEt 15 Lgs, at 6 Singl Reef
 TSlS at 8 shortned Sail for the *Mercury*, at 10 dble Reef
 TSlS

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

2. First of Sir Peter Parker's vessels to arrive.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Scorpion*, CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE ¹

April 1776 Moor'd off Brunswick in Cape Fear River No Caro-
 lina.
 Tuesday 16 Fresh breezes and fair. Fir'd at a Mark. fir'd a Six poundr
 & several Musquets at the Rebels
 Wednesday 17 Modr & Cloudy Fir'd 2 Six poundrs at the Rebels
 Thursday 18 Fir'd a Six poundr at the Rebels.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Bristol at Sea the 18h April 1776

Latt: 22° 50' No Longt: 60° 00' Wt from London

Sir Since my last Letter of the 7th past, by the *Cleveland* Brig, nothing
 material has happen'd; the Wind sprung up fair within a few hours after I
 wrote and continued 'till we got into the Trade, when it fell almost Calm,
 and we have had ever since only light Airs and mostly at No Wt which I
 never met with before, in these Latitudes. The *Actaeon* join'd us the 4t
 instt with two Ships of the Convoy, so that we are now Eighteen sail, includ-
 ing the three Men of War - I send this by the *Betty* Brig, Jos Brice Masr
 from Barbadoes to Londonderry, she saild from Barbadoes the 6h
 instt they have not had any account for some time past from America, he
 says that Capt [William] Garnier has taken four or five Prizes, two or three
 of them are Dutch Vessels. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

LORD CHARLES CORNWALLIS TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

On Board the *Bristol* April 18th 1776

Latt: 22:50 North Long: 60:00 West from London

My Lord I have nothing to inform Your Lordship of but that our passage

has been very tedious, & that we are still about 370 leagues from our rendezvous at Cape Fear; we have with us twenty Company's besides two Artillery ships & four Victuallers. I hope the rest of the Fleet will not be long after us; I hope your Lordship received my letter of the 7th of March; This goes by a ship bound to Londonderry. The troops are in general healthy, I most heartily wish that I could be a more agreeable correspondent, & am with great regard Your Lordships [&c.]

Cornwallis

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93, 865-66.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Porcupine*, LIEUTENANT FRANCIS MONTAIS ¹

April 1776

[Off Jamaica]

Thursday 18 at 8 Am East end Jam[aic]a N $\frac{1}{2}$ W. 4 Leagues at noon Et end do WNW 2 Leagues saw a sail in the N.E gave chase to do

Modt Breezes & clear Wr at 1 Pm fired a Shot at the Chace brought too & hoisted out Boat & sent her onboard the Sloop $\frac{1}{2}$ past the Boat ret[urne]d with the Master & Men belong[in]g to her Do sent a Petty Officer with 3 Men to take possession of the Sloop as belonging to Philadelphia ² at 2 the Boat retd hoisted her in & bore away for Port Royal with the Prize in Company at 6 the east end of Jamaica N $\frac{1}{2}$ E 4 or 5 Leagues.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4293.

2. Probably the schooner *Friends Adventure*, — Ross, master, with a cargo of shingles, Gayton's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

19 Apr.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Chatham Halifax Harbour 19th April 1776.

I am sorry to acquaint you that yesterday Captain Howe arrived here very unexpectedly in His Majesty's Ship *Glasgow* having on the 6th Instant off Rhode Island fallen in with and been attack'd by several Armed Vessels of the Rebels, in which Action she received so much damage that she was thought unfit to proceed on the execution of the Orders Captain Howe had received for carrying General [William] Howe's and my Dispatches to the Southward, which were unluckily thrown into the Sea; Herewith I transmit to you a Copy of Captain Howes Account of that Action together with a Copy of Captian Wallaces Letter to me on the Same subject, and as I find the *Glasgow* is in so shattered a Condition, and would require so much time, and more Stores than there is in this Yard to put her into proper repair, I intend sending her to Plymouth as soon as she can be got ready. I am [&c.]

M: Shuldhham

[Endorsed] 19 Apl 1776 Halifax V.A. Shuldhham R 6 June (2 Inclosures)

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

From several Remarks and Informations, the following is the State of the Rebel Armed Vessels which attacked the Glasgow
 of the 27th Feb^r 1862.

Ship or Vessels Name	Commanders Name	Number of Guns and Men						On what Deck	Men in each	Remarks
		Guns								
		Pounders								
		32	24	18	9	6	Swivel			
Alfred	Hopkins	"	"	"	{ 20	10	"	Lower upper	220 Including 60 Marines	A figure head and Yellow Sides, her lower Deck Ports not at the eighteen inches from the Water. Mizen T. G. sail.
Columbus	Whipple	"	"	"	{ 18	10	"	Ditto	220 Including 60 Marines	Black sides without a head. Mizen Sep. G. sail.
Annadonay Brig	Biddle	"	"	"	"	16	12	Upper	130 Including 30 Marines	Black sides without a head.
Cabinet Brig Capt.	Hopkins Jun.	"	"	"	"	11	12	Ditto	120 Including 30 Marines	A small white figure head, and yellow sides with hanging Ports.
Providence Sloop	Hazard	"	"	"	"	12	10	Ditto	90 Including 28 Marines	Black Sloop without a head.

"LIST OF THE REBEL FRIGATES &C THAT ATTACK'D THE *Glasgow*"¹

From several Remarks and Informations, the following is the State of the Rebel Armed Vessels which attacked the *Glasgow*
off Rhode Island 6th April 1776

Ship or Vessels Name	Commanders Name	Number of Guns and Men					On what Deck	Men in each	Remarks	
		Guns								
		32	24	18	9	6				Swivels
<i>Alfred</i>	Hopkins	"	"	"	{ 20	"	"	Lower Upper	220 Including 60 Marines	} A Figure head and Yellow Sides, her lower Deck Ports not above eighteen Inches from the Water, Mizen T. G. Sail.
					" 10	"				
<i>Columbus</i>	Whipple	"	"	"	{ 18	"	"	" Ditto	220 Including 60 Marines	} Black sides without a head, Mizen Top Gt Sail.
					" 10	"				
<i>Annadona</i> Brig ²	Biddle	"	"	"	"	16	12	Upper	130 Including 30 Marines	} Black sides without a head.
<i>Cabinet</i> Brig ³	Hopkins Junr	"	"	"	"	14	12	Ditto	120 Including 30 Marines	} A small white Figure head and Yellow Sides with hanging Ports.
<i>Cabot</i> <i>Providence</i> Sloop	Hazard	"	"	"	"	12	10	Ditto	90 Including 28 Marines	} Black Sloop without a head.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484, enclosed in Shuldham to Stephens, April 19.

2. *Andrew Doria*.

3. *Cabot*.

TRIAL OF SUNDRY GOODS SEIZED ON BOARD THE SCHOONER *Tartar*¹

Cause

Thomas Bishop Esqr Commander of his Majestys Ship *Lively*

VS

Sundry Goods seiz'd on Board the Schooner *Tartar*²

Thursday 15th April 1776	}	Libel filed and entred—15th April Order made thereon as on file; Court to set for the Preparatory examination on Friday 19th April 12 o'Clock—
Friday 19th April 1776	}	Court open'd as usual— The Judge was Pleas'd to Order that the Preparatory examination in this Cause should be taken before the Register, and then Order'd the Court to be adjourn'd untill Wednesday the 24 Instant.—to which day the Court was adjourned accordingly, at 12 o'clock Deposition taken as follows. Wyndham Bryer being duly Sworn deposeth that he was on Board the <i>Lively</i> a Midshipman, that in February last near Cape Ann in New England Captain Bishop siez'd the Schooner <i>Tartar</i> and carried her into Boston. ³ That they found on Board about two Hogsheads one Tierce and Thirteen Barrels Sugar nine Hogshed, and one Barrel of Coffee and six Hogsheads of Cocoa Nutts all which are now in the Harbour of Halifax, is not positively certain as to the exact number of Casks—

Wyndham Bryer.

19th April 1776 —	}	Sworn before me Charles Morris junr Regr
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1. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769–1777, N.S. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, the cargo was declared a lawful prize and awarded to the captors May 4, 1776.3. The *Tartar* was taken February 19, 1776, see journal of the *Lively* that date.PETITION OF JAMES JORDAN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT¹

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay	}	To the Honl the Council, and the Honl the House of Representatives in General Court, assembled at Watertown. April 1776. —
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The Petition of James Jordan humbly shews —

That on the Twenty eighth Day of June last being then Master of the Sloop *Sally*, and riding at Anchor in the Harbour of Cape-Ann was suddenly attacked by an armed Tender belonging to the British navy under the Command of Capt [George] Dawson, taken & carried with his said Sloop into Boston, where he was detained as a Prisoner untill he found means to effect his Escape. Since which, the said Sloop has been taken up by a number of the Tories & Enemies to America to transport them & their Effects from Boston to Hallifax, but in the course of their Voyage they were fortunately drove ashore on Cape Cod where the said Sloop was stranded. — The Persons,

who secured and Captured the said Sloop have informed your Memorialist, that they do not intend to Libel the same in the Admiralty, & they are willing the same should be returned to the rightful owner thereof, as appears by the Certificate herewith exhibited. – The said Sloop belongs to David Pearce of Gloucester who has impowered your Memorialist to make this application to your Honors – Your Petitioner therefore in behalf of the said David Pearce prays your Honors, that the remnant of the said Vessel Sails & the rigging & any other thing belonging to the sd Vessel may be ordered by this Honbl Court to be delivered to him he paying the necessary Charges which have accrued for the taking care of the said Articles & other incidental Expences – And as in Duty bound shall ever pray –

James Jordan Attorney to David Pearce

[Enclosure]

Provence Town April the 19th 1776

This is to Certify all Persons to Whome It may Concern that James Jordan hath appeared and Layd Claim to the Sloop that is Now on Shore here and hath Given Marks Suficient to Prove her To be the Sloop he was taking and Carried to Boston the 28th of June Last Which is the Property of Capt David Pearse of Gloucester the Sloop Sail'd from Boston With the Fleet, Commanded By Capt Cammell or Jollay Allen.

Nehemiah Nickerson
Select Man
Stephen Atwood

[Endorsements]

The Committee for taking under Consideration the within Petition Beg leave to Report by way of Resolve
In the House of Representatives Novr 14th 1776.

Resolved that the Select Men of Province Town be and hereby are Directed to Deliver the said David Pearce the Remnant of the Sloop *Sally* (within mentioned) consisting of Sails, Rigging &c He paying the necessary Charges that have arisen or may Arise by taking Care of the same.

Sent up for Concurrence
J Warren Spkr

In Council Novr 15. 1776
Read & Concurr'd

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 108–10. The reason why about six months elapsed before action was taken upon the petition is left unexplained. Presumably it was mislaid in the moving of the General Court from Watertown to Boston.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Friday, April 19, 1776

The House made choice of Richard Weldon as Captain of armed Brigantine building at Dartmouth, for the service of this Colony.

In Council: Read and concurred.

Ordered, That Captain [John] Fisk be appointed to take the command of the armed Sloop building at Salisbury, by Mr. [Richard] Derby and Captain [Samuel] Batchelder, for the service of this Colony.

The committee appointed to report suitable names for the five armed Vessels now building by this Colony, reported; That the Brigantine building at Kingston be called the *Independence*; that the Brigantine building at Dartmouth be called the *Rising Empire*; that the sloop building at Salisbury be called the *Tyrannicide*; that one of the Sloops building at Swansea be called the *Republic*, and the other the *Freedom*.

Read, and concurred.

The Committee appointed to examine sundry Persons taken on board the Brig *Sally* bound to Hallifax, & sent to the Council by the Committee of Marblehead have attended that service & upon examination find that Dr [Arthur] Spencer is a native of Ireland that he was several years a Surgeon in the Navy, that about three years since he married in Boston where he has resided, untill the removal of the troops when he left Boston with his family in order to proceed to Hallifax for the recovery of Monies due to him from some of the troops & that he was not an associator while in Boston nor has discovered himself to be inimical to the Country – Your Committee also examined [John] Hill who informs your Committee that he is a native of Ireland that he came to New York three or four years since that he came to Boston about ten months ago on the removal of the troops from New York to Boston for the recovery of monies due to him from them and that for the same purpose he was going to Hallifax having acted as a Sutler among the troops. Your Committee are of opinion that the said Doctor Spencer and Hill be liberated on giving their written parole not to bear arms against the United Colonies, nor in any way aid or assist the Enemies of the said Colonies.²

By the House of Representatives: Ordered, That Colonel Grout, Major Goodman, and Mr. Bent, with Benjamin Chadbourn and Joseph Gerrish Esquires, be a Committee to examine Caleb Wheaton and others, lately taken prisoners on board the Brig *Sally* by Captain Manly.³

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34.

2. *Ibid.*, vol. 164, 314, 315 for paroles of Arthur Spencer and John Hill.

3. *Ibid.*, vol. 164, 312 contains examination of Caleb Wheaton and others on board the *Sally*.

BRIG *Georgia Packet* AND SLOOP *Speedwell's* CARGOS¹

[Providence] Apl 19th 1776

Present at Oppening the Hold of the Brig *Georgia Packett* — George Bunner Commr.

Capt George Corlis
 Capt Christophr Ellery
 Capt John Burroughs
 John Jenkins

Judged to be on board Vizt –

Abt: 400 bl flour and Bread a few Boxes Soap
 A small Quantity Caggs of Crackers ²
 8 Small Arms
 5 Bayonetts
 11 Cartouch Boxes
 5 Pistols
 11 Cutlasses
 2 Setts Chaise harnesses
 4 Cart Sadles
 24 Collars and harnes
 2 Chaise horse Collars
 7 Pump Bitts
 1 do Auger
 1 Block makers Knife
 On Board the sloop *Speedwell* Levi Carman Master
 Abt 2500 Bushell Salt
 4 Casks Coffee

1. Admiralty Papers, vol. 9, 1776, R.I. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, a more detailed inventory was taken on April 24.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS
 BIDDLE ¹

[April, 1776] [New London Harbor]
 Friday 19th Moderate Breezes & Clear, Gott a Liftenant & 17 Private,
 Marines from the *Alfred*,
 At 10 AM Weigh'd from New London, with the Fleet, At
 Meridian the Comodore gott a ground on a Ledge of rocks
 to the So East of the light, which oblig'd all the Fleet to
 come too
 Moderate Breezes & Cloudy Weather
 At 5 P M the Comodore gott off after getting out all his
 guns, & starting his Water and run in the Harbour

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1776

New-London, April 19.

By Capt. Bell, in 11 Days from St. Martin's, we learn, that fifteen Sail of French Ships of the Line, and several Frigates, had arrived at Martinico, from Old France, a few Days before he sailed.

Last Lord's Day [April 14] Capt. Biddle, in one of the Continental Brigs, returned here from a Cruise, in which he retook, and has bro't in a Schooner,¹ which a few Days before had been taken by the *Scarborough* Man of War, and was then bound into Newport. The people had been all taken out of the Schooner, and [put] on board the *Scarborough*. By various Circumstances it appears, that the said Schooner was bound into this Port from

the West-Indies, commanded by Daniel Deshon: She is deep laden with West-India Goods and some Powder.

Wednesday last, Montfort Brown, Esq; Governor of New-Providence, Mr. Babbage, Secretary of that Province, Mr. Irving, one of the Council of South Carolina, and a Number of other Prisoners, brought in by Commodore Hopkins, were carried from hence to Windham, under an Escort.

1. The schooner *John and Joseph*, Hispaniola to New London, taken by the *Scarborough* March 8, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, A.M.

April 19th, 1776.

Benjamin Waldo, late a mariner and carpenter on board of the armed schooner *Schuylcr*, James Smith commander, was admitted, he complains in substance,

1st. That Capt. Smith having discharged him, and knowing that he had refused to go to sea with him, Capt. Smith had prevented him from being employed as a carpenter on board of the armed vessel, commanded by Capt. Rodgers.

2d. That Capt. Smith had violently beat and abused him very much, without any just provocation.

Ordered, That the doorkeeper summon Capt. Smith to attend at 5 o'clock, and the complainant attend at that time.²

A draft of instructions to Capt. William Rodgers, commander of the armed sloop *Montgomery*, was reported by Mr.[Thomas] Randall, and read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

Sir – As the armed Sloop *Montgomerie*, whereof you are commander, is now completely fitted in a warlike manner, our orders are that you repair on board with your officers and men, and proceed to sea and act against the enemies of the United Colonies, agreeable to your instructions from the Congress.

You are to cruise along shore on our coasts, any where between Sandy Hook and Cape May, or from Sandy Hook to the east end of Long island. You are always too keep some inlet under your lee, so that you may secure a retreat from a superior force. Be careful to send such prizes as you may take, into some place of safety in the United Colonies. It is very necessary to have a good pilot on board, and also that you make yourself well acquainted on the coast. You are to assist any of the friends of the United Colonies by every means in your power, and assist to carry them in some place of safety; and where different objects for assistance offer at the same time, you are to give the preference to the vessels and inhabitants of this Colony. You are always and by every opportunity, to advise the Provincial Congress, or Committee of Safety of this Colony, of your proceedings.

We wish you success, and remain [&c.]

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and delivered to the said Wm. Rogers.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 413, 414.
2. The minutes are silent on the outcome of the summons to Captain Smith.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON TO DAVID MATTHEWS ¹

Ship *Dutchess of Gordon*, Sandy-Hook,
April 19, 1776.

Sir, As the Commander of his Majesty's Ships on this Station, found it expedient for his Majesty's Service to burn down the Pilot-House, at the Hook, I am to acquaint you, all possible Care has been taken of Mr. Adam Dobbs, and his Property; and that if you will send down a Sloop to the Hook, it will be suffered to bring up to New-York, Mr. Dobbs, his Servants, and Effects. I am, with Regard, Sir [&c.]

Wm. Tryon.

To David Matthews, Esq; Mayor of the City of New-York
(Copy) Received the 25th.

1. *New-York Gazette*, Monday, May 6, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, April 19, 1776

The committee to whom General Washington's letter of the 15th Inst., as well as other letters, were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration, was agreed to: Whereupon,

Resolved, That General Washington may order as many of the cannon and military stores as are not necessary for the continental fleet, and which were lately brought into New London, by the commander thereof, to any other place he may think proper; having regard only to the permission of Congress relative to the defence of the harbour of New London, a copy of which ought to be sent to General Washington, and also a list of the cannon and stores as transmitted to Congress.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 293, 295-96.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a., 19th April, 1776.

By order of the Board, Robert Towers, Commissary, was directed to deliver to Capt. Thomas Forrest, for the use of his Marine Comp'y on Board the Floating Battery, Thirty Firelocks, with twenty-three Rounds of Cartridges.

The sub-Committee appointed to consider what further defences are necessary for the River, agreed in opinion that a Floating Battery of a similar, or nearly similar Construction with the one now in service, be immediately built; not doubting but the Committee, from their different

Contracts, will be speedily supplied with a sufficient Number of suitable Canon to mount thereon.

The Board taking the above Report of the sub-Committee into Consideration, do

Resolve, That a floating Battery be immediately Built, under the direction of Sam'l Howell, Robert Whyte, & George Clymer, a Committee hereby appointed for the purpose.

A Letter was this day wrote, By order of the Board, to Doct'r Chas. Bennett [Bensell] of Germantown, acquainting him that L't [Richard] Boger & Mr. Jno. Draper, two Prisoners on their Parole, were going to reside at Germantown, & that their allowance was 15s each per week, which would be paid by this Board.²

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 547.

2. *Ibid.*, 551, the Committee ordered Boger and Draper to appear before the Admiralty Court on April 29.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO DR. CHARLES BENSELL,
GERMANTOWN ¹

Sir: –

[Philadelphia] 19th April, 1776.

Lieut Boger and Mr. John Draper, who are Prisoners of war,² being suffered to reside in Germantown, on their Parole, a Copy of which is inclosed, we request you will endeavour to procure them Lodgings on the most reasonable Terms. They will be allowed fifteen shillings each, for their subsistence. Your order on this Board for that amount, from time to time, on their behalf, will be paid. The Gentlemen of the Committee in your Town, will see that those officers conduct themselves agreeable to the terms of their Parole. Any letters they choose to write, must be delivered open to some of your Committee to be shown to this board before they are sent away.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, ed., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 444.

2. Boger was commander, and Draper, moster's mate of the British tender *Edward*, taken April 7, 1776, by Captain John Barry in the Continental brig *Lexington*.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO RICHARD HARRISON ¹

No 124

To Mr Richard Harrison (Martinico)

Sir Capt [Thomas] Conway of the Sloop *Molly* will deliver you this – In the disposition of the Cargo you will please observe our former Instructions, and send us any Returns by this Vessel you may have to make, as she is a prime Sailer.

[Annapolis] 19th April 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

JENIFER & HOOE'S ACCOUNT WITH THE PROVINCE OF MARYLAND FOR THE SLOOP *Molly* ¹

Dr The Province of Maryland In Account with Jenifer & Hooe

		Maryld Curry			Cr
					Maryld Curry
1776			1776		
March 16.	To Cash paid Adrien Lemaitre for 2 Casks Medicine p Rect	200..-.-	March 16	By Cash in Gold to purchase Medicine with	200..-.-
Ap[r]il 15	To Cargoe p the Sloop <i>Molly</i> as p Acct rendd	810..7..-		By ditto	900..-.-
	To Sloop <i>Molly</i> p Accot render'd ²	345.14..8¼	April 15	By Ballance due as p debit	256..1..8¼
1776		<u>£ 1356..1..8¼</u>			<u>£ 1356..1..8¼</u>
April 15	To Ballance	£ 256..1..8¼			

[Endorsed]

Apl 19th 1776 Recd from the Council of Safety
and Order on the Treasurer of the Western Shore
for above Balance

R^d Hooe

1. Revolutionary Papers, Box 1, Accounts, 1775-1776, Md. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, a detailed account.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Friday 19 April 1776.

Ordered That the Treasurer of the Western Shore pay to Captain Thomas Conway twenty five Pounds Currency as a Gratuity for his Diligence and Care in importing Powder.

Ordered That the said Treasurer pay to Messrs Jenifer and Hooe two hundred and fifty six Pounds one Shilling and eight Pence, being the Balance of their Account in Consequence of an Adventure by the Sloop *Molly*, Thomas Conway Master.

Copy of Letter No 124 was sent to Mr Richard Harrison, Martinico

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

COST OF ADVENTURES FOR POWDER FROM MARYLAND ¹

Adventures P drgt Vessells

1776				
Jan'y 2d	Pr Brigt <i>Sam</i>	Forsythe	2058.19.6	
12	Schooner <i>Dolphin</i>	Kell	626..2.6	
1775				
Dcr 23	Sloop <i>Molly</i>	Conway	1016.13.3	
Nov 3	<i>Seaflower</i>	Waters	1991.19.2	
1775				
Dc[r] 22	Sloop <i>Batchelor</i>	Scott	230.19.-	R H ²
1776				
Jan'y 1	Schooner <i>John</i>	Spiake	994.17.31/2	R H
Feb'y 20	Brig <i>Nancy</i>	Wise	1735.13.7	R H
	Brig <i>Fortune</i>	Moore	1919.5..5	V ³
	Sloop <i>Two Sisters</i>	Oakum	930..7.1	R H
Apl 19	Sloop <i>Molly</i> 2d Voyage	Conway	1856..1.8	R H
	Her Cost		875	
1776				
Jan'y 9	Brig <i>Hannah</i>	Luce	1360..7.71/2	V
	Brig <i>Rachel</i>	Tibbit	1583.13.11	V
	To Abram Vanbebber ³ for <i>Wicked Dick</i>		1788..7.4	
	To Do Goods over Shipped		1218	
	10 P Ct on 3006. 8. 31/2		300.12.9	
	Brig <i>Friendship</i> Capt Martin			
	Boat <i>Chatham</i> 100 Bars Flour—Russell			
	Schooner <i>92</i> . loaded by H Y			

1. Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch.

2. Richard Harrison, agent at Martinique.

3. Isaac Van Bebber, agent at St. Eustatius.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, SUPPLEMENT, FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1776

Williamsburg, April 19.

Yesterday a couple of tenders went up James river, as far as Sandy point, and fired several shot at a guard of men stationed at that place; and early this morning they returned, with a prize, supposed to be a vessel with about 200 barrels of flour on board. As they passed Jamestown, they were saluted with a few shot from some cannon which had been placed there.

20 Apr.

LETTER OF AGENCY, OFFICERS OF H.M.S. *Chatham* ¹

No. 8. Know all Men by these presents that we the Captn and Officers of his Majestys Ship *Chatham* have Constituted and appointed and in their stead and place put Alexander Brymer Merchant & Edward Bragg Gentleman at present of Halifax in Nova Scotia, our lawfull agents and Attornies jointly and severally for us & in our Names to ask Claim demand and recover all prize money Share or Shares of Prize money which by any ways or means may become due to us and to take care of such prizes or seizures as we shall make and to prosecute the same in the Court or Courts of Vice Admiralty & generally to do act and transact in all things respecting the premisses, as fully amply and Effectually to all intents and purposes as we might or could do if personally present, hereby ratifying allowing and Confirming all and whatsoever our said Agents or either of them may lawfully do or cause to be done in and about the premisses with full power to make and Substitute jointly or severally one or more Attornies under our said Agents and the same again at pleasure to revoke. In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and Seals the 20th Day of April 1776 on Board his Majestys Ship *Chatham* in Halifax Harbour & in the 16th year of his Majestys Reign –

Sign'd, Seal'd & Deliver'd in Presence of Tho ^s Freeman	} J Raynor Lewis Robertson Rob ^t Sutton W ^m Kelly	S Dickson
		Tho ^s Messeley
		Ch. Elliot

[Endorsed] Rec[orde]d 2d Octr 1776

1. Register of Letters of Agency, 1776–1781, Vice Admiralty Records, N.S. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT ¹

April 1776
 Saturday 20th AM at Moord off the Dockyard in Halifax Harbr
 at 7 weighd and came to sail as did the Convoy 3 sail Viz [2] ships and 1 Brigg ² run
 out of the Harbour at Noon Convoy in Company
 Moderate and Cloudy Wear
 at 7 [P]M the 4 White Islands NbE 3 Leagues

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

2. Transports carrying troops for the relief of Quebec.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP ¹

April 1776

Cape Ann NWBW 7 or 8 Ls

Saturday 20

Exercised Great Guns & Small Arms Served the last of the Spirits to the Ships Company –

at 4 P M saw a Sail to the Northwd made Sail & gave Chace
 at 7 P M came up with the Chace she proved to be a schooner
 from Salem bound to Guadeloupe ² took her hands out
 & put a Petty officer & men onboard her Made Sail & Tackd –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

2. The schooner *Lydia*.CAPTAIN JOHN AYRES TO MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD ¹

General Ward

Portsmouth Febry [*sic* April] 20th 1776

Sr I think it my duty, to inclose the deposition, of John Cochran, Boat-
 swains Mate of the Continental Arm'd Schooner the *Lynch* under My Com-
 mand, to You, as Capt [Samuel] Perkins is now in Salem. – Your most [&c.]

John Ayres

[Enclosure]

I, John Cochran now boatswains mate of the Continental armed schooner called the *Lynch*, commanded by Captain John Ayres, testify that I was a seaman on board the *Fowey*, man-of-war, four months immediately preceding the departure of the troops from Boston, and while the *Fowey* lay at her station by Cat-Island the last Winter two men came in a row-boat alongside the *Fowey*, & brought with them a quarter of beef weighing about one hundred and eighty pounds which was received on board the *Fowey* the Captain of which paid them therefor.

About a fortnight after this, & while the *Fowey* lay at her station off Baker's Island, the same two men came again in a row-boat to the *Fowey*, and brought with them three quarters of beef and several quarters of mutton, which the Captain of the *Fowey* bought of them.

It was now said, on board, that one of the said two men was Captain, and the other Mate of a sloop or schooner belonging to Salem, and that the Captain's name was Perkins. I saw him each time of his bringing the beef. I judge he was about twenty seven years of age. He wore a brown surtout, & appeared to be about five feet nine or ten inches high. Each time the beef was brought in the night. The first time they brought a compass with them, which I saw, I think also that they brought a compass the second time with them in the boat.

About three weeks after bringing the last beef a sloop came in the night up towards the *Fowey* as she lay off Baker's Island.² All hands were ordered to their quarters; but, before a gun was fired the Captain hailed the sloop & ordered her to bring to. The sloop answered that she was coming with design to bring to. And then dropped anchor alongside the *Fowey* (as I heard a Midshipman say) that he sd Perkins was going to the east-sloop, and proceeded with her to Boston.

When Captain Perkins brought the last beef, he told the Captain of the *Fowey* (as I heard a Midshipman say) that he sd Perkins was going to the eastward for wood to carry to Boston, that he would come up towards the *Fowey* with it, & upon the firing a gun from the *Fowey* he would bring to. When Perkins came with his sloop alongside the *Fowey* it was about midnight, He came on board the *Fowey*, and afterwards the midshipman said in my hearing that the sloop had on board her fifty cords of woods, & I saw one goose and about fifty pounds of beef, which were the same night brought on board the *Fowey*. The sloop was almost new, & I heard the midshipman say that Perkins said he went into Cape Ann harbour with the privateers which the *Fowey* chased into Cape Ann near about a week before, and would then have followed the *Fowey*, but that Capt. Manly ordered him into Cape Ann

John Cochran

Essex, ss., April 12, 1776

Then John Cochran above named, made oath to the truth of the foregoing deposition by him subscribed Before

Timothy Pickering, Junr Justice of the Peace.³

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 263, 264, 265, NA Photocopy.

2. See journal of the *Fowey*, February 3, 1776, Vol. 3, 1107.

3. General Ward forwarded letter and deposition to Massachusetts Council, April 25. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 263.

COMMITMENT OF FOUR PRISONERS TAKEN IN THE SCHOONER *Valient*¹

Colony of the }
Massachusetts Bay } The Major part of the Council

To the Keeper of the Goal at Concord in the County of
Middlesex – Greeting

You are hereby directed and Commanded to take into your Custody Edward Marsh, John Loring Basil Cooper and David Lang lately taken prisoners at Martha's Vineyard in the Schooner *Valient* in the Employment of the enemies of the United Colonies of America bound to Boston with supplies for them, And you are commanded to confine the said Edward Marsh & John Loring without the privilege of Pen, Ink or Paper, and not suffer them or either of the, to converse with any person unless in your presence and the said Basil Cooper & David Lang are to have the Liberty of that part of the Goal Yard that is enclosed during their good behaviour and giving their parole in writing not to depart without the limits of the same, in failure of which you are to depart without the limits of the same, in failure of which you are to comit them to close prison – and them and each of them safely keep till the further order of the Major part of the Council or they be otherwise discharged by due Course of Law – hereof fail not at your Peril

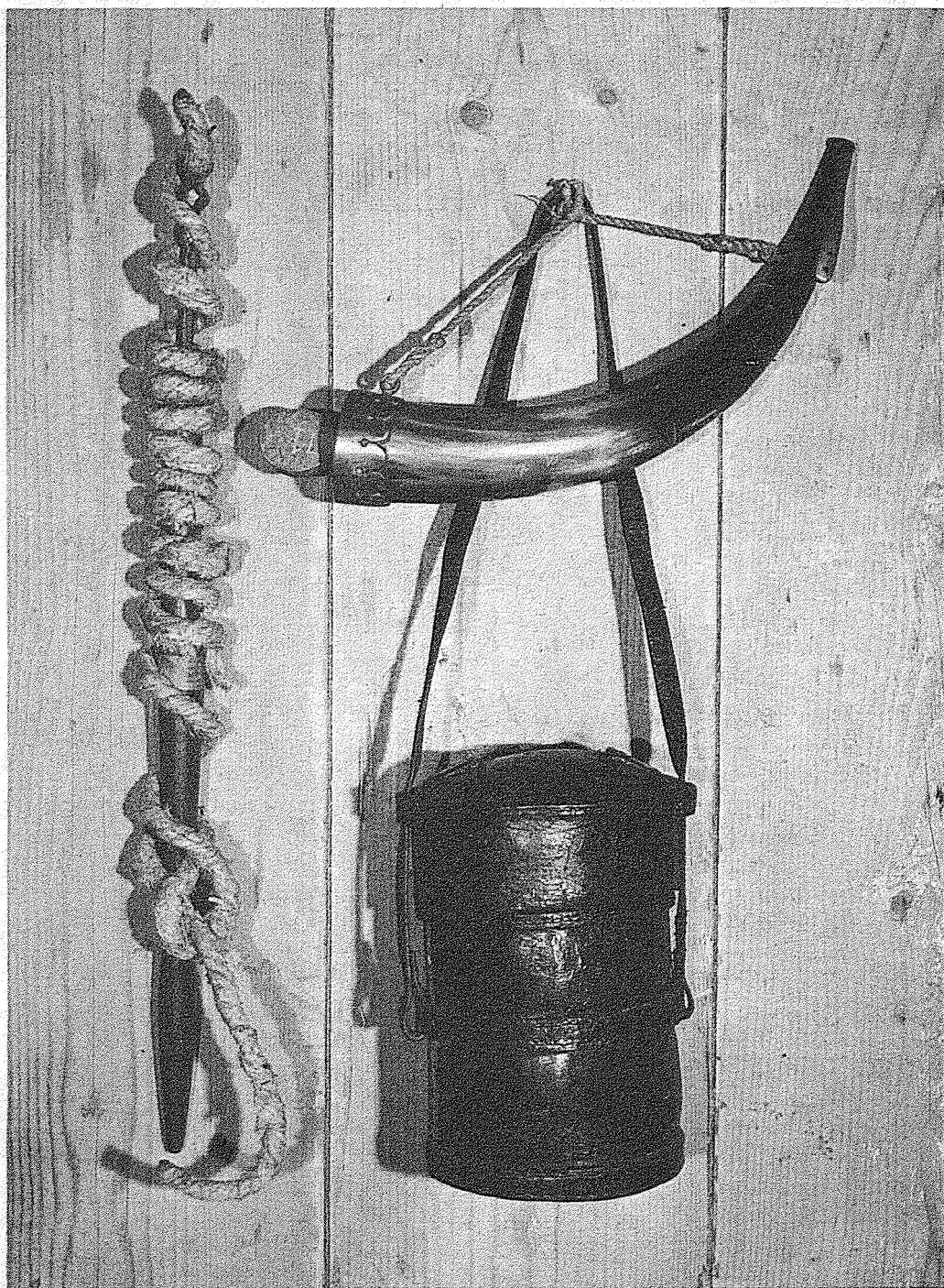
In the Name & Order of the Major Part of the Council

James Otis President

Council Chamber

Apl 20th 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 317.



French naval linstock, powder horn, and powder bucket.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

Boston 20th. [April]

The *Glasgow* sailed for England, convoying some other Ships with many of the Refugees from Boston going to England: the *Glasgow* has had a slight repair since her being beat by 5 Privateers off Rhode Island.

1. John Barker, *The British in Boston Being the Diary of Lieutenant John Barker of the King's Own Regiment from November 15, 1774 to May 31, 1776; With Notes by Ellery Dana* (Cambridge, 1924), 72.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford* ¹

April 1776 Thatchers Island N W 4 Leags
 Friday 19 at 8 saw a Sail to the N W made Sail & gave Chace at 11 sent the Boats Manned & Arm'd after the Chace Out Reefs Top-sails.
 Fresh Breezs & Cloudy made the Signal for the Boats to return got them in & gave Chace at 2 left off Chace Wore Ship & Brot too Main T. Sail to the mast . . . gave Chace to the S W
 Saturday 20 Fresh Breezs & Clear
 P M fired 4 Shot at the Chace she bore down to us sent an Officer onboard proved to be an American Sloop laden with Wood, ² got the Prisoners onboard Sent 2 Petty Offrs with 4 Men onbd at 5 Saw 2 Sail to the Soward gave Chace 1/2 past 6 join'd Compys with the *Lively* & *Hopes* Tendr fir'd 10 Shot at the Chace at 1/2 past 7 The Chace Brought too The *Lively* sent a Boat and took possession of her proved to be an American Schoo[ne]r ³ Recd onbd the prisoners, Sent our prize to Halifax.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

2. "*Britannia*, sloop, John Grey, master, cargo, wood," Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, N.S. Arch.

3. *Ibid.*, "*Lydie*, schooner, loaded with staves and fish, bound for the West Indies, captured seven leagues from Cape Ann by HMS *Lively*, *Milford* and *Hope*."

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Hope* ¹

April 1776 Remark's in Nantasket Road
 Saturday, 20th Fresh Breezes and Clear Weigh'd and Came to Sail in Compy with the *Dispatch* arm'd Schooner & Several Transports, Soon after made all Sail and Chaced a Brig in to Cape Ann Harbr, at 4 Do Cape NEBN 3 or 4 Leagues, at Do Wr Chased a Schooner as did the *Lively* and *Milford*, fired at the Chace 10 four Pounders shoted, at 7 the *Lively* Brought hir too found hir to be the *Lydia* from Selam bound to Gardaloup, at 1/2 Pt 7 Cape Ann Wt 9 or 10 Lgs Do Wr made Sail to the Sowd

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1823.

WILLIAM WATSON TO COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN ¹

Sir

Plymouth 20 April 1776 –

In Obedience of His Excellency's Commands of the 11th Ultimo, I woud acquaint you, that the *Norfolk* & the *Happy Return* Prizes taken by Comdore Manly and brot into this Port, are condmned. –

If His Excellency will please soon to appoint a day for the sale of these prizes, it may be of service to the Public, as many articles on board them are wanted for the use of the American Navy. –

The other two taken by Capt [William] Coit,² & those two taken by Major [Benjamin] Tupper & carried into Dartmouth, have not yet had their Tryal, Coits by reason of my not having receivd the papers which were taken with them, & which were sent to Head Quarters. – Tupper's, by reason of his not attending the Court, with the papers relating to them. –

The Court is adjournd to 15th May by which time I shall endeavour to get every necessary preparation ready, and in the mean time must ask the favour of you to let me know where the papers taken with Coits 2 prizes are lodged, that I may procure them seasonably. – I am Sir [&c.]

William Watson

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The sloop *Polly* and schooner *Industry*, taken November 5, 1775.ABSTRACT OF THE CONTINENTAL BOND FOR THE RHODE ISLAND LETTER OF MARQUE SLOOP *Joseph* ¹

1776 *Joseph*. Rhode Island Sloop. Guns: 4. Crew: 12.
April 20 Bond £ 5,000. Master: James Munro ²
Bonders: James Munro, John Innis Clarke, Joseph
 Nightingale, all of Providence
Owners: John Innis Clarke, Joseph Nightingale.
Witnesses: Eliz Clarke, William Mumford.

1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

2. This was the first Continental bond taken out in Rhode Island, covering a letter of marque and reprisal commission, under the resolutions of the Continental Congress of April 3, 1776. The Continental Instructions were given to Munro on April 20, also, and acknowledged by him at Providence as follows: "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 Letter of Marque and Reprisal as Commander of the Private Sloop of War *Joseph*." Maritime Papers (Letters of Marque Petitions Instructions 1776–1780), R.I. Arch. The *Joseph*, however, with four guns and a crew of twelve, can scarcely be called a privateer, as she carried the following cargo to Hispaniola to exchange for powder and arms: "3 bbls Mackarell, 54 Tierces Rice, 7 Tierces Dry Fish, 2 m Pipe Staves, 150 bbls Flour, 24 Kegs Oysters, 8 bbls Pork, 7 Ditto Beef, 6 Tierces Bread & 18 Shaken Hnds," Account of Permissions granted by his Honor the Governor, R. I. Arch.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1776

Providence, April 20.

A List of Vessels taken by the American Cruizers and carried into the Counties of Suffolk, Middlesex, Essex, Plymouth, Barnstable, and Bristol, in the Colony of Massachusetts-Bay, which Vessels are said to have been em-

ployed in supplying the British Fleet and Army now acting against the American Colonies.

*Ship <i>Jenny</i> , William Foster,	400 Tons.
*Ship <i>Concord</i> , James Lawrin [Laurie],	300
*Schooner <i>Two Sisters</i> , R. Robbins,	80
Ship <i>Friends</i> , Archibald Bowie,	200
Brig <i>Sukey</i> , M[a]ddet Engs,	90
Sloop <i>North Briton</i> , John Ritchie,	60
Sloop <i>Sally</i> , Robert Basden,	70
*Brig <i>Nancy</i> , Robert Hunter,	250
*Sloop [<i>Polly</i>] [S.] Smith,	80
*Brig <i>Little Hannah</i> , Robert Adams,	140
*Sloop <i>Betsey</i> , — [John] Atkinson,	60
Sloop <i>Industry</i> , Samuel Lane,	40
Sloop <i>Success</i> , John Hitch,	50
Schooner <i>Fisher</i> , John Moody,	55
Snow <i>James</i> , William Littledale,	180
*Ship <i>Henry and Esther</i> , — Nellis,	300
*Sloop <i>Polly</i> , Sibeline White,	75
*Schooner <i>Industry</i> , Charles Coffin,	85
*Schooner — Dawsey, [Jeremiah Downey],	15
*Ship <i>Happy Return</i> , James Hall,	130
*Ship <i>Norfolk</i> , Jonathan Grendall,	120
Sloop <i>Dolphin</i> , Lot Norton,	80
Brig <i>St. Lawrence</i> , James Coffin,	165
Sloop <i>Sally</i> , George Middleton,	70
Sloop <i>Lively Locus</i> [t], — Wayman,	30
Sloop <i>Britannia</i> , Joseph Hall,	80
Sloop <i>Betsey</i> , William Heath,	115
Ship <i>Harriot</i> , Wemyss Orrock,	240

[*Taken by the armed schooners of Washington's fleet.]

All the above armed Vessels, with their Cargoes, have been libelled in the Court of Justice erected to try and condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the Sea Coasts of America, brought into the aforesaid Counties, and were ordered for Trial in the said Counties of Essex and Plymouth in the Months of March and April, 1776. — The Honorable General Assembly of this Colony, in their last Session, established a Court for the like Purpose, and appointed John Foster, of Providence, Esq; Judge of said Court.

The Brig taken last Week, by the Gallies belonging to this Colony, from under the Stern of the *Scarborough* Man of War and a Transport of 16 Guns, was from Philadelphia, and had been taken by the Enemy as she was going into Georgia; ¹ the Sloop captured at the same Time, was from the West-Indies, and had been taken near Georgia; ² they have both since arrived here.

Seventeen Prisoners were taken in the above Vessels, who inform that

Sir James Wright, Governor of Georgia, his Family, and several other Tories, are on board the *Scarborough*, and that the Transport has on board 140 Soldiers; they were bound to Boston, and had parted with some other Prizes, one of which, a Sloop, arrived at Newport on Sunday last.

Thursday last the brig *Cabot*, of 16 Guns, one of the Continental Fleet, arrived at Newport, having on board 10 Pieces of heavy Cannon, being Part of those lately taken from New-Providence.

It is reported that the *Phoenix* of 44 Guns, and the *Savage* Sloop, have joined Wallace's Fleet, near Long-Island.³

1. The brig *Georgia Packet*.

2. The sloop *Speedwell*.

3. An erroneous report.

JOHN FOSTER TO NORTH PROVIDENCE TOWN SERGEANT ¹

Colony of Rhode Island,

Providence ss. To the Town sergeant of the Town of North Providence in the County of Providence Greeting

WHEREAS the General Assembly of said Colony have erected a Court to try and condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the Sea Coast of America and brought into said Colony; and have Ordered that such Vessels shall be tryed at said Court by a Jury to be drawn and impaneled in the same manner as Jurors are directed to be drawn and impaneled to serve at the Inferior Courts of Common Pleas in said Colony; And whereas the Brigantine called the *Georgia Packet*, and the Sloop called the *Speedwell* with their Cargoes and Appurtenances are taken and brought into Providence in said County of Providence and are Libeled in said Court, and said to have been used or employed against the united Colonies of America; And whereas Tuesday the Twentysfirst Day of May AD:1776 at the Hour of Ten in the Forenoon is the Time appointed for the Tryal of said Vessels at said Court then to be holden at said Providence. Therefore pursuant to the Act of said General Assembly, You are hereby commanded and Required forthwith to warn a Meeting of the Inhabitants of said Town of North Providence on the Eleventh Day of May next to draw Petit Jurors out of the Box to serve in said Tryals at said Court at the Time and Place appointed as above said, in such manner as is provided by the Laws of said Colony for Returning Jurors to Serve at the Inferior Courts of Common Pleas; – And you are hereby further Commanded, as soon as may be to give Notice in writing to the persons so drawn, of the abovesd Time and Place set for their Appearance at said Court, and to make Return to me with your Doings hereon, at or before the abovesd Time of Tryal with the Names of the Jurors so drawn and Notified, upon the Penalty of Ten Pounds for Failure herein. Given under my hand and Seal at said Providence this Twentieth Day of April AD. 1776 –

Jn^o Foster Judge of said Court

1. Admiralty Papers, vol. 9, 1776, R.I., Arch.

LIEUTENANT HOYSTEED HACKER TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Franklins fery april 20 1776 2 cloclck P M

Sir these are to Inform you that according to your Order I Proceeded to New Port as fast as Possible ² and arrived their yesterday at one a Clock and went on Shoar and found the *Cabbot* at Mr Holmes worf Getting out the Guns I advised Capt Henman [Elisha Hinman] to Go up the River as Soon as he Could as their was a Report that their was Three Ships in the Offing he Told me He Intended it I Put out at 3 a Clock with the wind at wsw and flood tide and Beat out to the Lite House but the wind Being Small we Bore away Into franklins fery Came two and Lay Till 4 Clock then Got under way and Beat as far as the Half way house Betwene Point Juda and watch Hill whare we Saw a Ship Lying a Hull we Still Beat in Hopes of Giting By Her But She Made Sail and Stood into windard of us we Stood for her a while But Soon Bore away She Amediately Bore away after us But Made No More Sail than Her Topsails and [?] She Stood after us Till we Got Round Point Juda whare we Lowerd all Sail to wait for her She Hauld away under the Ley of Block Island I Should have taken Her for one of our Ships But Capt Henman was Chased Before From the Same Place within a Mile of the Lite House and a Small Sloop Yesterday within a few Rods of the Shoar which Makes Me Caussious How I Go Two Near a Ship I thought Proper two Run Into franklins Ferry and Send Capt Brown as fast as Possible to Acquaint you. I am with Respect yours to Serve

Hoysted Hacker ³

per favr Capt Brown

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.
2. In command of the Continental sloop *Fly*.
3. Hacker signed this letter "Hoysted" but in many subsequent ones he used the double "e", "Hoysteed."

Constitutional Gazette, SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1776

New York, April 20.

The following may be depended on. When the *Asia* was going through the Narrows last Sunday afternoon [April 14], she was hailed by the rifle men on Staten Island side, who desired her to bring to, some of the *Asia*'s people on deck asked for what? Because answered the riflemen "our order is to suffer no boats to pass without a permit from General [Israel] Putnam." The *Asia* still keeping under way, the riflemen fired upwards of forty shots at her, the *Asia* returned the salute by firing two pieces from her upper tier.

DESPOSITION OF JOB TRIPP, MASTER, AND JAMES CATHILL, MATE, OF THE
SLOOP *Endeavor* ¹

Galloway Township, in Gloucester County:

Be it remembered, that, on the 20th of April, 1776, personally appeared before me, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of

Gloucester [New Jersey], Captain Job Tripp, late Master of the Sloop *Endeavour*; and James Cathill, his Mate, both of Dartmouth, in the County of Bristol and Province of Massachusetts-Bay; and, being sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, do declare, that we left Dartmouth, in said sloop, on the 31st day of March last, for Philadelphia. On the following day, about three o'clock in the afternoon, (the forepart of the day being very thick and foggy, cleared up in the afternoon,) we saw the vessels in at Little-Egg Harbour Inlet. About the same time we discovered a vessel to the southward of us. When we found we were so near the land, we altered our course more out to sea; we being bound to the southward, and that vessel to the northward. They presently came up with us. About the distance of three hundred yards on our lee-bow, they fired at us. Immediately we saw a number of men on board of her, who appeared to be in motion, and very busy. We hailed them twice with our trumpet, but received no answer, but another firing, and hove about, and made after us. We still kept our course, and they after us, continually firing, till about ten o'clock at night. At that time they were about a swivel shot distance from us. The wind dying away, and perceiving them coming up very fast, we immediately hove to, and hauled down our fore-sail, and were busy in hauling down our mainsail, when they run up as near as they conveniently could without running foul of our vessel, and fired a broadside at us; which felled both the Captain and Mate. By their account, they fired two volleys of small arms just as they fired their cannon and swivels; each volley ten guns. Their carriage-guns and swivels were two four-pounders and six swivels on each side. The Captain was wounded in the thigh, which we imagine to be a swivel ball, which broke the bone and shattered it very much. The Mate was also wounded in both thighs; the ball went through the fleshy part of the right, and lodged in the left.

We were unable to help ourselves, though we made shift to scramble down into the cabin. The Captain laid on the cabin-floor, and the Mate had got in his berth, before they boarded us. The Lieutenant came down, and presently presented a pistol at him, and ordered him to turn out immediately on deck, or he was a dead man; treated him with very scurrilous and abusive language, and hauled him out of his cabin. With that, he scabbled on deck as well as he could; kept him there till he was satisfied; then ordered him into his cabin again; and returning to the Captain, who lay on the floor, ordered him likewise on deck. The Captain begged he would let him alone, as he was unable to stand or help himself; with that he left him.

They rummaged all our chests for papers and letters, which they took with them – all they could find, with forty-nine dollars of the Captain's in Continental bills; with the Mate's journal, pocket-book, chest, bed, &c.&c. They were particularly careful in collecting all the old iron and spikes they could find to take with them. After they had rummaged and taken what they thought proper, they cut up the cables, and hove them, with the anchors, overboard, and threatened to burn the vessel. They kept us

till about five o'clock in the afternoon next day, when the Lieutenant came to the Captain (on board our own vessel) and told him that the Captain of the tender was going to indulge him with his boat and men to go ashore for a Doctor. There were three hands beside the Captain and Mate. Before we had left the vessel they scuttled her, and the water came in very fast; and heard them call out, Come, let us begin the fire in the cable-tier. They let the Captain take his bed and chest, and a bed-sack to lie on. The Captain of the tender called to his Lieutenant not to let us take too many things with us. When we had got some distance from the vessel, we saw a great smoke arising from her, with all her sails standing, save the peak of the mainsail, which was dropped down, with her tiller lashed fast, so as she could steer herself. The vessel was about seventy or seventy-five tons burden.

We were about one hour and a half in the boat before we reached the shore, which was the flat beach; and were about thirty-six hours before we had any dressing to our wounds. And further these deponents say not.

Job Tripp
James Cathill

Sworn before me, Robert Morse.

N.B. The most of the latter part of the transaction was taken from the Mate; the Captain, being badly wounded, could not remember.

[Endorsed] The above is a true copy from the original.

Richard Price, Clerk Township Committee.²

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 1003, 1004.

2. The Galloway Township Committee sent the deposition to the Massachusetts delegates in Congress with the assurance that the master and mate were being cared for.

JOHN HANCOCK TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir,

Philadelphia April 20th 1776

Your several Letters of the 24th and 27th of March, the 1[s]t 4th and 15th Inst. I had the Honour of receiving in the Order of their Dates, by the last of which, I learn with Pleasure, that you had safely arrived at New York. The Dispositions you made to expedite the Embarkation of the Troops, were highly proper and judicious.

Too much Dispatch cannot be used in sending the Battalions to Quebec; as it frequently happens in conducting such important Affairs, that a Week, a Day, even an Hour, proves decisive, and the greatest Advantages are thereby either gained or [lo]ssed for ever

The Resolutions of Congress as far as they relate to yourself, or those Parts of your Letters that have hitherto come under their Consideration, I do myself the Honour to transmit herewith and am Sir [&c.]

John Hancock Presidt

1. Washington Papers, LC.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia April 20th 1776

... I hope cannon may be obtained at New London or Rhode Island, if not I know of no resource at present but this place and if they must come from here it will be some time before you can have them as they are yet to be made. I am continually teasing the Marine Committee about the canvass but have got nothing yet determined, nor have you wrote me how much you shall want.² The Committee determined last evening on the nomination of [Continental] Agents which will be reported to Congress to morrow – I expect my next will advise you of the appointment. I have got the nomination of officers for your ship put off; it is not now as it was when the other ships were fitting out – then there was a scarcity of officers, but now an abundance of applications; as that is the case the Committee are very critical in exam[in]ing the characters, so if you recommend any that I am not well acquainted with, you must furnish me with a history of them, whether they have been in ships of war, if their courage has been tried their political principles &c. I think New Hampshire can officer one ship very well – we must be very careful that no consideration but real merit influence our recommendations.

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, I, 113, LC.

2. For the Continental frigate building at Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Special Meeting of the Committee 20 April 1776
Were Present – William Lux Chairman –

W. Buchanan
T. Harrison

J. Calhoun
B. Griffith

J. Smith
J. Boyd

J. Merryman Junr

The Committee being informed, that certain Instructions were given by Mr Samuel Purviance as Chairman to Capt Saml Smith, which did not appear on their Minutes, they sent for Capt Smith, and requested him to attend the Committee with the Instructions he had received – he accordingly attended & produced them, and they are as follows –

14 April 1776

Cap Saml Smith

Sir You are requested by the Gentlemen of the Committee to proceed in Capt Nicholson's Tender, with any Officer he may send to assist you, & such a Number of armed Men as may be necessary, and therewith proceed as speedily as possible for Annapolis – should you, before you get there, meet the Governors Boat or Barge, you must by all means endeavour to board her, and in case Governor Eden, His Secretary Mr Smith, or Mr Alexander Ross, are found onboard, you are by all means to sieze their Persons & Papers, and instantly return with them under the strictest Guard to Baltimore, for doing which you may depend upon being

justified and protected by the Committee, and held blameless – In case you should not meet such Boat or Persons, you'l please to proceed immediately to Annapolis, and use every Precaution to prevent Alarm by obliging the Men not to appear in Numbers on Deck, and causing the Boat to lye at a Distance, while you go on shore with the Letter delivered you for the Gentlemen of the Baltimore Committee, who may be at Annapolis, whose Direction you'l please to follow after your Arrival there – You'l please to take Blunderbusses, and any Quantity you see necessary of Arms out of Capt Nicholson's Vessel, which he will readily furnish – please to consult in all Things with the Officer, which Capt Nicholson sends with you, and let your Measures be kept as secret as possible from the Men, at least until it comes to the Execution – I am on Behalf of the Committee Sir

Yr Huml Servt
Saml Purviance Junr Chairman

The Committee then enquired of all the Members present, whether either of them had concurred in said Instructions, and on each of their Declaration that they had not, they sent for Mr Purviance, and desired, he would inform them, what Number of the Members of the Committee were present, when the said Instructions were given, and that he would give his Answer in Writing – Mr Purviance accordingly came to the Committee, and verbally declared, that he had not consulted any one Person of the Committee upon the Occasion, but that he had given the said Instructions himself; that he exculpated the Committee from all Censure on that Account, and that he would give his Answer in Writing to that Effect on Monday Morning –

Attested Geo Lux Secry

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

DIXON & HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1776

Williamsburg, April 20.

Thursday last two tenders met a small vessel at Sandy Point, coming down the river with a load of flour; the people immediately ran her aground and left her. The tenders continued there throughout the day, and several times attempted to board her, but were as often repulsed by the rifles and musketry from the shore, notwithstanding they kept a constant and heavy fire upon our people with pieces of iron, and a variety of shot, in which one man was wounded, and is said to be since dead. When the tide had set the vessel afloat, they cut her loose, with a good deal of difficulty, and carried her down yesterday morning. It is said the enemy had three men killed.

EDMUND PENDLETON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

Caroline [Virginia] April 20th 1776

[Extract]

. . . I am pleased the Congress have Resolved on Reprisals & wish we

had it in our power to make them effectually, without that ability I much fear the Opening Our ports, will for some time at least, Only prove a temptation to Us, to throw supplies of Provisions into the Possession of Our Enemies, who take every Vessel that passes – the Maryland Brigg wch was sometime ago rescued by the *defence* is fallen into their hands, & another from that province Laden with Bread & Flour is also taken . . . The proposition of the Dunkirk Merchant would be exceedingly Flatering to our tobacco planters, if it was not For the Rub of risking it to St Domingo, which I fear will frustrate the whole scheme at least for the present crop. Time may and undoubtedly will produce a Remedie. ²

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

2. See letter from B. Rnt Casteleyn, Dunkirk, November 25, 1775, Volume 3, 389–91.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE ¹

[Extract]

Cape Fear River the 20th April 1776

His Excellency

The Honble Major Genl Howe

Since the departure of the Sloop *George* for Boston nothing material has occurred at this place til the 18th when a Transport with two Companies and a half of the 57 Regt on board under the command of Major Craig arrived in this River The Major informs me that they sailed from Cork on the 12th Febr'y in company with fifty four Transports & Victuallers bound to Cape Fear River under convoy of Sr Peter Parker in the *Bristol* & four Frigates but having parted from them the first night he can give no further account of them

The *Syren Mercury* & *Falcon* with their Tenders are now cruizing off the Capes in quest of the rest of the Fleet and I am in hopes will soon fall in with them – I have thought it proper in the mean while that the *General Gage* armed Sloop should proceed to you with this intelligence. Several of the persecuted Inhabitants of this Country have taken refuge among us since my Arrival here they bring different Accounts of the Situation of the province and the movements of the Rebels, but all seem to agree that they are assembling in force in the neighbourhood of Brunswick & Wilmington. Mr McLeod & Mr McNeil with a few of the back Country Settlers have also joined us after meeting with a variety of difficulties – the Latter with three of his men escaped from the Jail at Wilmington where they had been imprisoned since the affair at Widow Moores Creek.

Forty or fifty Negroes had also found means to get on board the Shipping in this River previous to my arrival and as I conceived they might be very useful to us for many purposes in these Climates I have determined to form a Company of them with an intention of employing them as Pioneers and on working parties and have given the Command to Lieut [George] Martin of the Marines with the appointment of Lieutenant to

Robt Campbell and the Ensingy to Thos Oldfield till your pleasure shall be further known.

H C

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers (Miscellaneous Letter Books), CL.

“A LETTER FROM ST. KITTS, DATED APRIL 20”¹

A vessel arrived here yesterday from New Providence, and relates, that that island was invaded by the provincials, under the command of Commodore Hopkins, in a ship of thirty-six guns, and eight other vessels, having landed 1000 men at the east end of the island, and marched up to the castle, which surrendered without much resistance, there having been but five cannon fired on them; they took from thence Governor Montford Brown, his secretary, and the King's surveyor, two brass mortars of thirty-two inches, eighteen or twenty smaller, eighty pieces of cannon from eighteen to thirty-six pounders, and all the powder they could get, which was about eighteen barrels, the rest having been sent away privately in the night, before they surrendered, by an armed schooner in the King's service. The invaders were near three weeks at [New] Providence; they used no kind of violence to the inhabitants, nor took any private property without paying for it; they assured Brown they would very soon provide another Governor for a companion, from which it is conjectured that they intend their next visit to Bermuda.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 4 to June 6, 1776.

21 Apr. (Sunday)

ABIGAIL ADAMS TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

[Braintree] April 21 1776

. . . We have inteligance of the Arrival of some of the Tory Fleet at Halifax that they are much distresst for want of Houses, obliged to give 6 Dollors per month for one Room, provisions scarce and dear. Some of them with 6 or 8 children round them sitting upon the Rocks crying, not knowing where to lay their heads. Just Heaven has given them to taste of the same cup of Affliction which they one year ago administerd with such Callous Hearts to thousands of their fellow citizen[s], but with this difference that they fly from their injured and enraged Country, whilst, pity and commiseration received the Sufferers whom they inhumanely drove from their Dwellings.

. . . Tis reported here that Admiral Hopkings is blocked up in Newport harbour by a Number of Men of War. If so tis a very unlucky circumstance.² as to fortification those who preside in the assembly can give you a much better account than I.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 390.

2. Hopkins and the Continental fleet were still lying in New London harbor.

COLONEL WILLIAM RICHMOND TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir: Head-Quarters, Newport, April 21, 1776.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your very acceptable favour of ordinance and warlike stores from the *Cabot*. We are mounting them with all despatch possible, under the inspection of Mr. John Collins, who assures us that within four days he will have them all mounted. We have almost completed the fortification on the Point, where we can mount thirteen guns. To-morrow we go on Fort-Island, in order to put the old fort in a posture of defence; which, together with another on Brenton's Point, we think will well secure the harbour: all of which works we shall pursue with the utmost vigour till completed. We are informed you have sixteen more heavy guns for us. As they are without carriages, it may be necessary to send them along soon.

Before this can come to hand, you must have heard of the confusion we have lately been in, occasioned by the wild conduct and insanity of our late commander, (Colonel [Henry] Babcock) who is now under an arrest at Providence, and, we judge, must be discharged from the service: in consequence of which, the command, at present, devolves upon me – a heavy task. I have the honour to be, Sir [&c.]

William Richmond.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 1005.

JOURNAL OF H.M. BRIG *Diligent*, LIEUTENANT EDMUND DOD ¹

April 1776 Latd in 40:53
 Saturday 20th A M at 4 wore, at 6 out Reefs & made sail, departed this life
 Robt Evans Seaman, At Noon Montock Point N 4 or 5
 Leags Modr & fair Wr
 PM at 2 saw Block Island bearing NbE 4 Leags & a Sail to
 the NE which prov'd to be the *Cerberus*.
 at 4 Anchd with her in the Eastern Bay of Block Island in
 5 fm Water Sandy Bottom, Veer'd to 1/2 a Cable, Southermst
 point of the Bay SEbS & the Northermst NNE. dist from a
 Village a short mile.
 Sundy 21st AM Empd Watering & Sett the Rigging up, Sent the Spare
 Foresail on Bd the *Cerberus* to be Altered – First part mode
 & Cloudy, Middle fresh gales & squaly with hard rain, latter
 moderate.
 P M at 6 the Surf began to tumble in very fast on the shore,
 the boat was obliged to come off & left behind 5 punchns of
 Water – Weigh'd pr Sigl & made Sail out of the Bay In
 Compy the *Cerberus*. at 9 Block Island NW 3 mi[les] at 12
 handed the Maintops.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4109.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO STEPHEN HOPKINS, PHILADELPHIA ¹

Onboard Ship *Alfred* at the Mouth of New London
River April 21. 1776

Dear Brother

Since I wrote nothing material has happened – We landed our Sick which were 140 Men in the Fleet and got some new Men out of the Army, and was ready to Sail when I receiv'd General Washingtons Letter by Express a Copy of which I have inclosed – I sent out the *Cabot* in order to strengthen the Town of Newport where she is Arrived as you will see by Lieutt [Elisha] Hinman's Letter a Copy of which you have inclosed Two days past we were under Sail to get out but got ashore on the Rocks near Fisher's Island, but got off again without much damage after about 8 hours & came in again and ordered all the Vessels in which I had under Convoy five of whom were at the risque of the Congress –

The *Fly* is now out in order to learn the Strength of the Fleet, and if they are not much Stronger than we Shall go out the first fair Wind – We are much better Mann'd now than we ever have been – My Son John B. Hopkins is ashore at Mr. [Nathaniel] Shaws and getting better of his Wounds, but do not expect will be able to go onboard his Brig to take the Command in less than 3 or 4 Weeks – ² I am your loving Brother

E.H.

P.S. I have Oblig'd most of the Sailors which I have taken out of the Armed Vessels to do duty onboard – Should be glad to know if that is agreeable with the Sentiments of the Congress that I may still follow the same Rule –

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Despite Hopkins' belief that his son would not be able to command for three or four weeks, the Hopkins Papers contain an undated letter reading: "Honord Sir. Shold Be Extream Glad to Go Round to Newport in your Ship as the prospect Bids Fair For a Good Wind, if you would Send up your Boat For us will Go on board her Imediately From Sir your Dutifull Son John Bu Hopkins." As the rough draft of Esek Hopkins' letter was written on the back of this note, it is apparent that young Hopkins wrote either on, or a day before April 21, 1776, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT ¹

April 1776 Moor'd in Graves End Bay

Sunday 21 Fresh Breezes & hazey Wr

A M took a small Sloop laden with Sand and Sunk her. ² put the Ships Co to whole Allowce of Grogg

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

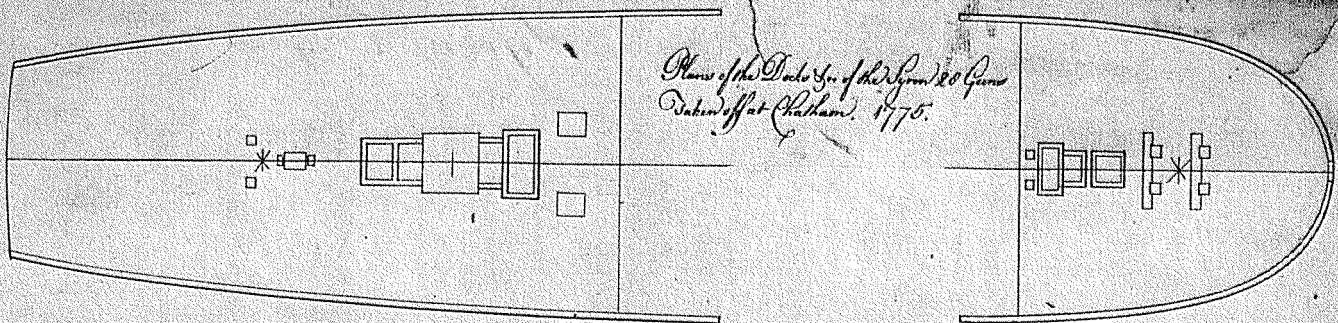
2. The vessel was the *Hetty*, John Hartwick, master and owner, from Long Island bound for New Jersey, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Syren*, CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX ¹

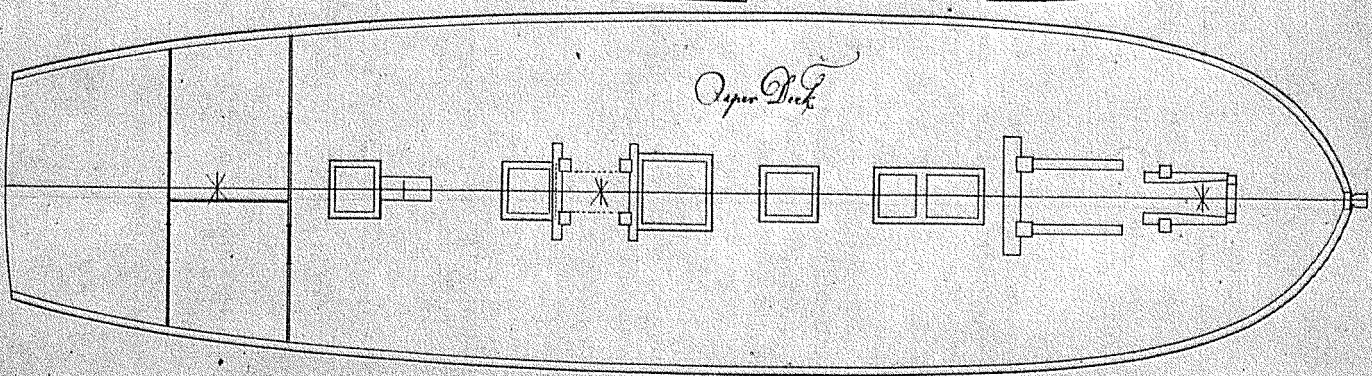
April 1776 Light House WbS diste from the [Charleston] bar
6 or 7 Miles

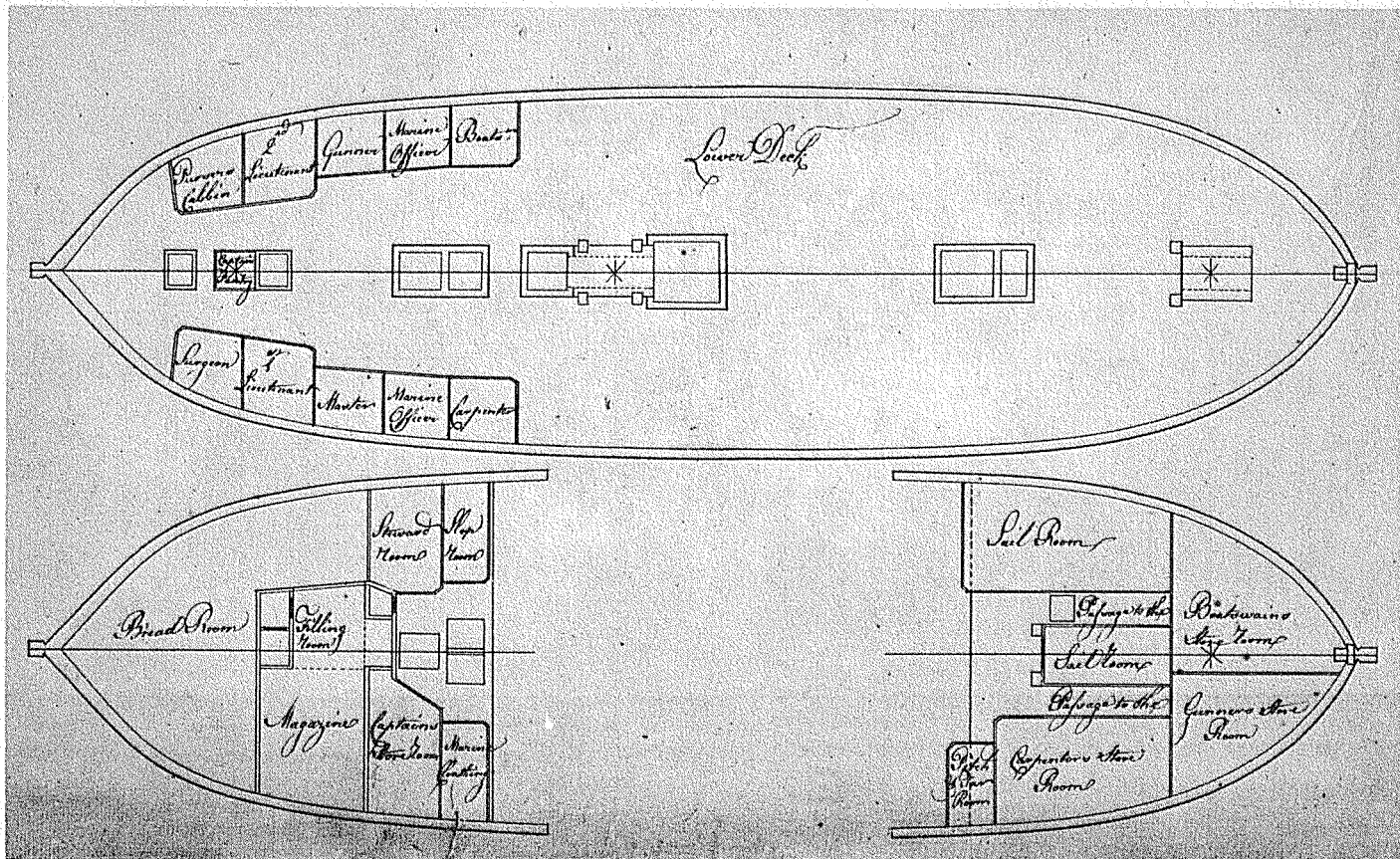
Sunday 21st A M: at 6 the Land W:N:W: 4 or 5 Leagues at 7 sent the *Mercury's* Tender, with an Officer & Pilot, aback of the bar.

Plans of the Deck of the *Agamemnon* 20 Guns
Taken off at Chatham. 1775.



Upper Deck





Deck plans of HMS Syren.

the[y] saw but one Ship in the Harbour, under the Town, the Rebels had raised a strong Fort on Sullivans Island and that they had cut down the marks for the bar, at 11 made Sail – Various Soundings –

Fresh breezes – P:M: shortned Sail for the *Mercury* at 5 lowered the Tsls on the Cap for the [*Mercury*] to come up, at 8 hoisted the T/sls at 12 dble reefed the T/Sls.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM M. JACQUES TEXIER, MERCHANT AT ST. EUSTACHE. 21 APRIL 1776 [TO COUNT D’ ARGOUT]”¹

From a vessel which arrived here on the 19th of this month from the island of [New] Providence in the Bahama Channel after an eleven day crossing, we learn that an American Fleet or Small squadron composed of two frigates of 36 guns, two brigantines, two schooners and three vessels of 10 to 16 guns had arrived there on the third of March with 700 American troops on board, had taken more than a hundred pieces of cannon, ammunition, the King’s money, even the Governor because he had attempted to resist, and left on the 22nd of the same month.

According to the news of London brought by a ship which arrived at St. Christophe after a long crossing, the government intends to send there [America] 35 thousand men on 60 to 70 warships of all sizes; but it seems that great difficulties are encountered in finding sailors for this fleet and apparently it has not yet left England where the continuation and lack of success of this war are provoking many grumbles.²

1. ANM, B7, 458, 13, LC Photocopy. D’Argout was governor of Martinique.

2. This letter and another from Texier, dated May 3, 1776, were probably enclosed in a letter from d’Argout to Sartine, June 25, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Pomona*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM YOUNG¹

April 1776 Moored in English Harbour Antigua
Sunday 21 sent an Officer out and seized a Brig from Georgia called the *Neptune*, and took her Crew on board.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

2. Brig *Neptune*, Hugh Russell, master, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 24, 1776.

22 Apr.

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA¹

Monday, April 22d, – The ship and schooner are come into the harbour. It snows very fast. The ship is the *Swan*, from Rhode Island. Brings news of an engagement between Admiral Hopkins, of the Americans, and His Majesty’s Ship *Glasgow*. They parted with the loss of one man in the latter, and the former much damaged, by report. The schooner is the *Halifax*.

1. Innis, ed., *Perkins’ Diary*, I, 119.

JOHN LANGDON TO CAPTAIN THOMAS PALMER ¹

Capt Thomas Palmer

Portsmouth 22d April 1776

You having the Command and direction of the Brigantine *Marquis of Kildare*, in the Service of the United Colonies, Equipt for the Sea, are to Embrace the first favourable Oppertunity of Wind & Weather, and Sail with said Brigant to the port Leorient, in the Kingdom of France, where when it shall please God you arrive, Enquire of some principal Merchant or Merchts on whom you may depend whether the Cargo you have on board said Brigantine (Invoice of which you have herewith) is Suitable for the Markett at that place, or whether any Articles you have on board, is Contraband, or not, which may be Easily known, by Enquiring what Articles are prohibited, If on Enquiry you find your Cargo will not sell for a Tolerable price, and by strictest Enquiry of disinterested Men, you are led to think that a greater price might be Obtain'd at Bourdeaux or any other part in the Bay of Biskey, even so high as Brest, you may proceed and do your best in the Sale of your Cargo, the Neat proceeds of which you'll lay out in such Articles, as are mentioned in the Memorandum you have herewith, takeing the greatest Care to deal with Men of the best Character, and with great Caution that the Goods are not Over Charg'd, after having Compleated your Business, and got the Neat proceeds of your Cargo on board which I shall depend on its being done with the utmost Frugality and dispatch, you'll make the best of your way back to this place, takeing the greatest Care, in your outward as well as your homeward passage to keep clear of any British Ships, whatever, and in short not to speak with any Vessell, You'll remember to push off this Coast with all dispatch, Steering as near the Shoal of Georges as may be with Safety, which will be most out of the way of the Men of Warr &c. after which you'll keep well to the Southward Especially when you come near Cape Finestre as by that Means you'll get clear of any Vessells, bound in or out, the Channel of England, Youll take Care on your Return, to keep in with the Eastern shore, and should it so happen that you should put in any Harbour by all means to give me Information as soon as may be, – You must be Sensible how Necessary it will be in keeping the best look out, & using your best Endeavour to prevent yourself from falling into the Hands of our Enemies, and also your duty, to Exert yourself for the Services of the United Colonies, in the Sale of your Cargo, & purchase of Goods, Agreeable to the Oath you've taken, – I must again recommend Frugality and dispatch, on which much will depend. Wishing you a prosperous Voyage & safe return, am your Friend & Director

John Langdon

[Endorsed] The above and on the other Side is Copy of my Orders which I promise to follow – Thomas Palmer

N. B. If you have any Letters on board for any part of the World for any person whatever My positive Orders are that you do not deliver them, untill

you are ready to leave the place, where you sell your Cargo and buy your Goods – Yours J Langdon

1. John Langdon Letter Book, Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAMBRIDGE, DATED APRIL 22, 1776.”¹

A number of the Marshfield Tories have just returned from Halifax, in a starving condition, with a request from Gen. Howe to Gen. Washington that the women and children may return again. By all accounts they have neither covering from the weather or provisions.

Commodore [Joshua] Loring's youngest son,² a midshipman, and a mate belonging to the English navy, were taken off Dartmouth last Thursday, coming from the West Indies, loaded with rum, sugar, &c. for the enemy.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, May 2, 1776.

2. John Loring; see commitment of four prisoners taken in the schooner *Valiant*, April 20, 1776.

DR. JOHN MORGAN TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Cambridge, April 22, 1776

Tomorrow I purpose to set out for Portsmouth to learn whether there are any Tidings of the 10 packages of Medicines formerly mentioned to be in the Prize carried in there,² that Nothing of so great value may be lost for want of looking after.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Medicines reported on board the prize ship *Susannah*, carried into Portsmouth in March 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL¹

[Watertown] Monday, April 22, 1776

Ordered, That William Sever & Benjamin Greenleaf Esqr with such as the Honble Board shall join, be a Committee to make such additions and amendments to the Bill for fixing out Armed Vessels for the defence of America as are necessary and shall comport with the late Resolve of Congress, Confiscating British Property. –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 785.

THOMAS CUSHING TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE¹

[Extract]

Watertown April 22 1776

. . . The Harbor of Boston if properly fortified would make one of the Securest upon the Continent & be the best port, I can think of, for a place of Rendezvous for the Continental Fleet, – would it not then be politic for the Congress to attend to this Matter

If the Congress would also order two or three Ships of War to be built in Boston, it would find employ for many of the poor Inhabitants & Comfort them under their affliction – I am satisfied I could find Timber enough as well as meterial sufficient for Equipping them; Cannon we must have from the Southward, & now I have mentioned that Article I hope those taken by

Commodore Hopkins will Answer for the ships, if they will I wish Congress would order them to be forwarded immediately, for the Ships will soon be ready, I fear we shall have to wait for Cannon – I am glad to hear you are attentive to this affair pray go on & may You prosper – The Cannon at Boston, it is Said, may be repaired & made suitable for Batteries. Those belonging to the Castle were left behind, some of them spiked up but most of them with the trunions knocked off, it is thought they may be repaired & fitted for use – . . .

P S most of the British Fleet & army are arrived at Halifax. The Tories find miserable quarters there –

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1776

Watertown, April 22d.

The Schooner ————— [*Violenti*] capt. [Stephen] Cleveland, which sailed from Salem for Winyaw, in North Carolina, the beginning of January last, was taken on her passage by the *Scarborough* man of war,¹ and sent to Georgia, where after lading with rum, sugar, &c. she proceeded for Boston, when on last Friday 7 night (not knowing the ministerial fleet and army had evacuated that place) meeting with a heavy gale of wind, she put into the Vineyard, where she was properly taken care of by some boats from thence. – One Marsh, the master's mate, and a son of commodore Loring, as master's mate, with two passengers on board, were bro't to town for examination on Saturday last.²

1. Taken at sea by the *Scarborough* on February 1, 1776, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. See letter of Barachiah Bassett, April 16, 1776; and commitment of four prisoners, April 20, 1776.

WILLIAM COOPER TO JOHN ADAMS¹

My dear Sir,

Boston 22d Apr. 1776.

I wrote last Thursday Morning by the Post to our Friend Mr S. Adams – to which I refer you on some Things of a public Nature –

After so many Weeks Possession of this Town you would be surpriz'd to see in what a defenceless State we still remain. The Business of fortifying has lain between Genl [Artemas] Ward & a Committee of the Genl Court: Between them both, little or Nothing has yet been done. We have but 7 or 8 Guns mounted on Fort Hill – Nothing yet done on any Island in the Harbor – a British Ship of 20 or 30 Guns with two or three small arm'd Vessells are in Possess[i]on of King Road & Nantasket – They take or drive away almost all Supplies coming to us by Water; & (would you believe it!) with this inconsiderable Force the Harbor has been, & is now effectually block'd up. Two or three Ships of War have had it in their Power ever since the Evacuation of the Town to come up & cannonade it. Ward complains that too small a Force, but 5 Regiments not full, were left him – The Court blame him for Inactivity, and He them. I was pleas'd to see your

Letters & others from Gentlemen of the Congress mentioning the Importance of putting this Harbour into the best State of Defence – Pray write again & again to press this Matter – There is a Report here that Ward has desir'd to resign – I wish from my Heart He would do it – He is a good Man, a thoro N. England man, & dispos'd to do us ev'ry Service in his Power – But He certainly wants Decision & Activity – It is of absolute Necessity that some General Officer of the best Qualities be sent to this Department immediatly – Pray let [Nathanael] Green[e] or some other be plac'd here – We are in the utmost Hazard s[houl]d the Enemy return, of loosing in this Quarter much more than we have gain'd, by the Departure of the British Forces. Had there been a Man here, at the Head of the Military who would have discern'd at once what was proper to be done; and stated it to the Court, we might have been in a good Posture of Defence Weeks ago.

It is reported here that a Vessell is arriv'd at Newbury from Hallifax, which brings an Account that the Fleet had arriv'd There – having sufferr'd greatly from being crowd'd &c. that Provisions are short tho they daily expect a Supply – That the Military who first landed & were first accomodated had so taken up the Houses &c, that few or no accommodations were left for the Tories –

This Town has been dreadfully plunder'd – The Damage to the Inhabitants is immense – Tho more is left than was imagin'd would have been considering how absolutely the Town was in their Power – Our taking Possession of the Heights of Dorchester fairly drove them away – I am well inform'd that as soon as Shuldham saw our Works there He said to a Friend with Tears in his Eyes, we can no longer maintain our Station here.

Your Resolves for opening the Trade of America have been receiv'd here with great Pleasure; but it is almost universally wish'd you had at once made an open explicit Declaration that the Colonies would henceforth stand upon their own Government alone, as well as their own Defence – you have done what almost if not quite amounts to it, why not then declare it in a publick solemn Act, setting forth in a clear & striking Manner the ample Reasons you have for such a Decision. This, they say here, would have great Effect upon the Colonies but especially on Forreigners. Their Merchants would more readily trust their Effects here, and their Governments have a clearer Ground for protecting the Trade as well as our own Merchants [to] enter with greater Spirit into new Channels of Trade, which, if you do not mean speedily to recur to the old ones, are now become absolutely necessary for the Supply of the Continent. You have (say they) already gone too far to recede, or even to stop: Your only Safety is to press forward with the boldest Steps which will add to, rather than abate, the Ardor of the People in the common Cause. There is no making up with Britain upon the old Footing: Only giving her grounds from your Conduct to suspect you intended this would give her fresh Spirit & induce her to continue the War, hoping for some Event in her Favor, or if that should not take Place, she might at last settle Matters upon the old Foundation: Should this be done, our Liberties would soon be ruin'd by Influence & Corruption, or our Bat-

bles fought over anew – The most likely Way to bring the War to a speedy & happy Issue is to take the last Step, not with an apparent Caution & Timidity, as if we distrusted ourselves, but with an Air of Confidence & unshaken Resolution – at the same Time to run no unnecessary Risque, but immediately invite all the Aid that may be procur'd upon the Footing that we are now a distinct State: and to treat with Britain, if we treat at all, as a State capable of Governing as well as defending itself; (we plainly mean to Shew them the latter, and can we provoke them, or endanger ourselves more by avowing the former) – This is apprehended here as the most likely way to produce a solid and lasting Settlement. – Pray write me soon and favor me with such Communications as may be trusted to a Friend, and I will endeavor to be punctual in the best Returns I can make – I am Sir [&c.]

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

MAJOR JOHN GIZZARD FRAZER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Boston, April 22d 1776

The Honbl Genl Co

Sirs, I have fix'd out a small Armed Schooner of about 30 Tons burthen from Boston, which I want a commission for, if your Honor's will be pleas'd to grant me one – she is call'd the *Lady Washington*, mounts four 2 & 3 Pounders, and 10 Swivel Guns – commanded by – I am [&c.]

Jn^o G. Frazer

[Endorsed] In Council Apr 22d 1776 read and Order'd that the prayer of the Above petition be granted, and that the sd John G. Frazer be Commissionated for the purpose aforesd on his giving Bond to the Treasurer of this Colony for the faithful performance of his Duty therein agreeable to the Act providing the same –

Perez Morton D Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 325.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1776

Newport, April 22.

Since Sunday the 7th instant, there have been two large cables and anchors taken up in our Bay, by some of the troops of this colony, and one hauser of 140 fathoms, with a small anchor, which were left behind by the ministerial fleet, in their late precipitate flight.

Last Monday arrived in this colony in 8 days from South Carolina, the sloop *Charlotte*, Capt. John Joy, who in lat. 34½, was chased by an English man of war pirate.

Mr. John Read, who came passenger with Capt. Joy, informs, that the ship *Clarissa*, of this port, of which he was mate, was taken into custody of the *Raven* sloop of war at Georgia,¹ and that he had made his escape with Capt. John Dennis, who had been taken in a sloop from that place some time before; that the Georgians are very spirited in the present glorious contest; that Savannah is now very strongly fortified; that the harbour of

Charlestown is defended by near 200 cannon, and several vessels of force; that a duel was fought on the 19th of January, between the Lieut. of the *Syr-en* sloop of war, and Lieut. Cummins of the marines, in which the former was killed on the spot.²

Last Thursday the brig *Cabot*, of 14 6 pounders, Capt. Hynman, arrived here from New-London, and brought a number of heavy cannon, &c. for the defence of this place, being part of the stores lately taken from New-Providence. The next day the *Fly*, tender to Admiral Hopkins's fleet, came from New London, sailed through the harbour, and returned the ensuing night. This tender sails remarkably swift.

A ship was seen several days last week standing off and on between this harbour and Block-Island; and by a person who left the island yesterday, we are informed that the said ship is the *Scarborough*; that she, and a fourteen gun brig, with a small tender, watered there on Saturday; that the ship's people said Capt. [James] Wallace was gone for a larger force, and would return in 3 or 4 days; and that there were no other ships to be seen off.³

A schooner from the West Indies, loaded with rum, sugar, &c. bound to Boston, was taken last week, and carried into Dartmouth.⁴

1. The ship *Clarissa*, Richard Bissell, master, and owned by Roch & Lopez, merchants of Newport, was taken January 22, 1776, Shuldhams's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
2. The victim was Lieutenant Josh: Pennington; see journal of H.M. Sloop *Raven* for January 19, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 51/771.
3. Mistaken identity; the *Scarborough* was in Halifax harbor on this date. The ship was the *Cerberus*, of 28 guns, which was hovering off Block Island, and on April 22 "At Anchor in Block Island Bay," PRO, Admiralty 51/181.
4. The schooner *Valiant*; see "Extract of a letter from Cambridge, dated April 22, 1776."

Connecticut Courant, MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1776

Hartford, April 22.

The following is a list of the Continental fleet at New London, April 8th.

Ship <i>Alfred</i> , Hopkins,	32	guns.
Ship <i>Columbus</i> , Wipple,	28	
Brig <i>Cabot</i> , Hopkins, junior,	14	
Brig <i>Andrew Doria</i> , Biddle,	14	
Sloop <i>Providence</i> , Hazard,	12	
Bomb [<i>Bolton</i>] prize brig, retaken,	10	
Schooner [<i>Hawke</i>] prize retaken,	8	
Sloop, prize [<i>Glasgow's</i> tender] retaken	6	
New-Haven brig [<i>Defence</i>],	16	
	140	

In Rhode Island.

Two r[o]w galleys,	2 18 pounders, and	
four 9, each		12

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] April 22d, 1776.

Voted, That his Honor the Governor is desired to write to Col. Isaac Sears to answer such draughts as Capt. Ephraim Bill shall make upon him for building and furnishing the Colony ship for service.²

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 264.2. *The Oliver Cromwell*.COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO JOHN JENCKES, PROVIDENCE ¹

Sir

New London April 22nd 1776

Captn Allen Brown is here yet with your Sloop, and without the Coast is clear I advise him to stay untill he can be certain of getting round – but if you want to Sell the Molasses I hear it will fetch 3/8 at New York where she may go Safe, and perhaps be more for your Advantage than her coming home.

Your Son is hearty and behaves Extremely well ever Since he came on-board our Ship – ²

E. H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Rufus Jenckes, midshipman, who was entered November 20, 1775, having come from Rhode Island in the *Katy*.MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL NATHANIEL BUELL ¹

[Extract]

Tyconderoga April 22d: 1776.

Sir Your Zeal to promote the Service: the alacrity with which you do your Duty: your attention to the preservation of the public Stores. your just Ideas of the Importance of Dispatch, are so many Motives which induce me to confide to your Command the important posts of St. John's St. Theresa and Chamble –at the first all provisions & military Stores, that leave this in the larger vessels must necessarily be landed – The smaller vessels will go as far down as St. Theresa, and from thence they are to return here, unless they are intended for Quebec, when both Boats and provisions may go down by water – From St. Theresa the provisions and Stores are to be carted to Chamblé – At all these places you must see that the provisions & Stores be effectually sheltered so as not to sustain Damage.

You will continually write to the commanding officer at Tyconderoga to forward whatever may be there, and to me also, that the army in Canada may not suffer – You will apply to General [John] Thomas or officer commanding [in] Canada, and to Colonel [Donald] Campbell Deputy Quarter Master General for whatever Boats &c. you may need.

Great Care must be taken to conciliate the affections of the Canadians – You are not to suffer any of the Men to injure them, in their persons or property, and be attentive to their Complaints.

You are from Time to Time to return whatever Batteaus may not be

wanted to go down the Sorrel to this place that they may be employed from hence in sending our Troops, provisions and Stores.

You are to stop at Crown Point and take in all the Lead that is there.

You must write to Colo: Campbell the Quarter Master General to send back to Chamblé thirty or forty Batteaus for provisions, which I hope will soon be up.

On your arrival at Chamblé, you must procure pilots to carry the Batteaus down to Chamblé.

1. Schuyler Papers, vol. 2, Letters & Orders, 18 April, 1776–29 June, 1777, NYPL.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

New York, April 22, 1776.

When I had the Honor of seeing Admiral Hopkins at New London, he represented to me the weak State of his Fleet occasioned by Sickness and the damage he received in his Engagement with the Enemy, and requested I would spare him 200 Men, to assist him in a design he had formed of attacking [James] Wallace; This I readily consented to, and the Men are to be returned as soon as the Service is performed.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 500–04.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW YORK, DATED MONDAY, APRIL 22.” ¹

Information was given that a tender was on shore at Rockaway on Saturday. General Putnam despatched two hundred men with two field pieces to take her – have not heard from them yet.²

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 23, 1776.

2. The *James* pilot boat, a British tender; see *Constitutional Gazette*, April 24, 1776.

OUTFIT OF THE NEW YORK ARMED SLOOP *Montgomery* ¹

Sloop <i>Montgomery</i> Capt Rodgers			
1776		To James & Alexander Stewart	D
	Cwt	Qr	lb.
Mar 26		To ½ barrel pitch 16/ 1 Indn broome 9d 4lb nails 4/8	1:1:5
28		To use of Fall and blocks 16/ 1 padlock 3/6	19:6
“		To 3 Steel scrapers @ 6/6 19/6 1 paint brush 1/6	1:1:0
“	2.26	To Rope part of barrl Tar 21/, 3 Tar barrels 9/	1:10:0
30		To 4 bir brooms 1/6 14 Skeins marline 9d 10/6	12:0
“	1. .3 . .51½	To Rope 2 Skeins twine 3/ 1 Line 3/, 1 Tar barrel 3/	9:0

		To 1 Tallow brush fixt 5/ 2 birch brooms 9d	5:9	
		To 6lb Oakum 2/6 1 hatchett 4/1 Gallon jug 1/6	8:0	
		To 1 Side Leather 14/, 1 Line 3/ deld Sailmaker	17:0	
	3..41/2	To Rope. 4 Lines 12/ 1 Skein Twine 1/6	13:6	
		To 3 sail needles 6d 1 palm 6d 6 Sks marline 4/6	5..6	8.2.8
		To 6 gimblets 1/6 500 pump Tacks 2/6	4..0	
	1.23	To Rope 2 Skeins marline 1/6 1 keg Lamblack 2/6	4:0	
		To 2 lines 6/ 1 Tap 4d 1lb 3d nails 2/	8:4	
	2 0 3	To Rope 1 Lock 2/6 1 brush 1/3, 1 Lock 2/6	6:3	
	2 1 10	To do 6lb twine 18/ 1 Keg Lamblack 2/6	1 :0 :6	
Apl.	3 " " 101/4	To do 6 Skeins marline 4/6, 1 hammer 3/	7 :6	
	1. 1.16	To do 1 hatchett 4/ 5 bonnet Lines 30/	1:14:0	
	. 1. 91/2	To do 2 lines 6/ 24lb Lard 10d 20/ 12 Sks marlin 9/	1:15:0	
	25	To Spunyarn 4lb twine 12/: 2 marle needles 1/6	13:6	
		To 1 Line 3/ 1 Gallon Linsd Oil 8/ 2 Brooms 1/6	12:6	
12	2.223/4	To Rope deld sailmrs 2 lb Oakum	10	
	..3..9	To do 1/2 Gro Corks 2/ 31/2 Spunyarn @ 6d. 1/9	3.9.7.10.2	
		To 6 Sail Needles 1/, 1 Pendant } 7: 4: 0		
		40 fet 40/. and Jack 28/ } 7: 4: 0		
		1 Ensign 52yd Mare buntn } 7: 4: 0		
		@ 1/3 Makg 10/ }		
15		To 1 padlock 2/6 4lb Twine 3/12	14:6	
	1. 0.263/4	To Rope and spunyarn brass wyer 1/6 1 Lock 3/6	5:0	
	1. 2.273/4	To do 5 lb Chalk 10d 4lb twine 3/, 12/	12:10	

AMERICAN THEATRE

22	3..6	To do 25 woodbowl 25/ 1/2 dozn spoons 3/	1:8:0	
"		To 1/2 dozn knives & Forks 13/, 1 Iron Ladle 3/	16:0	
"		To 1 flesh fork 2/6, 6 Fishlines 18/, hooks 4/	1:4:6	
22		To 2 Steel scrapers 13/, 3 brooms 2/3, 1.0 3/4 lb twine 32/3	2:7:6	
"		To 2 dozn sorted needles 5/6, 1 deep sealine 24/	1:9:6	
"		To 1 lead 14lb 8/2 2 loglines 12/ 1 grid Iron 7/ 1lb thrums 4/	1:11:2	
"		To 3 Scrubg brushes 10/6, 3 half hour Glasses 6/	<u>16:6</u>	18:9:6
"		To 1 two hour Glass 6/, 4.. 1/2 & 1/4 mt. Glasses Sold 24	1:10:0	
"		To 500 Tacks 2/6 1Tinder box 2/6 1 Trumpett 10/	15:0	
"		To 1 Tea Kettle 10/6 1 spyg Glass 40/ 3 palms 1/6	3:1:0	
"		To 6 hatchets 24/ 1 ax 8/, 1 black Jack 4/	1:16	
"		To 1 pint Jack 3/ 4 Canns 8/ 1 pr Steel yards 16/6	1:7:6	
"		To 1/2 bushl salt 4/ 2 yds baiz 10/ 1 m Clouts 6/	1:0:0	
"		To 20lb Lard 10d 16/8 12 lb nails 14/ 1 Iron pott 5/6	1:16:2	
"		To 1 Logreel 3/6 4 Cedarbolts 12/ 1 Coffee mill 10/	1:5:6	
"		To 25lb white Lead 10d 20/10 6lb Yellow Oaker 4/6	1:5:4	
"		To 4 lb red Lead 4/ 12lb Spar brown 6/ 1 Vice 2/	12:0	
"		To 2 Gallons Linsd Oil 16/ Jug 2/6 1 Gallo Spt Turpinte 8/	<u>1:6:6</u>	15:15:0
Apl 22		To 5 Tin Lanthrons 26/ 1 Brass candlestick 8/	1:14:0	
"		To 2 Skeins marline 1/6 paper and Quills 17/	18:6	
"	1: 1: 2	To Rope 2 blank Books	17:6	

“	To 1/2 dozn plates 4/6 3 Dishes 15/ 1 pewter bason 7/	1:6:6	
“	To 1/2 dozn cups & Saucers 3/6 1/2 dozn Chocolate bowls 3/6	7:0	
“	To 1/2 dozn Soap plates 4/6 2 Tea- pots 3/6 6 plates 4/6	12:6	
“	T 1 Quat & 1 pint Mugs 3/ 1 Quart bowl 1/	4:0	
“	To 6 wine Glasses, 4/6 1 Groce Corks 3/	7:6	6.7.6

25 To Rope

GUNNERS STORES

“	To 1 Large horn Lanthron 14/ 1/2 doz Gimblets 3/	17	
“	To 6 Skeans marline 4/6 1 line 3/6 Files 7/6	15:0	
“	To 150 muskett flints 6/6. 1 hand vise 8/6	15:0	
“	To 1/2 dozn Gimblets 3/3 Sticks Sealingwax 5/3	8:3	
“	To 6 Quire muskt Cathridge paper 15/1 bottl Sweet Oil 3/6	18:6	
“	To 2 Gallons Vinegar & jugs 13/3 Skeins Twine 3/9	16:9	
“	To 400 Tacks	2:0	4:12:6

CARPENTERS STORES

“	To 1 Large ax 14/ 1 maul 7/, 1 adze 12/	1:13:0	
“	To 1 Sett Caulkg Tools 23/, 3 Spike Gimblets 5/	1:8:0	
“	To 1 Jack plane 3/ 1 long plane 4/ 1 wood ax 9/	16:0	
“	To 2 Rules 4/ 1 pr Compasses 1/3 1 Auger 4/6	9:9	
“	To 1 dozn Gimblets 6/ 1 hammer 4/6 3 Chizzels 6/	16:6	
“	To 2 Chalk lines 2/ 1 pr compasses 1/3	3:3	
“	To 1 Iron square 3/3 1 Iron plate saw 10/	13:3	
“	To 60lb whiting 15/ 14lb Chalk 2/4 1 maul 7/	1:4:4	

AMERICAN THEATRE

"	To 50lb Tallow 9d $\frac{1}{2}$ 39/7, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb pump Leather 25/6	3:5:1
"	To 2 pump hammers 3/, 1 smoothg plane 4/	7:0
"	To 12lb Oakum 5d5/ $\frac{1}{2}$ dozn hand sawfiles 3/6	8:6
"	To 1 Gouge 2/ 1 Grindstone 8/, 2 adzes, 14/	1:4:0
"	To 1 pr pincers 2/ 4 mopnails 1/	3:0
"	To 1 Steel plate saw 18/ 1 Saw Sett 1/6	19:6
"	To 4 Augers 15 Quar 9d, 11/3 1 Augre deld F Fine 6/	17:3
"	To 2 lb Thrums @ 3/6, 7/ 66lb Sheet Leadg 9d 49/6	2:16:6
"	To 1 drawing knife 4/2 Spike Gim- blets 3/	7:0 17:11:11
		<hr/> 78: 9: 3
Cwt 20.0.0	Cordage and Spun yarn @ 70/	70: 0: 0
		<hr/> £148. 9. 3

Cr

By 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Tarbarrels 4/6 3 Birch Brooms 1/1	0:5:7
	<hr/> £148:3:8

1. Record Group 45, copy, NA. Original destroyed in New York State Library fire, Albany, New York.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1776.

[New York, April 22.]

A Philadelphia Captain, whose vessel loaded with flour was seized at the Eastward, was put on shore at Nantucket, saw a Ship at a loss in the fog, man'd three whale boats and took her: she was almost new; belonged to London and had 200 puncheons of Rum, Sugar, Coffee, &c. on board for the ministerial army.¹

1. See *Boston Gazette*, April 15., 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 22nd April, 1776.

By order of the Board, Robert Towers, Commissary, was directed to deliver Capt. Nath'l Falconer Half a Barrel Gun powder, for the use of the Signals at Lewes Town.

By order of the Board, Rob't Towers, Commiss'y, was directed to deliver Capt. [William] Brown twenty-six Firelocks, Catridge Boxes, & Bayonet Belts, for the use of his Marine Company.

Resolved, That Rob't Towers, Com'ry, reserve 21 Firelocks for Capt. Brown, exclusive of the order for 26 deliver'd this day,

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 548.

PETITION OF HENRY TUDOR TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Philadelphia, 22d April, 1776.

To the Honourable The Committee of Safety:

The Petition of Henry Tudor, a Pilot in the River Delaware, Sheweth:

That your Petitioner has been in the Capacity of a Pilot in the River Delaware these Twenty-six years past, During which time he never met with any accident that proved any way prejudicial to the Interest of any Gentleman that pleased to Employ him; Besides your petitioner has been Pilot of several Men of War in the said River Delaware, and there never was any seizure made by them during his stay on board, which is well known to many of the Merchants in this City. Your Petitioner was also called upon within these few years to go down to the Capes in the Customhouse Boat, which your Petitioner complied with, and was offered a very beneficial birth on board the said Boat by Mr. Haughton, Surveyor General, which your Petitioner absolutely declined the offer. At the same time, there was two Pilot Boats Loaded with Tea out of Captain [William] Budden's Sloop which got cast away at Cape Henlopen, by not getting into Lewis Town Creek, which the officers of the kings (or Custom house) boat getting Inteligence of immediately proceeded to sieze the said Pilot Boats and their Cargoes of Tea; but your Petitioner through a stratagem of his own found means to get on shore and communicated the intentions of the Officers belonging to the Customhouse boats to Captains of the Pilot Boats; by which means the Pilot Boats got clear from the Customhouse Boat, chiefly owing to your Petitioner telling the Customhouse Officers that there was not water enough to carry them to where the Pilot boats lay, altho' there was water plenty.

Your Petitioner would Intreat your Honours to pay no regard to any Malicious Stories that has been lately propogated by some evil-minded person or Persons, Greatly to the Prejudice of your Petitioner & his family, by Reporting y'r Petitioner was lately on board the *Roebuck* Man of War, which your Petitioner can fully satisfy your Honours to the Contrary, he being in Wilmington at the time it was Reported. These considerations Emboldens your Petitioner to solicit your Honl. Board to promote him to some station in defence of American Liberty, such as commander of a Small Fire Galley, or any other post your Honours shall think proper, so as that your Petitioner may be the better enabled to support his wife and a small helpless family; And Your Petitioner, as in Duty Bound, will ever pray.

Henry Tudor.

N.B. Y'r Petitioner will wait upon y'r Honours at any time in order to stand an Examination if Required.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 596-97.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 22." ¹

This morning we received an account, that Capt. Barry has taken another tender, and sent her into Egg-Harbour: She is a schooner of 6 guns, fitted out by the *Phoenix*: She hove her guns overboard and ran ashore, but Capt. Barry soon got her off. The Captain got intelligence of another tender of ten guns, which he is gone after. Hope we shall soon clear our coast of those little pirates who have done much mischief. The sloop *Liberty*, from St. Eustatia, said to be bound for Amboy, but rather think she was bound to this port, with powder and dry goods, is taken and carried into Virginia. Governor Eden, of Maryland, is taken into custody.

1. *New York Packet*, April 25, 1776.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, Delaware Bay, Monday 22d April, 1776]

... two Sloops & two schooners came down the Bay under an Easy Sail and steard through the Cape May Channel: as soon as they were fairly clear, so as not to be able to return before I could get round the overfalls, I weighed & gave them chace. They put right before the wind, which was westerly, and after running about 12 Leagues I took one of the schooners, which was bound to St Eustatia Laden with Flour & Hams,² the others escaped on account of the Night coming on; and being little wind I came up with them very slowly. I had the mortification to learn from my Prize that the two Sloops were New York Pilot Boats, very fast sailers, that had been fitted at Philadelphia as Privatiers, and carryd 4 Carriage Guns & 30 Men each. As I could not get within Six miles of them before dark, I thought it in vain to pursue them any farther,³ and made the best of my way back to the Delaware . . .

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

2. "By The *Roebuck*, and Ships under Captain Hamond's Orders. . . . *Dolphin*, William Knox, Master, [John] Pringle, Owner; from Philadelphia to St. Eustatia; with Hams and Bread." *London Gazette*, May 10 to May 13, 1777.

3. The sloops were the *Congress* and *Chance*, commissioned as privateers April 11, 1776, Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal, 1776-83), 196,3,40; 2,92, NA.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

The Committee met on Monday 22 April 1776

Present - William Lux Chairman

W. Buchanan	J. Moale	J. Calhoun	J. Sterret
A. Buchanan	J. Smith	W. Tolly Junr	A. Britain
T. Harrison	J. Boyd	J. E. Howard	T. Sollers
C. Ridgely (of Wm)	J. Griest	G. Ristean	J. Cradock
J. Merryman	T. Gist	J. Gittings	W. Asquith
W. Wilkinson	D. Lux		Geo Lux Secry -

Mr Samuel Purviance appeared and delivered in his Answer in Writing agreeable to his Promise of Saturday, which, being read, is as follows –

Gentlemen

April 22 1776

(A Copy)

Agreeable to my Declaration to the Committee at the last Meeting the 20th Inst, that I exculpated all the Members of the Committee from any Concern in the Orders, which I gave as Chairman of the Committee to Capt Saml Smith the 14th Inst – I am now to inform you of the Circumstances of that Affair, and the Reasons on which I ventured to give these Orders –

The Dispatches recieved from the Committee of Safety of Virginia, with a Letter written by General Lee, and directed to me as Chairman of this Committee, I considered as sufficient Reasons to justify the Committee in using their best Endeavours to sieze Governor Eden, his Secretary, & Mr. Alexander Ross, should they or either of them be found attempting to escape from Annapolis; a Suspicion founded on the certain Knowledge, that Mr Ross had gone from this Town to Annapolis a few days before; and that it was highly probable he would alarm Governor Eden with an Account of the Secretary of State's Letter to him being siezed & taken from him on his way up from Lord Dunmore – On considering those Papers in my House on Sunday Evening, it seemed to be the general Opinion of the Gentlemen there assembled, that if Capt Nicholson's Tender were here, it would be proper to dispatch her with some Men to Annapolis to wait the Orders of the Council of Safety – On Monday Morning I was informed, that Capt James Nicholson was returned in his Tender from Chester; on which I sent for him & communicated to him the Purport of the Dispatches recieved from the Council of Virginia, & General Lee's Letter, & told him the Sentiments of the Gentlemen, who met at my House the Evening before, that it would be proper to send his Tender with an Officer & some Men to Annapolis; observing to him, that if the Governor had made his Escape from Annapolis, she would be the properest Vessell to pursue after him, as she could both row & sail – Captain Nicholson agreeing with me in the Propriety of the Measure, consented to my Request to get his Boat ready for the Purpose, and to send one of his Officers in here – As I could not attend the Committee that day, I spoke to most of the Gentr who had been at my House the Evening before, & to General Buchanan, and told them, I had spoke to Capt Nicholson for his Tender, which they all approved of – I accordingly applied to Major Gist to whom the Dispatches from Virginia had been shewn, and obtained his Consent to let Capt Saml Smith with a few Men of his Company go in the Tender to Annapolis – Capt S. Smith accordingly met me in the Street just at Dinner Time, & told me, he was ready

to go, & waited for Orders – I had not thought before on the Propriety of Orders – The Committee was then broke up for Dinner, & consequently I had no Opportunity of consulting them immediately: And for the Sake of Secrecy, which so important a Business required, I thought it improper to communicate the Matter to any others than the Gentlemen, who had seen the Papers already, of whom three were gone to Annapolis to wait on the Council, Mr Willm Buchanan had rode out of Town, & Mr William Lux & Mr Harrison, with whom I had engaged to dine that day, were gone out of Town – In these Circumstances I sat down, & without the Concurrence or Advice of any Person wrote very hastily those Orders, which I delivered to Major Gist, & signed as Chairman of the Committee –

I do candidly acknowledge to you, I had my own Doubts, whether I was to consider General Lee's Letter directed to me as Chairman of the Committee as a private Letter to Myself, or as a Letter to the Comme: Yet the Contents of it, together with the Dispatches reced from the Council of Virginia, I considered as a sufficient Call upon me, & every Person well affected to the Interests of America, to use the best Endeavours to sieze Persons, of whom there were such strong Reasons to believe their being inimical –

I hope, Gentlemen, the Circumstances, I have mentioned, which are all strictly true, & the extreme Importance of the Occasion, will at least palliate my Offence in taking (what my be deemed by some) a very rash Step, but which the Necessity of the Case will justify me in to you, & the Publick – I am Gentlemen

Yr Most Humbl Servt

To the Committee of Observation }
for Baltimore County }

Saml Purviance Junr

Resolved, That this Committee do highly disapprove of the Chairman's Conduct in presuming to act in any Matter without their Concurrence & Approbation, especially in Matters, that evidently do not come within their Jurisdiction – And with Regard to the Instructions given to Capt Saml Smith upon a late Pressing Occasion, though the Necessity of the Case may be urged as an Apology for them, yet this Committee always willing to move in the strictest Line of their Duty, and desirous to preserve due Subordination & Order in the Community, do totally disavow & disapprove of them, knowing, that the Power necessary in such Cases is not vested in the Committee –

But nevertheless we are fully persuaded, that the Chairman, in issuing these Orders was actuated only by that uniform, warm & zealous Attachment to our distressed & perhaps betrayed Country, which would otherwise have merited the Thanks of every spirited Friend of our Invaded Rights, And we trust, this well meant Excess, in so interesting a Crisis, will find a more easy

Pardon with his vigilant Countrymen, than if he had been chargeable with a Criminal Neglect, or with a Timidity still more dangerous and blameable –

Lieutenant William Sterret appeared before the Committee, and produced an Order from the Council of Safety for taking into his Possession the Bagg & Portmanteau of Mr Alexander Ross; and convey the same to Annapolis to the Council of Safety, on which Mr Thomas Harrison & Dr John Boyd were appointed to proceed to Mr Grants, & examine the Seal of the Door, who returned & report, that the Papers & Effects were delivered according to Order –

Capt James Nicholson applied to the Committee for a Vessell to assist him in raising Two Vessels at Whetstone, upon which the Brig *Fortune* was appointed to proceed to Whetstone and ordered to obey Capt Nicholson's Instructions –

The following Citations were produced before the Committee –

In Council of Safety Annapolis 20 April 1776

Ordered, That Mr Samuel Purviance Junr, Chairman of the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County, attend the Council of Safety at the City of Annapolis on Monday the 22d Inst

(By Order) G Duvall Clk

In Council of Safety Annapolis 20 April 1776

Ordered, That Mr William Lux, Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County, attend the Council of Safety at the City of Annapolis, on Monday the 22d Instant –

(By Order) G Duvall Clk

Mr Samuel Purviance Junr Chairman, & Mr William Lux Deputy Chairman of this Committee applied for their Advice & Instructions therein; And it was judged expedient, that they obey the said Citations, but the Committee at the same time are of Opinion, that the Powers Vested in the Council of Safety do not justify the Summoning any Member of this Committee to appear before them, unless they have been guilty of, or are chargeable with "high & dangerous Offences tending to disunite the People of this Province in their present Opposition, or to destroy the Liberties of America –["]

Mr George Lux, Clerk to this Committee, produced also the following Citation –

In Council of Safety Annapolis 20 April 1776

Ordered, That Mr George Lux, Clerk of the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County, attend the Council of Safety at the City of Annapolis on Monday the 22d Instant, & bring with him the Proceedings of the said Committee in consequence of intercepted Letters from Lord George Germaine to Robert Eden Esqr, Deputy Governor of Maryland, which were transmitted to them by the Honl The Committee of Safety of Virginia: and also all Resolves, Orders, Instructions, Requisitions, Letters, Papers, and

Writings relative to, or concerning the Same, as Clerk of the said
Committee of Baltimore – (By Order)

G Duvall Clk

Resolved, That he be permitted to take Copies of the Proceedings, and re-
pair to the Council of Safety, if he thinks proper –

Attestd Geo Lux Secretary

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Baltimore Ap. 22d 1776 –

Gentlemen of the Honourable Council of Safety of Maryland –

I have now to inform you of the Arm'd Schooner *Resolution* being
Equipped agreeable to your directions She wants princplely the Commis-
sions for her Officers, who refuse Acting out of the Harbour until their
Commissions are confirm'd. After which shoud be glad of your permission
to go down the Bay as far as you think proper, in order to Exercise our Men
& Consult with Cap. [John Thomas] Boucher. The Schooner has about 40
hands now Shipt, but is capable of carrying 70 with great Conveniency. If
you think proper to have that number compleat, you'll please to let me
know. The officers that has been Acting Aboard are William Waud Cap.
Henry Auchinlick, Lieutt Bennett Johnston Master, and as far as I can dis-
cover are proper persons. Mr Dorsey one of the Ships Midshipmen I un-
derstand has made application for A Lieutenancy of Marines, I think him
very capable. I am Gentlem [&c.]

Ja^s Nicholson

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

HUGH YOUNG TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentn

Baltimore 22d April 1776

I have the pleasure of advising you of the safe arrival of the Brign
Beith, in the W.I. the 3d Ulto without any interruption – I Sent you by Mr
Lux a letter for you from him but have learnt that he forgot it I Suppose
he has sent it since his return –

I am sorry to advise you the loss of the Brign *Nancy* Captn Wise, some-
where in the Bay, a few days ago, I have not recd any letter from him but
have it from a Gentn from the Eastern Shore of undoubted authority & be-
lieve it to be a fact – it appears from the Care Captn Wise has taken that it
is merely impossible for any vessell to pass our Ravenous Enemies, however if
you think the Schooner *Ninety* [*Two*] has any Chance, you will please give
the Committee orders to allow me to load her as her Cargo is all ready – If
you think Otherwise I shall be glad to know what I am to do with the
Cargo, I shall be much Obliged for a few lines on this Subject by the first
Opportunity. I am Gentn [&c.]

Hugh Young

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF Safety ¹

. [Annapolis] Monday 22d April 1776:

Captain Kell having resigned the Command of the Schooner *Dolphin*, Duncan Hill was admitted and sworn Captain and desired to advert to the Instructions heretofore given Capt Kell and to govern himself by them.

The following Lines were addressed to the Committee of Northampton County in Virginia at the Foot of the Instructions (vizt)

“The Council of Safety return many Thanks to the Committee of Northampton County in Virginia for their friendly Assistance heretofore to Capt Kell, and as he has resigned the Command, request the Continuance of their Favour and Advice to Captain Duncan Hill.”

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

DIARY OF COLONEL LANDON CARTER ¹

[Rappahannock River, Virginia]

22 Monday, April, 1776. Last night an Express from H[obbs] Hole from Dr. [William] Fauntleroy to the commandg officer of the 50 invalids of the 5th regiment left at our Court house to desire him to march to the assistance of the town. A tender had, it seems, forced the New England vessel loading corn at the mouth of Piscattaway to slip and run for it, but she only got to H. Hole Wharf and was there taken without any resistance from the Town. . . . I was told that Bartlett Goodrich, a son of the old villian, commanded this tender.²

1. *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1st series, XVI, 257–68.

2. The tender was commanded by Bridger Goodrich according to “Biographical Memoir of Richard Dale,” *The Port Folio*, Vol. III, No. VI, June 1814. Hereafter cited as “Dale Memoir.”

RAWLEIGH COLSTON TO LANDON CARTER ¹

Monday [April 22, 1776] 10 o[c]lock

Dear Sir, The tender that made so daring an attempt yesterday, has had the misfortune to run her prize on ground opposite my brother's – The tender lies at l[e]ast a mile to leward of the prize, which renders the resque extremely easy – I think it might be effected by thirty persons well armed. The Attempt must be made from above in the dusk of the evening – If possession could be taken of the prize, the plan would be to come to Close quarters with the tender, and then we are an over match – She has not above 14 or 15 hands – She has discharged several guns; I suppose at some of the Militia on the opposite shore – My brothers servant told me they were fitting out a vessell from Hobs hole yestetrday – I was apprehensive if this was the case that they had given out the pursuit imaginig the tender had escaped – but they ought to have calculated the chances of running aground and pursued her to the mouth of th[is] river ² [I am with] respect Sr

Rawleigh Colston

1. Landon Carter Papers, UVL.

2. See Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, May 3, 1776.

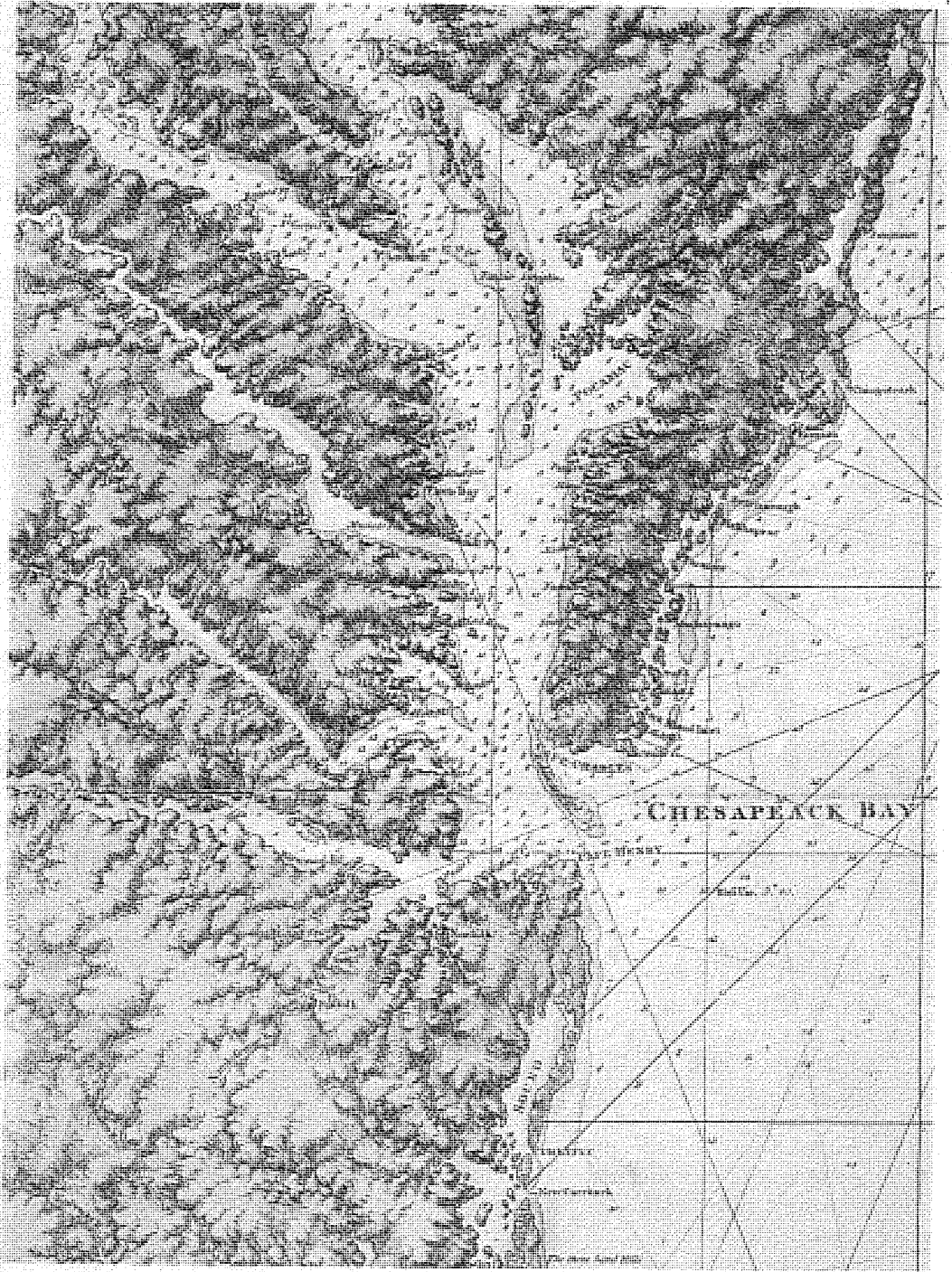


Chart of the lower Chesapeake.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE ¹

- April 1776 At an Anchor in Norfolk Road Virginia
- Friday 19 Fired several Shot to disperse the Rebels who were in parties on the Shore.
Little Wind & fair. Employed in scraping the Sides & cleaning ship At 10 P M the Rebels set part of Portsmouth on fire. Fired several Shot at parties of them. Received Water.
- Saturday 20 Purchased of Alexr Hamond 290 Gallons Rum for the Ships use.
Do Wr Opened a Cask of Pork, contents 110 pieces short 6 pieces.
- Sunday 21 A M unmoored, At 10 do weighed & dropt higher up. Let go the B Bower & carried out a Warp, in order to open the Flank of the Lines more. At Noon let go the small Bower & moored.
Do Wr Received on board Water. The *Spitfire* being fitted as a Tender, she anchored above us in order to annoy the Rebels, at the pass between Portsmouth & the Ferry point.
- Monday 22 Fired several shot at parties of the Rebels onshore.
Do Wr P M weighed the Small Bower, carried out a Warp, & warp'd the Ship higher up. Let go the small Bower & moor'd. Carried out the Stream Anchor & Cable to the Southward as a spring. Fired several Shot at parties of the Rebels onshore.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NORTH-CAROLINA, DATED HALIFAX THE
TWENTY-SECOND OF APRIL, 1776.” ¹

A few days past a ten gun sloop commanded by Captain Wright (the same man who met with so warm a reception at Hampton, in Virginia) and a sloop of six guns commanded by that infamous old piratical scoundrel John Goodrich, one of the parties of Lord Dunmore and company, came over Ocracock bar, in this province, and took four vessels outward bound. The ten gun sloop went immediately to sea with two of the prizes. The wind not being fair, Capt. Goodrich's sloop and the other two prizes remained within the bar. Twenty-three men, headed by a brave young man (Benjamin Bonner of Pomptico river) in four whale boats boarded the old pirate sloop of six guns, sword in hand, and possessed themselves of her, and the whole crew, with a tolerable cargo of valuable articles. They also retook the two prizes. Seven of Goodrich's Negroes, a Captain, George Blair of the Queen's own royal regiment of Blacks, and a soldier of the fourteen regiment, are among the prisoners. The sloop and two prizes are arrived safe at Newbern. Captain Goodrich, Captain Blair, the soldier and Negroes, are now within fifteen miles of Halifax jail.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, May 2, 1776.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

No 12

My Lord; On the 11th Instant three Companies of the 60th Regiment, were disembarked from the *Hind* Man of War Captain [Henry] Bryne, and on the 16th the *Hind* sailed for Saint Vincent, from whence she had been sent from Admiral Young.

This day arrived Colonel [Augustine] Prevost, Lt Colonel Fraser, and some Officers of the same Corps from Jamaica.

The enclosed printed paper of the proceedings of the rebel Congress of South Carolina is just come to my hands, it is the only one that has been heard of as yet, in this part of the World: the Person that brought it, has made it in too bad a condition, but lest one of them, should not have been sent to your Lordship, from another quarter, I have taken the liberty to enclose it.

The Inhabitants of this Province on Saint Mary River, were apprehensive of being disturbed by the Georgia Rebels, as the *Saint John* Schooner was in this Harbour, I sent her there, and a small detachment of His Majesty's troops, was put on board the *Saint John*. The Schooner is returned, and has taken three prizes, which will be condemned; two Vessels have come into this Harbour, that having been in the Dutch Islands, and have been in some illicit commerce, which will it is imagined condemn them.

I intended my Lord to have stationed the *Hinchenbrook* Schooner, Lieutenant [Alexander] Ellis at St Mary River, and to have had another Vessel with her, and a detachment of His Majesty's troops of fifty men to have been on board of them: this measure I apprehend would have secured this Province from any depredations of the rebels: but Lieutenant Ellis who was order'd to relieve the *St Lawrence* Schooner, that was absolutely station'd for the services of this Province; thinking his orders do not imply directly, the service of this Province only, but that he is left a good deal at large; is gone to Cape Fair [Fear] to procure orders from Sir Peter Parker. Lieutenant Ellis mentioned the ambiguity of his orders, my opinion was, that he relieved the *St Lawrence*, and was intended for the service she was designed.

The *Hinchenbrook* had been getting ready for a cruise, I desired Mr Ellis to look into our rivers, he went over the Bar, and untill then did not signify his intention of going to Cape Fair to Sir Peter Parker, which he did by a letter from the other side of the Bar by the return of the Pilot. This deprived me of an opportunity of writing to General Clinton, and the Admiral, and sending other dispatches I much wished to get away from hence.

I only take the liberty to mention this to your Lordship, that you may see, how intended services are disapointed by such circumstances, and in case any thing happens, in the absence of the *Hinchenbrook*.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, My Lord [&c.]

Pat. Tonym

St Augustine 22d – April 1776

[Endorsed] St Augustine 22d April 1776 Gover Tonym (No 12) R/ 22d. August (1 Inclosure)

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 565–68.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Solebay*, CAPTAIN THOMAS SYMONDS ¹

April 1776 Cape Roman N 56.29 Wt 271 Leags
 Monday 22 at 7 our Sigl to Chace to the N E made sail Fresh Breezes the Come made our Sigl to call us in fired a Gun and made the Sigl that we Could come in with the Chace with[ou]t losing Co fired a Gun & Bt her too she prov'd to be a Schooner from No Carolina Bd to Cape Francois Bt the Mastr & 5 Men on Bd of us.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/909.

23 Apr.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Isis*, CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS ¹

April 1776 Cape St George No 87° E 21 Leagues
 Wednesday 17 First part Fresh Gales and Cloudy wr, middle & lattr Light Breezes and Hazey,
 at 1 P M it blowing a Six knot Gale, Studding Sails Sett, and working the Ballast, the Ship without the least movement, at 5 carried out Grapnells & hausers, which Cast the Ship Clear of this Island, but Stuck fast Immediately handed all Sails,
 Thursday 18 at 7 A M Made Sail, The ship would run two or three times her own length, and then stick fast, Box'd her off, and Continue so till Noon.
 Fresh Breezes & fine Clear Wr,
 6 p m Stuck fast, handed all the Sails, people Empd fixing fenders for the Bows,
 Friday 19 at 5 a m found the Ice a little Opened, made Sail, at 9 Stuck fast again, Could neither get ahead, nor a Stern.
 Do Wr at 6 p m made Sail, the Ice a little open, at 8, after backing & filling & working the pigg Ballast, was obliged to hand all the Sails, the Ship fast,
 Saturday 20 at 4 A m Stopt all the Sails wit[h] Rope yarns, and hoisted the Yards up, & Sett every thing at once, and Studding sails Sett but had no Effect, at 9 broke loose, and to Noon Empd backing and filling, on all points, to get Clear, but Still as far off as ever

- First part fresh breezes Middle & latter Light Breezes, and fair,
to 4 p m empd backing and filling, when we got more Sea room, & run on thro' & between the Ice, till
- Sunday 21 5 A M, then handed all the Sails again, Saw a Sail to the Westwd, Made a private Signal to her, She Hoisted English Colours, at 9 a fresh breeze Sprung up, Made Sail, the Ice Carried away the fenders from the Bows.
- Monday 22 Moderate & fair wr at 2 p m we got Clear of all the Ice, at 4 A M made the Ice again, Tackd Ship at 6 Set Stud- ding sails & Driver, at 9 Made Anticastia,² NNBW 7 Leagues.
- Tuesday 23 Moderate breezes and Clear, every Sail in the Ship Set, with a water Sail made out of the mizen Top gallt sail, Sett on the Driver boom, at 1 down Studding sls and reefd TSails at 2 A m fresh Gales, with thick Snow, Double reefd Top- sails.
- Modert Breezes Thick hazey weather and Snow, at 7 p m Made the Land about Magdelane river, WSW 2 Leagues,³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/484.

2. Anticosti Island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, near the mouth of the St. Lawrence river.

3. In the Gaspé Peninsula.

Pennsylvania Gazette, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1776

Halifax, April 23.

Tuesday afternoon last arrived his Majesty's Sloop *Viper*, with some transports from the West-Indies, being part of the fleet which was drove off this coast by the severe weather last winter.

Wednesday evening last arrived a schooner from Boston [in England] in 23 days passage.

Thursday morning arrived his Majesty's ships *Rose* and *Glasgow*, Cap- tains Wallace and [Tyringham] Howe from New Port, Rhode-Island.

Friday arrived the *Tamer*, from South-Carolina.

Saturday sailed the *Viper* Sloop of War, for Quebec, with a Number of Transports and Troops on board.

Same day arrived a packet from Falmouth [G.B.] in 5 weeks and 3 days.

Sunday arrived here the *Scarborough* from Savannah in Georgia, in whom came Governor Wright of that province.

We are informed that Governor Campbell, of South-Carolina, is on his passage for this place.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford*¹

April 1776 Cape Elizabeth N B E 5 Leags
 Tuesday 23 at 10 AM Saw a Sail to Nowd made Sail & gave Chace.
 Fresh Gales and clear
 at 7 Fir'd 4 Shot at the Chace at ½ past Brot too the Chace
 & sent an Officer onboard, proved to be an American Sloop
 Recd on board the Prisoners²

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

2. *Britannia* Sloop, loaded with wood, bound for Boston, Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5. 1769-1777, N. S. Arch.

ORDER FOR SALE OF THE PRIZE BRIGANTINE *Nancy* and CARGO¹

Essex ss. To the Sheriff of the County of Essex greeting.

Whereas at the Court erected to try & condemn all vessels that should be found infesting the sea coast of America and bro't into either of the counties of Suffolk Middlesex or Essex, held at Ipswich in said county of Essex on Thursday the eighteenth day of April in the year of our Lord 1776, by me Timothy Pickering junr Esqr judge of the same court, the brigantine named the *Nancy* commanded by one Robert Hunter,² & her appurtenances & cargo, were by me the said judge condemned, & decreed to be sold, & the monies thence arising to be disposed of as herein after is directed; of which decree execution remains to be done: You are therefore hereby commanded to sell the said brigantine and her cargo & appurtenances, at public vendue; and of the monies thence arising, you are to pay the charges of trial and condemnation, being seven pounds eleven shillings and a half penny, to Jonathan Glover of Marblehead merchant the libellant, and your own fees; and the residue you are to deliver to John Manly and his company, the captors of said brigantine, or to their agents or attornies, for the use & benefit of said captors and others concerned therein. And when you shall have so done, make return of this warrant and of your doings therein, unto me.

Given under my hand & seal at Salem the twenty third day of April in the year of our Lord 1776.

Timothy Pickering junr³

1. William Bartlett Papers, BHS.

2. The ordinance brig *Nancy*, taken by Manley, in Washington's schooner *Lee* November 28 1775.

3. *Ibid.*, this date other Manley prizes were ordered to be sold - *Polly*, *Concord*, *Jenny*, *Little Hannah*, *Betsey*.

ORDER FOR SALE OF THE RECAPTURED SLOOP *Sally* AND CARGO¹

Essex ss. To the Sheriff of the County of Essex greeting.

Whereas at the Court erected to try & condemn all vessels that should be found infesting the sea-coast of America & brought into either of the counties of Suffolk, Middlesex or Essex, held at Ipswich in said county of Essex on Wednesday the seventeenth day of April in the year of our Lord

1776, by me Timothy Pickering junr Esqr Judge of the same Court, a certain sloop named the *Sally*² was by the jury (duly returned impanelled & sworn for the trial thereof) found to have been taken by one of the navy employed against the United Colonies, & commanded by enemies to said colonies; that afterwards, having been in possession of said enemy more than niney six hours, the same sloop was retaken by Winborn Adams and his company, in the *Warren* armed schooner, before condemnation thereon had, & brought into Beverly in the county of Essex; and that before her capture by said enemy she and her cargo were owned by one oft the inhabitants of said colonies, friendly to America, to wit, Peter Barbarie the claimant: And thereupon it was by me the said Judge decreed, that the said sloop *Sally* with her cargo and appurtenances be sold at public vendue, and that the monies thence arising be disposed of as herein after is directed; of which decree execution remains to be done: You are therefore hereby commanded to sell the said sloop & her cargo and appurtenances at public vendue, and of the monies thence arising you are to pay the charges of trial & condemnation, being eight pounds three shillings & a half penny, to Jonathan Glover of Marblehead merchant and libellant, and your own fees; and of the residue you are to deliver one third part to the said Winborn Adams & his company, the recaptors or to their agents or attornies, for the use and benefit of said recaptors & others concerned therein, and the other two third parts to the said Peter Barbarie the claimant. And when you shall have so done, make return of this warrant and of your doings therein unto me.

Given under my hand & seal at Salem the twenty third day of April in the year of our Lord 1776.

Timothy Pickering junr

1. William Bartlett Papers, BHS.

2. Retaken Christmas Day, 1775, having been originally captured by H.M.S. *Niger*.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT¹

[Watertown] April 23, 1776

Resolved That the whole of the Stores lately Imported into Dartmouth in the Sloop *Sally* belonging to this Colony be Stored there under the Care of Capt Gamaliel Church & Lemuel Williams, and by them to be kept until removed by the Commissary General of this Colony, or the Order of this Court—

Whereas this Colony have raised & Stationed a number of Men on the Sea Coast for their protection & defence, who are under the pay of this Colony, and some of them have taken sundry Vessells, and no Resolve has as yet been passed to determine what share such Men shall have in any Prizes that are or may be taken therefore Resolved that the Sea Coast Men stationed in any part of this Colony, shall be intituled to One Third part of the Net proceeds (after Charges of condemnation & other expences are paid) of all Vessells & Cargoes that have been, or shall hereafter be taken by them and legally Condemned by the Court Established to try the Justice of all

such Captures which shall be divided amongst them in proportion to the pay of the Officers & Soldiers employed in such Port or Place, and the remainder shall be to the Use of the Colony—

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 791, 794.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO PENET & PLIARNE ¹

Providence, In the Colony of Rhode Is.

In America April 23. 1776

Gentlemen Having had some personal Acquaintance with Monsrs Pliarne & Penet, who Arrived at this Town, from the Cape in West Indias the forepart of last Winter, who After Waiting upon Genl Washington at the Head of the Contl Army Near Boston, & after Communicatg there Buisness to him returnd back to this Town, & soon After Travelled through the Country for Philadelphia In order to Enter into a Contract With the Honbl Contentental Congress, and Inform Us by there Letter dated at Phia the 8th of Feby That they had compleeted there Contract with the Secret Comtt of Congress, that Mr Penet Departed that Day for France, and that they where Determined to settle the Center of ther Commerce at Phileda, and in Consequence, of what they had heard of Us In the West Indias gave Us Several personal Interviews while hear, and by Letters wch passed between Us since, they have fully expressed there Desire of Opening Buisness with Us And Would Engage to supply Us from France wth every Article Wanted on the Contenent – And also Acquainted Us of the firm of your House at Nantes & Havre, as well as In the West Indas – They particularly assure Us, that we May Rely on your House, that None Can procure Us the same Advantages to Load our Vessels with Amunition & such Other Merchandize as we May Order & that it will be Done with the Graitest Activety & Integrity –

And As we have bin So Noticed by the Honbl Contentental Congress As to be taken into Contract with there Secret Comtt to Import for the 13 United Colonys Sundry Articles wch have ben Assured May the Most if not all of them be brought from Nantes to As Good Advantage As Any part of France, We have Dispatched Capt Crafford [Gideon Crawford] in the Brigg *Happy Return*, with a Load of good White SpermaCeti Oil & a Qty of Well Refined & pure SpermaCeti, for Medesine, or May be Made up into SpermaCeti Candles, As very grait Qtys of SpermaCeti is often Sold at Amsterdam wch is from thence sold to All parts of the Contenent of Europe &c, We Doubt Not but with proper Attention you'l be Able to Obtain a Good profit on this Article More than the Cost here as well as upon the Oil wch by the last Accts from London was £48 Stg p Ton Viz 252 Do As Your Ceti may Not be a Market Common for these Articles and Especially for such a Qty of Spermaceti, wch has an Intrinsick Value in it According to what its Charg'd at, As it will keep Good for Any lingsh of Time, We would Not have it sold for less than its Value, But if the sale Should be Dul, You would Graitly serve our Employer (Secret Comtt of the Honbl Contl Congress) to give it Time for a Market, & to Advance the full Value there of That as many of the

Goods Orderd. May be sent & the Vessel Despatched as Soon As May be, wch May give us time to Send you Another Cargo before Our Winter Sets in –

The Nature of Our Contract with the Comt of Congress is Such that we was Oblig'd to Stepluate with Capt Crafford for a Certain Commissn Out of wch he has to pay you or Who ever he May Address for Assistance in doing his Buisness, Therefore we Could do No More than to Recomend your House, As he will Make his own Choice on such Gentl to Do his Buisness As he May shear with Them in the Commissn – As the Congress have resolved to Open a free Trade with All the World Except Grait Britain & her Dependance, as Capt Crafford will shew you, by the Publick papers This Voyage will be but as a Speciman for Our Future & lasting Commerce if it Can be Carried On to our Mutual Advantage –

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, April 23, 1776

The Marine Committee having, agreeable to the orders of Congress, recommended gentlemen to be agents for prizes in the several colonies,

Resolved, That Captain John Bradford be appointed for the colony of Massachusetts bay,² Daniel Tillinghast for Rhode Island, Nathaniel Shaw, Junr for Connecticut, Jacobus Vanzantz [Van Zandt] for New York, John Nixon, and John Maxwell Nesbit for Pensylvania, William Lux for Maryland, John Tazewell for Virginia, Cornelius Harnet for Wilmington, Richard Ellis for Newbern, and Robert Smith for Edenton in North Carolina, with power to each, to appoint one or more deputies, if necessary.³

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 300, 301.

2. John Bradford's commission, through some oversight, was not sent to him until July. This caused embarrassment in dealing with Washington's agents. Bradford expressed his need for the commission in a letter to Robert Morris, July 14, 1776, Morris Papers, Accession 1805, LC. When finally received he had it published in the *New England Chronicle*, August 15, 1776.

3. Notification of these appointments also was sent to Esek Hopkins, the original of which is in the Hopkins Papers, RIHS. A copy was taken off for each captain, and the notification to John Paul Jones is in Papers of John Paul Jones, LC.

CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

The Delegates of the Thirteen United Colonies

To Nathaniel Shaw Jur. Esqr.

Greeting,

You being Appointed by Congress Agent for Continental Prizes in the Colony of Connecticut, I do hereby Authorize & Impower you to Act in said Office, and to Appoint one or more Deputies under you as you may Judge necessary, & do Require you to be carefull in the Execution of said Trust, & strictly to Conform to the orders & Directions as you shall from time to time Receive from Congress, or the Marine Board touching your said Office –

Given under my hand at Philadelphia this Twenty third Day of April
1776

By order of Congress
John Hancock Presidt

1. Shaw Papers, NLCHS.

MARINE COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO
COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

In Marine Committee

Sir Philada [23d] April 1776 ²

As it is essentially necessary for promoting the Service that full & speedy Information of the State & Condition of the Enemies Fleets in the different parts of America should be communicated to You from whence You may be the better enabled to act with Vigour & Success in your Naval Department, we therefore write to acquaint You that from the best Information the Force in Virginia at this Time consists of the *Liverpool* Frigate Capt. Bellew of 28 Guns, the *Otter* Sloop Capt. Squires of 16 Guns, the *William* an armed Ship of 10 Guns with Lord Dunmore, the *Eilbeck* a large Store-ship with some small Guns. It is said & believed that both the *Liverpool* & *Otter* are exceedingly weak from the Want of Hands, their Men being chiefly employed on Board a Number of small Tenders fitted out by Lord Dunmore to distress the Trade on the Coast of Virginia & Bay of Chesepeak. His Lordship has now between 100 & 150 Sail of Vessels great & small the most of which are Prizes & many of them valuable. Those, so far from being any Addition in point of Strength will rather weaken the Men of War, whose Hands are employed in the small Vessels. – The Force at Wilmington in North Carolina You will observe by the inclosed Extracts of Letters.

Whether you have formed any Expedition or not, the Execution of which will interfere with an Attempt upon either or both of the above Fleets we cannot determine; but if that should not be the Case, there is no Service, from the present Appearance of things in which You could better promote the Interest of your Country than by the Destruction of the Enemies' Fleet in North Carolina or Virginia, for as the Seat of War will most probably be transferred in the ensuing Campaign to the Southern Colonies, such a Manoeuvre attended with Success will disconcert or at least retard their Military Operations for a Length of Time, give Spirits to our Friends & afford them an Opportunity of improving their Preparations for Resistance. These Reasons, Sir, added to your known Spirit & Inclination to serve America, will, we make no Doubt, sufficiently weigh with You to undertake that Service. The *Roe buck*, Capt. Hammond of 40 Guns is now in Lewis Town Road. You will observe by the Papers that Capt [John] Barry in the Brigantine *Lexington* has taken an armed Tender with 25 picked Men commanded by a Lieutenant of the *Liverpool* wch is a Loss, as they cannot easily provide for the Want of Men. Should You come to the

Southward & determine to go into Chesepeak, advise us of the Time of your sailing, that Orders may be given to the different armed Vessels on the Coast as also to those in Chesepeak & the Commander in chief in Virginia to co-operate with You in the Attack. As You were directed by a former Instruction, in Case You determined to proceed into Chesepeak Bay, "that You should dispatch a swift sailing Vessel to reconnoitre the Coast & gain Intelligence of the Strength of the Enemy" we now remind You of that Instruction & desire You would send a Vessel for that Purpose from the Fleet. Wishing You Success, We are Sir [&c.]

John Hancock.
Step Hopkins
Joseph Hewes
R. Alexander

Geo: Read
Richard Henry Lee
Dan¹ Huntington
Jona D Sargeant

1. Harbeck Collection, HUL.

2. While the day is omitted from the date line, April 23 is established through Hancock's letter of April 23, 1776 to Washington, which states in postscript that a letter is enclosed for Hopkins. As the latter acknowledged its receipt on May 1, the letter took seven days in transit, which seems to have been the average time for such a journey.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED APRIL 23." ¹

This morning came an account, that Capt. Bar[ry] has taken and sent into Egg Harbour, another tend[er,] a schooner, fitted out by the *Phoenix* with six gun[s,] which she hove over board, and ran ashore, but Barry soon got her off. – He had intelligence of another tender of ten guns, which he is gone after. – Hope we shall soon rid our coasts of these little pirates who have done much mischief. –

1. *Connecticut Courant*, April 29, 1776.

2. The information in this letter was based upon a rumor which proved unfounded.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

April 1776 Cape Henlopen SWt 3 Leagues
Monday 22d at 11 [A.M.] Weighed and made Sail after four Sail coming down the Cape May Channel;
The first part ditto [fresh gales and fair] weather, middle and latter moderate and pleasant, P M Cut off the Best Bower outer part, 26 fathoms, being much rubed, at 4 in Chace, they having Separated, at 6 began to fire on a Small Schooner, at 7 continued firing, when she brought too, and proved to be from Philadelphia bound to Saint Eustatia, Laden with a few Casks of Bread and Hams, which was distributed to the Ships Company.²
Tuesday 23d Moderate and fair weather, at 3 in the afternoon Saw a Sail to the N W, which I chaced, at 10 fired Several 18 Pound Shot at her, and brought her too, found her to be a Brig bearing a flag of Truce from St Croix to Philadelphia.³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. *Dolphin*, William Knox, master; [John] Pringle, owner, from Philadelphia for St. Eustatius, with hams and bread, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

3. This was a Danish brig which Hamond dismissed on April 25, 1776 according to a later entry in the journal.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, off the Delaware, Tuesday, 23 April, 1776]

In the Night of the 23d I fell in with a Brig, who pretended to be a Flag of Truce belonging to St Croix and was bound to Philadelpa for the Children & familys of several English Men that settled upon that Island and were become Burghers of it. As I could by no means admit of this artifice to gain a corespondance with the Rebels, I at first determined to seize the Vessel, which though under Danish Colours, had not a single foreigner on board, but as she was not of the least value I rather chose to send her back to the Island, to inform the Governor, that no regard would be payed to any of his papers, let the pretence be what it would; and if he persisted in sending any more Vessels to the continent under the authority of his Government, it would be looked upon as a breach of the neutrality.

I attempted again to weigh the anchor I had left at the back of the Overfalls, but without success: notwithstanding I swept it with the Stream Cable which broke as the hawser had done before.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee 23 April 1776 –

William Lux Chairman

Present –

J. Moale	A. Buchanan	T. Harrison	J. Calhoun
D. Lux	W. Buchanan	W. Tolley Junr	J. Gittings
J. Boyd	J. Merryman	Geo Lux	Secry

On Motion Resolved, That This Committee do recommend Mr John Christie to the Delegates of this Province in Congress, and request them to use their best Endeavours to procure for him a 2d Lieutenantcy in the Continental Army –

The following Letter was wrote to the Council of Safety & signed by all the Members present –

Gentlemen In Comme Balte 23 April 1776

This Committee on the late Alarm appointed Messrs Robert Purviance, David Stewart, & George Woosley, to superintend the fitting out the Schooner *Resolution* as a Tender, or Armed Vessel for Capt Nicholson – As they have nearly compleated her, & are in Advance a considerable Sum, You will please to furnish Six or Eight Hundred Pounds, as is convenient –

We are Gentn Yr Most Huml Servts

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

DIARY OF COLONEL LANDON CARTER ¹

[Rappahannock River, Virginia]

23 [April] Tuesday. A fine day. At Colo [John] Tayloe's I learned that a sloop and pilot board with above 100 men had gone to take the tender. ²

1. *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1st series, XVI, 257-58.

2. The tender which had taken a vessel at Hobbs Hole the day before; see Diary of Colonel Landon Carter, April 22, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Syren*, CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX ¹

April 1776 Latde in 33,36 No
 Tuesday 23 A M at 4 saw 3 Sail to the Et wd made the Signal which a Ship Answer'd & bore down at 6 she saluted with 5 Guns retd 3 at 7 spoke the *Earl of O[x]ford* Transpt from Cork with part of 57th Regt on board; joined Co the *Cruizers Tender & Pensacola* Pacquet, parted Co the Transport, *Mercury*, Tender & at 1/2 past 11 made Sail [Light breezes & fair] TKd Occasionally P:M at 6 Signl reef T/Sl

1. PRO Admiralty 51/930.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Scorpion*, CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE ¹

April 1776 Moor'd off Brunswick in Cape Fear River No Carolina
 Sunday 21 Mode & Cloudy fir'd 3 Six pounders with Grape & Canister, & several Musqts at the Rebels.
 PM Recd a Sloop load of Wood. sent the Empty Casks for Water
 Monday 22 Light Airs and fair Fir'd 6 Six poundrs, with Grape & Canister & several Musquets at the Rebels.
 Tuesday 23 PM Recd Water by the Watering Sloop.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Argo*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM GARNIER ¹

April 1776 Moored in English Harbour Antigua.
 Tuesday 23d AM Received fresh Beef and Prize Money for the *Greyhound* Brigg.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/19.

2. *Ibid.*, the *Greyhound* was taken January 13, 1776.

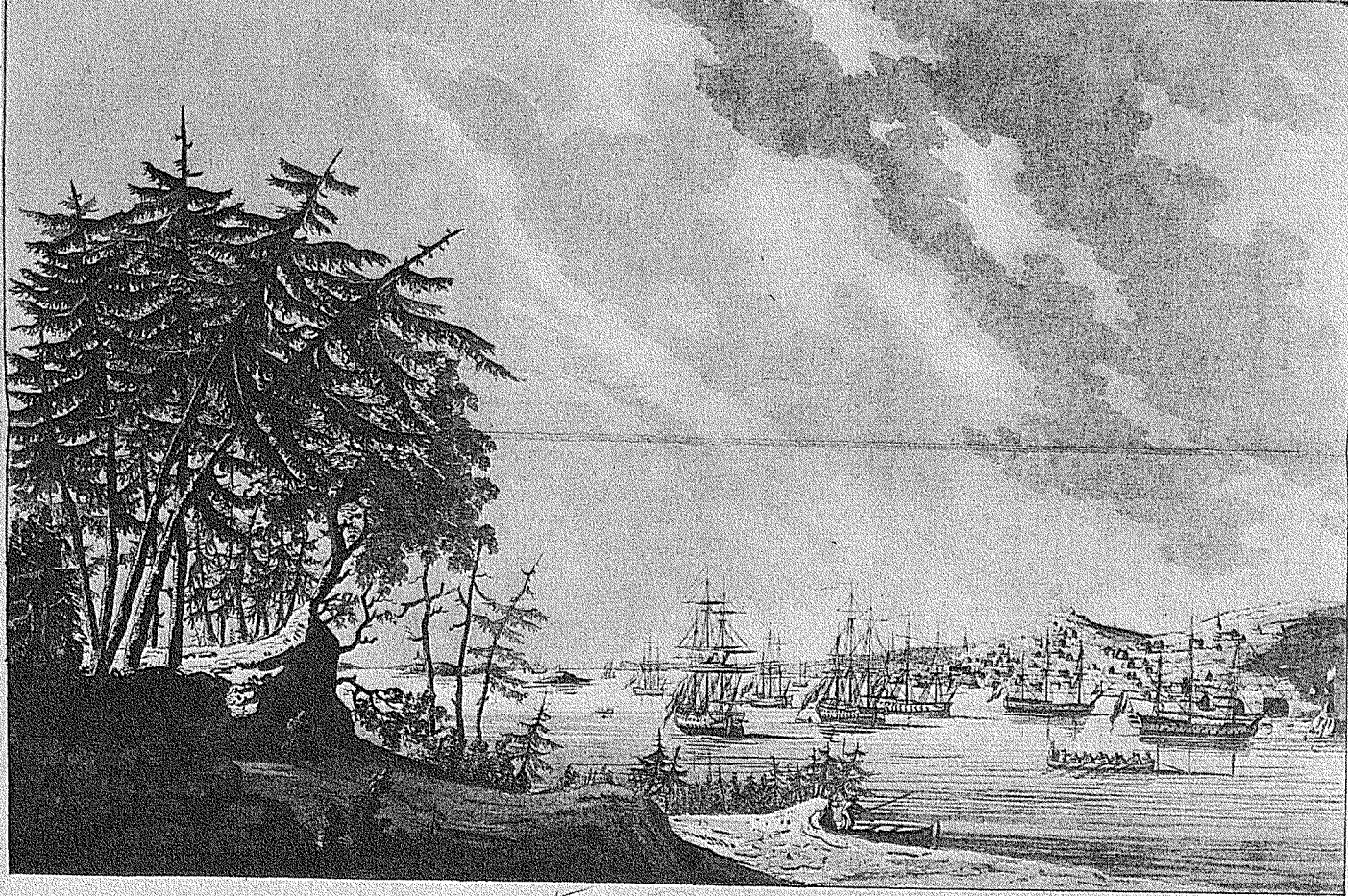
24 Apr.

CAPTAIN FRANCIS HUTCHESON TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK HALDIMAND ¹

[Extract]

Halifax 24th April 1776

Dear Sir I wrote you from Nantasket Road by the *Lord Hyde* Packet, and gave you an Accot of our departure from Boston; We sailed from Nantasket



1751.

A View of the Town & Harbour of Halifax, from Dartmouth Shore.

the 27th of March, and arrived here with the Whole fleet on the Second Instt never was an Army so Crowded in transports, owing to the want of Shipping. our Situation is little better here, tho' the General has landed but 3 &[c] Companys of Each Regt to Ease the transports. you who know this place need no description of what we Suffer from want of every thing; and the most Exorbutant prices is asked for Lodging & every necessary the inhabitants think proper to sell us. from what I can Judge, we shall remain here till our Provisions & Stores arrive from England; we had not above three Weeks provisions for the Army the day we arriv'd since which, some Ships that were sent in the Winter to purchase provisions in the West Indias are returned, & have brought about one Months Supply; which was obtained there with great difficulty. Captn Payne of the 18th Regt was sent to Execute that business –

The two transports With two hundred Marines under the Command of Major Grant of the 40 Regt and Convoyed by the *Scarborough* Man of War, that sailed last Winter, are returnd; their Expedition was to Georgia, where they were not Suffered to land, they have brought off Sir James Wright & his family, and took at Savana Eight Sail of Ships loaded with Rice, flour, Rum, Salt Pork, Malosses & one with two hundred barrels of Gun powder, five of those ships have been since retaken by the Rebels and among them the Powder Ship –

About the Middle of this Month the *Glasgow* Man of War of 20 Guns on a Cruse off Rhode Island fell in with the Rebel Admiral Hopkins fleet, Consisting of One Ship of 32 Guns, two of 20 Guns, One Brig of 16 Guns, & a large Sloop of 12 Guns. the *Glasgow* made a runing fight till she got into Newport, where Captn Wallas was lying with his Ships the *Rose*, the *Swan*, & *Vulture*, but the wind & tide being right in to the harbour, he could not get out till Next Morning, before which Mr Hopkins thought proper to Quit his station, and its thought he is gone to the Southward. the *Glasgow* is a good deal damaged in her hull & riging. We are apprehensive that he is looking out to Intercept the Ships we Expect from the West Indias and grow Anxious for the arrival of 4 Compy of the 46th & 4 of the 55th that are on their way from Antigua, where the[y] put into last Winter.

The 47th Regiment Sailed the 20th Instt for Quebec under Convoy of the *Niger* frigate, tho' early to attempt the River, we are in hopes they will get up in about 10 or 15 days. many here are of opinion that Quebec is taken, but such an Event is of such Consiquence to the Rebels, we woud soon hear of it from them; we have had no intelligence from thence, since last October. Captain Wallis arrived here last Week from Rhode Island, he was ordered to Quit that place, as he could not remain there the Rebels having thrown up Battery[s] on the hills, and Canonaided him as he went out.

We hear from some people who have got away from Boston since we left it, that on our departure the Rebels took possession of the town with 1500 Men, that they Immediately began to fortify Fort hill & Baker hill; and have Garrisoned the Redoubts on Bunkers hill – Washington made a trium-

phant entry, & they Exult much in there having drove us off (as they State it) Their privatiers have had great Success last Winter & this Spring, they have taken forty five Sail of Ships into Salem, Marblehead, & Cape Ann, which were loaded with provisions & Stores for our use at Boston.

The Rebell Army at Boston are dispersed, Washington is gone to Virginia and has Left Ward to Command at Boston, with 1500 Men; [John] Thomas is gone with 5000 Men to take the Command of their Army in Canada. and [Charles] Lee is with five thousand more at New York, and we here he has thrown up an intrenchment from the East to the North Rivers, a Cross by your House; and that they have fortified the Narrows, Redhook, and the heights on the North River – We have no intercourse with that place, I have not heard from Wallace these several Months, nor do I Expect it for some time – The people to the Southward grow more & more Violent, and I fear it will take more than one Campaign to bring them to their Sences – The Inhabitants who left Boston last year are most of them Returned, and their General Court is now Seting agreeable to their Charter, to Confiscate the Estates of all the friends to Government that have Joined us – I have been Extremely ill with a most Severe Cold ever since I left Boston, occasioned by the fatigue I underwent for the ten last days we were there, endeavouring to get off as much of our Forrage & Stores as we could, notwithstanding a great deal was left behind, the Artillery left two hundred horses, and our department Seventy odd, and all our Waggon –

Lt Governor [Andrew] Oliver goes home with Col [John] Vassell & his family they will Sail the 1 of May, I will write to you by them. numbers of your Boston acquaintances are going home, and many of them without means of Subsistance, – I had yesterday the pleasure to hear from Captn Stanton who is Just arrived from England, that you were well, the beginning of March, the Packet he came here in takes home Governor [Francis] Leg-[ge], and has brought Commodore Arburthnet the appointment of Lt Governor of this Province –

I. Haldimand Papers, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Chatham, Halifax Harbour 24th April 1776.

Sir I am to inform you that on the 19th Instant Captain Barkley in the *Scarborough* arrived here from Savannah in the Province of Georgia, to which place their Lordships have been acquainted he was sent with two Transports and a small Body of Men under Major [James] Grant to procure Rice and other Supplies for the use of the Army; and I have the pleasure to inform you that the Quantity which has been obtained by this measure is very considerable and is of the greatest Consequence in the present necessitous State of the Army.

I must also acquaint you that Sir James Wright the Governor of that Province being forced from his Government by the Violences of the people, arrived here in the *Scarborough* with his Family.

Captain Barkley having informed me in the Account of his proceedings that he had from Savannah by the *Duke of Cumberland* Packet sent information to my Lords Commissioners of the State of that Country, with other occurrences as well as that a Rebel Armament had visited [New] Providence with a view to carry off the Powder and Ordnance from that Island, I forbear mentioning any thing further on these Subjects, but I have great reason to believe that the Vessels which attacked the *Glasgow*, were those which had been at Providence.

I inclose to you a Copy of the information I have received of the different Batteries at Charles Town South Carolina also Intelligence that the Rebels meant to intercept the Merchant Ships in their passage from Jamaica to England, both which Articles were obtained by Captain Barkley during his stay at Savannah, and he thought the last of such importance that he sent immediate information of it to Admiral Gayton at Jamaica.

You will also herewith receive an Account of Ships and Vessels detained at Savannah, and which were set at Liberty by the Ships and Troops under Captain Barkley and Major Grant, and likewise the Declaration of the Masters of the Ships so liberated.

I have also to inform you that Captain Barkley in returning from this expedition was under the necessity of putting into Rhode Island, where he expected to find some of His Majesty's Ships, but as those which were Stationed there had been obliged to quit that place the Rebels having erected several Batteries from which they were much annoyed, he was also fired upon and received some damage to his Masts and Rigging. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldhham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Chatham in Halifax Harbour 24th April 1776.

Sir, You will herewith receive the Disposition of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, as also the State and Condition of such Ships of the Squadron from which I have received them since my last Dispatches to you.

From the disappointment of the Arrival of the Victuallers, and having Supplied a considerable quantity of the Provisions intended for the Fleet for the subsistence of the Army, I have judged it necessary to Order the Crews of His Majesty's Ships to be put to Two thirds allowance until a farther Supply may arrive.

I likewise transmit to you the Sentence of a Court Martial held on the late Boatswain of the *Roebuck*, and also an Account of such American Vessels as have been taken and detained by the Fleet under my Command according to the latest information I have received. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldhham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS IN NORTH AMERICA UNDER THE COMMAND OF VICE ADMIRAL SHULDHAM¹

Rate	Ships	Commanders	Disposition.
4th	<i>Chatham</i>	{ R. A. Shuldham Captn John Raynor }	{ Moored off the Yard. Under Orders and will proceed in a Day or two to Cruize between the West end of Long Island and Cape Henlopen. }
5th	<i>Orpheus</i>	" Chas Hudson	
6th	<i>Scarborough</i>	" Andw Barkley	{ Refitting.
"	<i>Rose</i>	" Jas Wallace	In { Refitting under Orders to Cruize off Rhode Island.
"	<i>Glasgow</i>	" Tyringm Howe	Halifax { Preparing to proceed to England.
Sloop	<i>Tamer</i>	" Edwd Thornbrough	Harbour Refitting
"	<i>Kingsfisher</i>	" Alexr Graeme	{ Will sail in a few days to Cruize in the Bay of Fundy.
Storeship	<i>Adventure</i>	Lieut John Hallum	{ Alongside the Jetty.
Schooner	<i>Tryal</i>	" John Brown	{ Off Major's Beach.
Sloop	<i>Senegal</i>	Captn Wm Duddingston	{ At Liverpool in Nova Scotia, Ordered to Halifax.
Schooner	<i>Halifax</i>	Lieut Wm Quarme	{ Cruizing off Sable.
Sloop	<i>Merlin</i>	Capt Wm C. Burnaby	{ At Annapolis in Nova Scotia, Ordered to Halifax.
"	<i>Viper</i>	" Saml Graves	{ On his passage to Annapolis to relieve the <i>Merlin</i> .
4th	<i>Centurion</i>	" Richd Brathwaite	{ Cruizing between Cape Sable and Cape Anne in the Longitude of Saint George's Bank. }
"	<i>Renown</i>	" Frans Banks	{ Cruizing and Rendezvousing Occasionally in Boston Bay and Nantasket Road. }
6th	<i>Lively</i>	" Thos Bishop	Cruizing in Boston Bay and off Piscataqua, under the Command of Captain Banks. }
"	<i>Milford</i>	" John Burr	
Sloop	<i>Swan</i>	" Jas Ayscough	
Brig	<i>Hope</i>	Lieut Geo. Dawson	
Brig	<i>Bolton</i>	" Edwd Sneyd	

APRIL 1776

1225

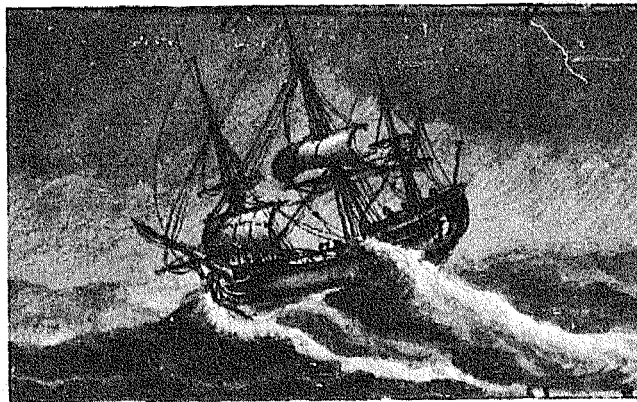
DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS IN NORTH AMERICA UNDER THE COMMAND OF VICE ADMIRAL SHULDHAM
Continued

Rate	Ships	Commanders	Disposition.
Schooner	<i>Dispatch</i>	“ John Goodridge	Nantasket Road, Ordered to Halifax.
6th	<i>Cerberus</i>	Capt John Symons	Cruising between Martha's Vineyard, and the East end of Long Island.
Brig	<i>Diligent</i>	Lieut Edmd Dod	Under the Command of Captain Symons, on the same Station.
5th	<i>Phoenix</i>	Captn Hyde Parker	} At New York.
3d	<i>Asia</i>	“ Geo. Vandeput	
Sloop	<i>Savage</i>	“ Hugh Bromedge	
5th	<i>Roebuck</i>	“ A. S. Hamond	In the River Delaware
6th	<i>Fowey</i>	“ Geo. Montagu	In his passage to the Delaware
“	<i>Liverpool</i>	“ Hy Bellew	} At Virginia
Sloop	<i>Otter</i>	“ Mattw Squire	
“	<i>Cruizer</i>	“ Fras Parry	} Ordered to Boston this Spring by Vice Admiral Graves.
“	<i>Scorpion</i>	“ Hon: Jno Tollemache	
6th	<i>Mercury</i>	“ Jas Montague	} Supposed to be Cruizing off Fear, General Clinton on board the <i>Mercury</i>
Sloop	<i>Falcon</i>	“ John Linzee	
“	<i>Raven</i>	“ John Stanhope	} At Savannah, Province of Georgia.
Armed Ship	<i>Cherokee</i>	Lieut John Ferguson	
Schooner	<i>St Lawrence</i>	“ John Graves	Sent to Cape Fear, and from thence Ordered to Join Me.
“	<i>Hinchinbrook</i>	“ Alexr Ellis	At Saint Augustine.
Sloop	<i>Nautilus</i>	Captn John Collins	Supposed to be at Bermuda.
Schooner	<i>Saint John</i>	Lieut Wm Grant	At the Bahama Islands.

6th	<i>Lizard</i>	Captn John Hamilton	} At Quebec. Lieut Hunter and part of the Crew taken Prisoners by the Rebels at Saint Johns.
Sloop	<i>Hunter</i>	" Thos Mackenzie	
Brig	<i>Gaspee</i>	Lieut Wm Hunter	
5th	<i>Niger</i>	Capt Geo. Talbot	
6th	<i>Syren</i>	" Tobias Furneaux	At Cape Fear

Chatham in Halifax Harbour 24 April 1776. M. Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484; enclosed in Shuldham to Stephens, April 24, 1776.



AN ACCOUNT OF VESSELS SEIZED OR TAKEN BY HIS MAJESTY'S SQUADRON

When Seized or Taken	Where	By what Ship or Vessel	What sort of Vessel	Names of the	
				Vessels	Masters
Feb'y 19 1776	Off Cape Anne	<i>Lively</i>	[Schooner]	<i>Tartar</i>	Benj Warren
25 "	Boston Bay	Do	[Sloop]	<i>Unity</i>	Davd Lunt
March 4 "	Within the Isle of Shoals	Do	Schooner	<i>John</i>	Danl Merchant
5 "	Off Cape Anne	Do	Sloop	<i>Mary</i>	Abner Lowell
7 "	Off Adimenticut	<i>Hope</i>	Do	<i>John</i>	Coes Gardner
"	Do	Do	Schooner	<i>Molly</i>	James Lovitt
Feb'y 14 "	Off Cape Cod	<i>Tryal</i>		<i>Peggy</i>	John Lothrop
"	Do	Do		<i>Grampus</i>	John Brackett
15 "	Off Liverpool	<i>Halifax</i>		<i>King Solomon</i>	Danl Turner
Jan'y 16 "	Halifax	<i>Savage</i>	Ship	<i>Nicholas</i>	Jas White
19 "	Do	Do	Ship	<i>Boston Packet</i>	Jas Shepherd
20 "	New York	<i>Asia</i>	Schooner	<i>James</i>	
Feb'y 3 "	Do	<i>Phoenix</i>	Ship	<i>Sally</i>	Jõhn Bagley
19 "	Do	Do	Do	<i>York</i>	Davd Collins
Jan'y 19 "	Off the Capes of Virginia	<i>Kings-fisher</i>	Schooner	<i>Peace and Plenty</i>	— Lightboy
4 "	Do	Do	Do	<i>Molly</i>	— Waters
Feb'y 28 1776	Off the Capes of Philadelphia	<i>Kingsfisher</i>		<i>Juno</i>	Wm Keith
Jan'y 23 "	Off Cape Charles	<i>Liverpool</i>	[Sloop]	<i>Susanna</i>	Frs Bright
25 "	" Henry	Do	[Brig]	<i>Betsy and Molly</i>	Jas Calvert
31 "	" Do	Do	[Schooner]	<i>Polly</i>	Saml Nichols
Feb'y 14 "	" Charles	Do	[Schooner]	<i>Joseph</i>	John Hill
1 "	At Sea	<i>Scarboroughh</i>	[Schooner]	<i>Violenti</i>	Stepn Cleavland
4 "	Off Tibe Bar	Do	[Sloop]	<i>St John</i>	Gilbt Harrison
Mar. 13 "	At Savannah	Do	[Sloop]	<i>Phoenix</i>	Norton Cole
[April] 5 "	At Sea	Do	[Sloop]	<i>Greyhound</i>	Increase Pote
8 "	Do	Do	[Schooner]	<i>John and Joseph</i>	Danl Dishon
		<i>Rose</i>	Sloop	<i>Hannah</i>	

IN NORTH AMERICA UNDER THE COMMAND OF VICE ADMIRAL SHULDHAM ¹

Owners	From Whence	Where bound	To what Port sent for Security	Cargo	How disposed of	
Wm Prosser	Dominica	Halifax and Newfoundland	Boston	Sugar, Coffee, Cocoa, and Melasses.		
Jacb Boardman	Grand Terer	Newbury		Do	Melasses and Coffee	
Danl Serjeant	Baltimore	Cape Anne		Do	Flour, and Indian Corn	
Benjn Rogers	Philadelphia	Newbury	Do	Flour, Iron and Steel		
Danl Rogers	Virginia	Ipswich	Do	Flour, Indian Corn, and Wheat		
James Lovitt	So Carolina	Piscataqua	Do	Rice and Indigo		
Echa Thatcher and Geo. Welsh	Baltimore	Barnstable	Do	Flour &ca		
Mark Alexander	Do	Do	Do	Do	Cast-away	
	Cape Besore	Bilboa	Halifax	850 Quintals of Fish		
Thos Boilstone	Petersburgh and Cowes } Do	Halifax	Do	Iron, Hemp, Canvas &ca.		
Wm Denny		Do	Do		Do	
	New York	To the rebel Camp	New York	Provision, Dry Goods &c.		
Saml Frankling	Alicant	New York	Do	Salt		
	New York		Do	Ballast		
— Midd	Philadelphia	Rappahanack	Norfolk	Salt	Sold	
	St Eustatia	Baltimore	Do	Rum		
John Pringle and Wm Keith	Port L'Orient	Philadelphia	Norfolk	Gunpowder, Salt Petre and Sulphur.		
Messrs Christie and Gilmore } Corns Calvert	Antigua	Baltimore	Do	Salt		
	Glasgow	Norfolk	Do	Ballast		
Wm West	Salem	Potomack	Do	Do		
Jonas Smith	Do	Baltimore	Do	Salt		
Frs Cobbett	Marblehead	Winyah	Boston	Ballast		
Coddington and Morris	St Croix	St Maries	Savannah	Dry Goods and Gunpowder		
Minos and Cole	Rhode Island	Georgia	Do	Cyder, Potatoes and Apples		
Increase Pote	Virginia	Casco Bay	Halifax	Indian Corn and Tobacco		
	Cape Nichola Mole	New London	Ordd to Halifax	Melasses, Coffee, and Gunpowder		

When Seized or Taken	Where	By What Ship or Vessel	What sort of Vessel	Names of the	
				Vessels	Masters
		Do	Do	<i>Sally</i>	
		Do	Do	<i>Greyhound</i>	
		Do	Do	<i>John</i>	
		Do	Do	<i>Snow Bird</i>	
Feb'y 24	" At Sea	<i>Viper</i>	Brig	<i>Tartar</i>	Benj Dean
March 1	" Do	Do	Do	<i>Sawney</i>	Frs Skinner
Sept 24 1775	Charlestown	<i>Tamer</i>	Schooner	<i>Polly</i>	Heny. Stone
Novr 9	" South Carolina				
				<i>Pacquet</i>	Alexr Wyley
	Do				
Jan'y 5 1776	Cut out of Stono	<i>Tamer</i>	Brig	<i>Elizabeth</i>	Php Sullivan
[Jan'y.] 20	" Savannah	Do	Sloop	<i>York Packet</i>	Stepn Weeks
Decr 28 1775	On the Coast of Virginia	<i>Raven</i>	[Ship]	<i>Rettenhouse</i>	Ambs Bartlett
Jan'y 20 1776	Savannah	Do	[Ship]	<i>Clarissa</i>	Rd Bissell
Feb'y 4	" Off Savannah Bar	Do	[Sloop]	<i>St John</i>	Gilbt Harrison
March 12	" Do	Do	[Brig]	<i>Georgia Packet</i>	Geo Bunner
Feb'y 9	" Augustine Creek	Do	[Schooner]	<i>Jane</i>	Willm Mills
March 13	" Entrance of Savannah	Do	[Sloop]	<i>Phoenix</i>	Norton Cole
10	" At Sea	<i>Mercury</i>		<i>Hope</i>	Andw Brown

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484; enclosed in Shulldham to Stephens, April 24, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Exeter] April 24th.

Gave John Langdon, Esqr a Permit for the Brig *Marquis of Kildare*, Thomas Palmer, Master, to proceed to Europe with her Lading.

1. Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society, VII, 44.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, April 24, 1776

The Committee of Both Houses appointed to Examine Caleb Wheaton, Caleb Wheaton, junr and Joseph Wheaton, Prisoners taken in the Brign bound from Boston to Hallifax, and sent to this Court by the Committee of

Owners	From Whence	Where bound	To what Port sent for Security	Cargo	How disposed of
				Melasses &ca Grain &ca Flour	
Joseph White, Miles & Greenwood	Georgia	Tortola	Antigua	Lumber	
Unknown	Do	Santa Cruz	Do	Lumber and Indigo	
Stone & Devaul Isaac Hague Cols. in the Rebel Army	Santee	Charlestown	{ Left with Lord William Campbell	Shot	
Alexr Wyley	Do	Do	Cape Fear	French Flour, Wine and other Merchandize.	Foundred at Sea
John Scott	Barcelona	Charlestown	Cape Fear	Brandy and Salt	
Waltr. Fran[k]ling	New York	Georgia	Savannah	Bread, Flour, Rum, Cyder, Apples & Bar Iron	
Messers York & Potts	Lisbon	Philadelphia	{ Do afterwards to Boston }	Ballast and £2,000	
Messrs Roach and Lopez	Jamaica	Jamaica	Savannah	Lumber	
[Blank]	Santa Cruz	Savannah	Do	Gunpowder and Bale Goods	
Bright, Pechin, Clay & Habusham	Philadelphia	Do	{ Do afterwards to Boston }	Flour, Bread, Beer Rum &ca	
Wm Mills	Sunbury	Do	Savannah	Damaged Rice	
Jno Dennis & Co.	Rhode Island	Do	Do	Cyder & Potatoes	
Andw Brown & John Burr	Charlestown	New York	Cape Fear	Rice and Indigo	

Chatham in Halifax Harbour 24th April 1776.
M: Shuldham

Marblehead, have attended that service & Report. That it appearing to your Committee that the said Caleb Wheaton, having while in Boston been an Associator, and in other instances unfriendly to American liberty, are of opinion that the said Caleb Wheaton Caleb Wheaton Junr & Joseph Wheaton jointly & Severally give Bond to the Treasurer of this Colony in the penal Sum of Five Hundred pounds—the Condition whereof to be that they & every of them will be of good behavior, and will not correspond with any of the Enemies of America, or take up Arms against the United American Colonies. And that they subscribe and make Solemn Oath before a Justice of the Peace within this Colony that they will faithfully observe & fulfil the Conditions beforementioned: And that they pay such Cost & Charge as hath arisen by their being brought before the General Court,

and in default of their complying with the foregoing that they be Committed to Close confinement until the further Order of the General Court
Caleb Cushing pr Order

In Council Read and accepted.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 803.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO CAPTAIN GIDEON CRAWFORD ¹

Sr

Providence April 24th 1776

You being Master of The BriggEnteen *Happye Return* Fitted out by us in behalf and on the Account and Risque of the United Coloneys, our orders are that You proceede to Nantes in France as Fast as possible takeing Care to avoid the Enemy as much as You Can and therer We Recommend You Valueing Your Self on Messrs Pliarne Penet & Co at Monsr Grove [Gruel] Merchant to do Your Buissness both in the Sales of the Cargo and purheps of the Articals for Return, We Mention Your Valueing on this House as You Can Not Expect to do the Buissness Your Self and they being Well Recommended to Us have No Doubt of their doing it well; You'l agree with them on the best Terms You Can As Whatever You Give them will Come out of Your own Commn which is to be Five PCt for doing the Whole buissness, Viz 2½ for Sails & 2½ for Returns, we Expect You'l do Every thing in Your power to Assist them or Whoever You May Git to help You in the Buissness in Giting as Good a price for the Cargo as it will probably Fetch with any Tollarable Dispatch the Last Accounts from London Sprm Oil was £48 Stl P Ton & hope Youl be able to Git as much at Nants, we Can have no Doubt of the Spr but that it will Sell well as it Bares a Good price through out Urope, You are to bring in Return about Four Thousand Good Striped blanketts for Soldiers Such as May Cost about 4/6 or 5/Stg or Near this price for each Blankett, about Four Thousand yards of 6/4 Broad Cloth the Colours to be brown & Blue for Officers and Soldiers Uniforms, about Three or Four Hundred yards of 6/4 Broad Cloth of Different Colours Suitable to face them, the Greatest part of the Cloths being for privates to be about four shillings Sterg P yard, that for the Officers about Six shillings, about Four Tons of Lead, Two Hundred Stands of good Arms Such as are used by the Infantry of France allso 500 Good Double Bridle Locks and about Fifty bbs of one hundred pounds weight Each of Good Gun powder. If any of the perticuler Articals here enumerated are not to be had, then a greater proportion of Such of them as are at Markett to be purchesd and in Default of any of these then to purchess a Quantity of Brimstone Roushia or Ravins Duck Ticklin[g]burg Oznabrigs or Vitreys or other Coarse linnings or Coasre woollens fit for Soldiers or Sailors use. on Your Return we Recummend Your Giting in to the First Safe Harber You

Can any Ware in the United Coloneys and send us an Express by Land Immediately advise what You have on bord, if Any thing happens to You Which Renders You Un able to do the Buissiness of the Voyage Your Mate Mr Samuel Morgan is to act in your place & Observe & Follow these orders, if the oil & SpermaCity will Not Sell Immediately for near so much as May be Expected for them If keep Sum time on hand we hope the Gentlemen Who May do Your Buissiness will advance as much as they & you may Suppose the Cargo May Neet & Dispatch the Brigg with the above Articals as Soone as may be.

Wishing you helth & a prospereous Return we are [&c.]

[Endorsed] Recd a Copy of the foregoing Orders which I promise to do the Best In My Power to Perform

April 24, 1776

Gidⁿ Crawford Jun^r

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

COLONEL HENRY KNOX TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

New London April 24 1776

In consequence of your Excellencys directions I am employ'd in looking at and getting the necessary information Respecting this harbour in which I shall Spare no pains. – I mention'd to Your Excellency Newport Harbour, which in Conjunction with this will when fortified afford a Safe retreat to the American Navy or their prizes in any Wind that blows; They are equally convenient for Ships coming from sea; & if the wind is not fair to go into one harbour they may the other

The Artillery and Stores are all embark'd together with the remaining Company of my Regt and have been waiting for a fair wind two days –

Admiral Hopkins is still in this Harbour, and I believe will be oblig'd to continue here some time; he has this day received intelligence that four Ships & two brigs are off Montaug point & block Island station'd in such a manner that but one appears at a time and each able to come up to the assistance of the others – The Captain of the *Cerberus* ² was on block Island Yesterday & told a man there that he was waiting for Admiral Hopkins & Expected in four days to be join'd by Capt Wallace & his Squadron. I have the honor to be [&c.]

Henry Knox
Coll Regt Artillery

P.S. I am in hopes to be able to set out for New York on the 28th instant

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Captain John Symons, R.N. H.M.S. *Cerberus* lay in Block Island harbor April 22 and 23, 1776.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONTINENTAL SHIP
*Columbus*¹

[New London, April 24, 1776]²

1776	The Ship <i>Columbus</i>	Dr
Apr	To John Bolles Bill the [black]smith	0..13..4
	To Joshua Starrs Bill the Blockmaker	2..12..10
	To 310 feet boards from G Richards	0..18..7
	To pd Nathan Bales Bill	1..15..7
		<hr/>
		6.. 0..4
	Commissions 5 PCt	6
		<hr/>
		6.. 6..4

1. Shaw Collection, Ledger 39, YUL.

2. The date is approximated. The Continental fleet sailed from New London on April 24, 1776 for Providence. The repairs represented in the above bills must have been made prior to that date.

NATHANIEL SHAW JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot*¹

[New London, April 24, 1776]²

1776	The Brig <i>Cabot</i> John Hopkins	Dr
Apr	To 31 p[ai]r Shoes 6/6	10.. 1..6
	To pd James Tileys Bill for Cordage	10.. 6..7½
	To pd Joshua Starrs Bill Block maker	3..11..0
	To pd Nathan Bales Bill	5.. 6..4½
		<hr/>
		29.. 5..6
	Commiss 5 PCt	1.. 9..3
		<hr/>
		30.14..9

1. Shaw Collection, Ledger 39, YUL.

2. See note 2 in preceding entry.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR., NEW LONDON¹

Sir

Lebanon 24th April 1776.

The foregoing Copy shows the expectation from Congress, if the Commodore and Fleet have left New London – and the Liberty given concerning Cannon² please give me early intelligence of whatever is necessary That I may Act agreeable to the Spirit of the Resolve of Congress.

I am [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

1. Shaw Mss., Privateers, Prisoners, 1775–1782, Force Transcripts, LC.

2. Congressional Resolves of April 16, 1776.

Connecticut Journal, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1776

New-Haven, April 24.

At a special County Court held in this town yesterday, for the purpose

of the trial of the sloop *Boston Packet*, which had lately taken on board a quantity of provisions, &c. for exportation, out of the colony, in violation of the laws of the colony; when after a fair trial, that part of her cargo for which no permit had been given, was condemned and forfeited.

Yesterday arrived from New-London, the Colony Brig - [*Defence*] of 16 Guns, commanded by Capt. [Seth] Harding.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

New York, April 24, 1776.

Sir: I have this Day granted a Warrant unto Captain Jacobus Wynkoop for two Hundred seventy six and two thirds Dollars, being for a Months Advance to him, his Officers & Men, who are to serve on the Lakes at the Rates following,

Captain -2/Dollrs.	32
Three Mates 15 do	45
One Boatswain 15 do	15
Two Boatswains Mates 9 1/3 do	18 2/3
Twenty Seamen a 8	160
One do a 6.	6.
	<hr/>
	276 2/3 Dollars

which you will please to take Notice of in adjusting the Accts. of this Captain and his Crew.

Brigadier General [William] Thompson with four Battalions and one Company sailed from hence last Sunday. I hope they will have reach'd Albany long before this and I doubt not your forwarding them on with all possible Expedition. We have Accounts of the British Troops under General Howe being arrived at Hallifax. A Part of them if not the whole, will probably attempt the Relief of Quebeck, as soon as the Navigation up the St. Lawrence is practicable. I am, &c.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 511-12.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, 10 HO. A.M.

April 24th, 1776.

Captain Jacobus Wynkoop attended the Committee, and informed that he had enlisted the number of seamen wanted for the service of the lakes, and is ready to proceed by the first opportunity, which he expects will be tomorrow, and requested a letter to Genl. Schuyler, informing him on what conditions Mr. Wynkoop has entered into the service.

Ordered, That one of the Secretaries prepare a draft of such a letter.

Mr. Randal [Thomas Randall], of the marine committee, informed that he had at different times waited on the General, and spoken to him about the armed vessels fitted out by this Colony, of which the General had requested the loan. That, agreeable to the sentiments of the Committee of

Safety on a former day, he had offered one or both of the sloops to the General on Continental account; that the General appeared disinclined to take them, or either of them, on those conditions; that the marine committee had agreed to lend him two of the vessels for service in the bay, and to send the third to sea.

Mr. Randall farther reported that Captain Smith has only twelve men, and wants eighteen more to man the sloop *Schuylcr*, and that the General intimates that if he supplies the other men wanting in the said sloop, he would expect to appoint the master and officers on board.

Captain James Smith was called in. He says that he does not expect that he can enlist the men wanting in the said sloop in this city, but imagines he could get them in the neighbourhoods in the East River.

Ordered, That Mr. Randal wait on the General and inform him that the Committee are ready to lend the sloop *Schuylcr* to the General, agreeable to former promise, as soon as sufficient number of men can be obtained for her, and that if the General chooses to take the said sloop on Continental account, at the expense of her purchase and outfit, she shall be delivered to his order.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 416.

Constitutional Gazette, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1776

New York, April 24.

Last Saturday the *James Pilot Boat*, one of the piratical tenders that infest this coast, came into Rockaway inlet on the south end of Long Island for plunder, but unlucky for them they got aground, a party of our troops receiving information of it, marched with two field pieces to attack her, but on the appearance of our men, her hands took to their long boat and fled; our people took possession of the vessel, and found on board four wooden guns mounted; they soon got her off, and brought her into a safe harbour.

SLOOP *Montgomery* PORTAGE BILL ¹

Mens Names	Quality	1776 Date	Month Due	Days Due	What pr Month	To the 18 April 1776
William Rogers	Commander	March 15	1	3	32	£ 14 1 6
	First					
Tunis Thew	Lieutenant	April 7		10	20	2 13 4
John Seaycraft	Second Do			18	20	4 16
To 3 Days Horse hire 15/ & my Expence 10/						1 5
						£ 22 15 10

New York April 24th 1776 Recd of
Wm Mercier the full of the above
Pr William Rogers

1. Record Group 45, copy, NA, from original destroyed in New York State Library fire, Albany, New York.

RECEIPTS FOR ONE MONTH'S ADVANCE PAY FOR CREW OF THE NEW
YORK SLOOP *Montgomery* ¹

Received New York 24 April 1776 from William Rogers the sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month Advance

James Chichester

I do Promise to see the Said James Chyester safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

Wm Rogers

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of one pound five Shillings for one month advance

Joseph tolkentun

I do Promise to see the said Joseph Tolkentan safe on board to go the Croose or to Return his pay

Geo Murray

Received New York 24 April 1776 from Wm Rogers the sum of three Pound four Shillings for one moth advance

Eliphalet Wood

I do Promis to see the Said Eliphalet Wood Safe, on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

Jabez Westcott

Received New York 24th April 1776 from William Rogers the Sum of two pound for one Month advance

Ths Hancock
his

James X White
mark

Received New York 24th April 1776 from William Rogers the sum of ten pounds thirteen Shillings & four pence for one month advance & Days Labour

Theunis Thew

Received New York 24 April 1776 from William Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month Advance

Thomas Burkiss

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the sum of Six pounds for one Months advance

Jabez Westcott Mate

I do Promise to see the Said Jabez Westcott safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose –

J. Seaycraft

Received New York April 23d 1776 from Wm. Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one month advance –

Zacehery Parsons

I do Promiss to see the said Zackell Parson Safe on board the Sloop
Montgomery to go the Croose

Theunis Thew
J Seaycraft

Receiv'd New York April 23d 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of three
pounds four Shillings for one [month] advance

Thomas Lomberd

I do Promiss to see the said Thomas Lumbon Safe on board the Sloop
Montgomery to go the Croose

Theunis Thew
fradrick Donaldson J Seaycraft

Received New York April 23 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of three
pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

James Cook

I do Promiss to see the said James Cook Safe on board the Sloop *Mont-*
gomery to go the Croose

Theunis Thew
J Seaycraft

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of Six
pounds for one Month advance

his
Benjn. X Morrell Carpenter
mark

Received New York 24th April 1776 from William Rogers the Sum of three
pounds fourteen Shillings & Eight pence for one Month advance for a Boat-
swin Mate –

Robert Jameson

I Do Promiss to see the said Robert James Safe on board the Sloop
Montgomery to go the Croose

his
Thomas X Hancock
mark

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of Six
pounds for one month Advance for a Boatswain

his
Thomas X Hancock
mark

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of three
pounds four Shillings for one Month Advance – Cook

his
John X McGray
mark

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of five pounds ten Shillings & four pence for one Month advance for himSelf & Son – Gunners Mate
Lionel Baker & Son

I do Promiss to see the said Lionel Baker & Son Safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

J. Seaycraft

Received New York 24th April 1776 from William Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month Advance

Duncan MDonald

I do Promiss to see the said Duncan McDonald safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to the Croose or his Month Advance

Elisha Reeve

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of Seven pounds five Shillings for one Month advance for himself & Son – Gunner
fradrick Donaldson and Son erin Donaldson

Received New York 23d April 1776 from William Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

Augustine Darcy

I do promise to see the Said Auguston Dorcey Safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

his

Abraham X Molener
mark

Received New York 24th April 1776 from William Rogers the sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

Elisha Reeve

I do Promise to see the Said Elisha Reeve safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

Wm. Rogers

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

his

Thomas X Butter
mark

I do Promiss to see the Said Thomas Butter safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

Fredrick Donaldson

New York 23d April 1776 Received from Capt William Rogers the sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Months advance

his

Peter X Dammerell
mark

I Promis to see Peter Dammerell safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

his
Benjn X Morrell
mark

Received New York 23 April 1776 from Wm. Rogers the sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

Richard knight

I do Promiss to see the said Richard Knight safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

fradrick Donaldson

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of three pound four Shilling for one Month advance

Richard Gilderse

I do Promiss to see the said Richard Gilderse Safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

Jabez Wescott

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

Robert Kellay

I do Promiss to see the said Robert Kellay Safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

Jabez Westcott

Received New York 24th April 1776 from William Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

John Parcels

I do Promiss to see the said John Parcels Safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

Dennis Macgivier

Received New York 23d April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

Archibald Campbell

I do Promiss to see the Said Archibald Campbell Safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

John Noblit

Received New York April 23, 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

Jacob Morrell

I do Promiss to see the Said Jacob Morrell Safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

Fradrick Donaldson

Received New York April 23d 1776 from Wm. Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month Advance

Abraham Hit

I do Promiss to see the Said Abraham Hyit Safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose –

1. Record Group 45, copy, NA, from original destroyed in New York State Library fire, Albany, New York.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1776

New York, April 24.

Seventy men went ashore from the men of war at the Hook, to get water, but, being attacked by our people, they fled into the light house, where they were surrounded.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY'S NOTICE TO SHIPMASTERS ¹

The Committee of Safety give this publick notice that the *Wasp* armed Schooner is going down this day with a pilot on board, that any Vessels of small draft of water ready to sail may follow her and have the benefit of Convoy through the Cape May Channel. –

[Philadelphia] April 24th 1776

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, off Delaware Bay, Wednesday 24th April, 1776]

. . . in the afternoon, when standing in for the Light House, I discovered a Vessel standing across the East side of the over-falls to the Southward; I gave her chace and endeavored to cut her off from Cape Henlopen channel which as soon as he found was [im]practicable, he tacked and stood over the edge of the Shoal into Cape May Channel where I could not follow him on account of the shallowness of the Water. This was the more distressing to me as I got near enough to her to discover it to be the armd Brig, out of Philadelphia, which had lately taken the *Liverpools* Tender; ² and was one of many Instances I have had since I have been here, of the great misfortune that has attended my not having a small Sloop or two with me, which I have now been in daily expectation of for this Month Past from Head Quarters.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

2. The captain was mistaken. The *Lexington* was 600 miles away in the latitude of Bermuda.

DIARY OF COLONEL LANDON CARTER ¹

[Rappahannock River, Virginia]

[24 April, 1776] Wednesday. [Colonel Landon] Hears that [John] Goodrich has boasted that he will take General [Charles] Lee and our armed vessels, and be up the river in a fortnight. . . . They had a battle of abt 2 or 3 hours yesterday; the tender ran off with the loss of 6 or 8 men, & only the

loss on our side of a negroe of Hugh Walker . . . and very little damage besides. But they first set the Prize aground on fire wch he thinks less than 100 £ will repair; for she was presently put out and got off with her full load of corn, wch was brot to H[obbs] Hole. Note, he [Garland] says nothing abt Pursuing the Tender. Possibly she might be a fast sailor, and as they had only open boats, it might not be expected they could [come] up with her.²

1. *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1st series, XVI, 257, 266, 267.

2. "In May [sic April] (1776) they made a cruise together up the river Rappahannock, during which they had an engagement with several pilot-boats, and were happy to escape, with the loss of several men killed; young Dale himself being badly wounded, having received a musket ball in the head. He was carried to Norfolk, where he was confined a long time by his wound," "Dale Memoir." The tender was commanded by Bridger Goodrich who had persuaded Dale to accompany him.

JAMES GILCHRIST TO ST. GEORGE TUCKER ¹

[Extract]
Dear Saint

From on board his Majestys Armed Sloop
Fincastle Norfolk Harbour April 24th 1776

From the Date above you'll see that I amongst many others have been obliged to change my Residence – The Circumstances attending the melancholy Catastrophy of Norfolk, are too notorious, not [to] be known to you & I refer you to Doctor Campbell for a minute Account of these Horrors. . .

I received your half dozen Lines by Mr M'Alisters Brigg off the Capes in my way to Cape Fear in No Carolina where I have been for these two Months past & from whence I only returnd a few Days ago – I assure you I am heartily wearied of this Life of amphibious Warfare, & could I find out where to be more at ease I shou'd not be long in making my Choise – But alas! all the Continent is in the same ruinous Condition & as for great Britain I cannot think of going there – Every thing save the Book debts which cannot be collected, is lost – But I hope yet to live to see the Day –

I had a solitary walk yesterday over the Ruins of Norfolk, the streets begin to look green with the late Rains & the fine weather, . . .

All that we can now call our own, is the little spot at Co Tuckers Mills, which is inclosed with a Breast Work, Ditch & Abattis, & garrisoned by a Party of the 14th & a few friends of Government to the Number of about 250 – General Lee is come to Suffolk & its said in determin'd to drive us from thence. I doubt not that he will attempt it, however he will meet with a Pretty warm Reception, as the *Otter* covers one side & this Sloop wt. 12 four Pounders the other, besides 8 Guns mounted on the flanks on shore –

St. George Tucker Esqr
Attorney at Law Bermuda

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, CWM.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Hinchinbrook*, LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER ELLIS ¹

April 1776 Hosaban Isld North [Georgia]
Mondy 22 at 8 A M the best Bour Cable parted made sail Running

into Sunbrey Harbour at 11 Came too with the Small Bour in 2 fm Carried out the Kedge Anchor and Hawser and hove into the Channell St Catherans pt East the town of Sunbrey WNW Modete Breezes and Cloudy Wr our boat Employ'd Sounding the Channel to Town Weigh'd & Dropt Lower Down at 7 P M sent the boat mann'd and arm'd up the River to take a Brig

Tuesday 23

at 2 A M the boat Return'd from the brig not worth bringing down set her on fire and burnt her likewise a vessel on the stocks Came into the Harbour the *Hinds* Tender Emp'd Wooding

Fresh Breezes and Cloudy Wr Employ'd Wooding

Wednesday 24

P M fired Several Guns at the Rebels upon St Catherans Island that fired at our boats Weigh'd the small Bour anchor found the Cable much Rub'd and worn Shifted the Cable End for End

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4219.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Pallas*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM CORNWALLIS ¹

April 1776

In Annadechoros Bay (Island of St. Thomas)

Monday 22d

at 2 A M brot too, at 5 wore and made sail, out reefs, at 6 unbent the Mainsail, the Island of Annadechoros ESE 3 leags, set steering sails, at 10 Anchored in 7 fathoms with the Small Bower in Annadochoros Bay, and veered to 1/3 of a Cable; found here his Majesty's Sloops *Atalanta* and *Weasel*, with the *Mary* and *Juno* Schooners Prizes.

Light Breezes with small rain,

P M Moored a Cable on the Best, and 1/3 on the Small Bower, made the *Atalanta's* Signal for a boat without an Officer.

Tuesday 23d

A M Srubb'd between Wind and Water,
Little Wind and Cloudy

Wednesday 24th

A M sailed his Majesty's Sloop *Weasel* and the *Juno* Schooner prize, Employed wooding and watering.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/667.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ANTIGUA, DATED APRIL 24, 1776" ¹

By your late papers I find that you have received accounts of several Americans being persecuted in this island, who have been unfortunately taken by the men of war. I have now the pleasure to inform you that the spirit of persecution here has in a great measure subsided, since the arrival of Mr. Burk of this island from the Provincial camp at Cambridge.² Mr. Burk has done great justice to Gen. Washington and his officers in reporting the genteel treatment he met with while a prisoner, and in return has exerted

his utmost in procuring the discharge of such Americans as are detained here, in which he has been very successful, so that I apprehend no such matter will be carried on in future. Captain Campbell of New-York, after being imprisoned two months and upwards, was discharged on bail a short time before Mr. Burk's arrival, but has since been discharged from his recognizance, and at liberty to go when and where he pleases. Captain Kirby of the ship *Peggy* of your port, is likewise discharged from his recognizance, and having procured the command of a brig, sails shortly for Ireland. And Mr. Charles Hubby Hubbart, a native of Boston, who has been confined since December last (a great part of the time in a dungeon) will I think be enlarged in a few days. All this by the interest of Mr. Burk, in justice to whom, and to convince the General of his gratitude, I beg this may be inserted in the public papers.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, June 1, 1776.

2. John Burke, a passenger, was taken in the brig *Little Hannah*, by Washington's schooner *Lee*, and carried into Beverly on December 9, 1775.

25 Apr.

JAMES LOCKWOOD TO CAPTAIN HECTOR MCNEILL, POINT AU TREMBLE ¹

Dear Sir:

Camp before Quebec, April 25, 1776

I have just received your favour of yesterday & say in answer – The Genl [Wooster] thinks it will be better that Mr. Lizott should be sent by Water than through the Country. With regard to the two Vessels, Capt [Barent J.] Tenyck who takes command of Peppers Schooner has Orders to take up all suspected Vessels and boats, and those two have been mentioned to him; he will stop at Point au Tremble. The Genl. therefore desires you to direct him at any rate to secure those Vessels. he will receive proper information from you concerning them. Remember me affectionately to your family & believe me your [&c.]

Ja^s Lockwood ²

1. Gardner Weld Allen, ed., "Captain Hector McNeill of the Continental Navy," *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, November, 1921, 27, 28. Hereafter cited as Allen, ed., "Captain Hector McNeill."

2. Secretary and Brigade Major to General David Wooster.

CAPTAIN HECTOR MCNEILL TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD,
MONTREAL ¹

Sr

Sr Pt. aux Tremble April 25 1776

This will be handed you by Major [Zachariah] Dubois, and is to Request the favour of you to Arrest, & Confine in Jail a certain acadian Whose proper Name is Basiell Boudrott, he Now Passes by the Name of Dugan and is the Mate of the Schooner *Providence* Commanded by Capt. Palmer,

I am bold to charge this fellow above named with the Murder of Capt. Thomas Parsons of Newbury Port, & his whole Crew at or near Cape St Mary's in the Bay of Funda in the Month of March 177[2], I have been

upon the look out for this chap ever Since & Now Providentially have found him, I am Sure he is the Principall of that gang of Villians who murdered Capt Parsons, & his crew, 9 in Number, & plundered first, afterwards burnt his Vessell – I hope I need not urge you to Confine, & keep him close untill he can be Sent to New England, as Piracy, & Murder are Crimes which all good Men Should Endeavour to Prosecute & punish, I inclose you a Letter for the Owners of Capt Parsons his Vessell Which I beg you will read, Seal, & forward to the place of its distination –

My William Farris is Saild for you I hope you will be kind to him – as for your Capt Palmer – he has Sickened Me; of all Men to dispatch or manage affairs I Never Mett with worse hands then himself & his Lieut, –

I hear your wound is broke loose Which gives Me real Sorrow – you Must be Carefull of it or it may yet cost you dear

For heavens Sake do not Neglect to Secure the aforementioned Basiell Boudrot, for he is a Vile Murderer

May heavens preserve you in that Nest of Tory Scoundrels & grant you Wisdom & Fortitude to mannage them as they deserve, I am Sir with all Possible respect [&c.]

Hector M Neill ²

I shall take it as a favour that you write a line to Mr Cross & Send him with my letter.

favourd by Major Dubois

1. Schuyler Papers, vol. 15, NYPL.

2. McNeill wrote to the same effect on this day to Brigadier General David Wooster before Quebec, whose answer of April 26, 1776 refer to.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Chatham in Halifax Harbour the 25th April 1776.

Sir Having in my Letter of the 16th Instant offered to their Lordship's consideration the deficiency in the Complements of several of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, and as their Lordships will perceive by the States and Conditions of the Ships transmitted to them, that many Supernumeraries are borne, I must beg they will please to observe that these being composed of Men taken out of the Rebel Vessels no confidence can be placed in them, and although the Captains of His Majesty's Ships under my Command have all of them more or less, entered Americans to fill up their Complements, and are now by Law empowered to do so, with regard to Men taken in future, yet it deserves to be seriously considered, that if by a constant dimunition of the British Seamen upon this Service, this measure was carried to excess, without any Supply from home to be distributed among the Fleet the consequence may be very alarming; their Lordships will therefore see the necessity there is of my keeping compleat the parties of Marines belonging to the different Ships, but as I have directions to send to the Battalion serving on shore the Marines of such Ships as I may Order to England, I submit to their Lordship's judgment whether it will not be for His Majesty's Service that I compleat the Marines on board the Ships that

may want them, out of those they have, designed for the Battalion, before they are disembarked. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir,

Chatham in Halifax Harbour 25th April 1776.

I am to inform you Captain [Tobias] Furneaux of the *Syren* has acquainted me that, on the 15th Instant he took a Brig belonging to the Rebels which was carrying from Philadelphia to Charles town in South Carolina, a Company of Artillery consisting of a Captain Commissioned by the Continental Congress, and Seventy nine Men, the most of whom have since Entered into His Majesty's Service with General Clinton ²

I am likewise to acquaint you that, there having been taken a Sloop belonging to New York, and bound to Saint Martin's with Flour and Lumber,³ the Master of her has given the following information; that he left New York on the 2d Instant, and on the 5th he fell in with several Armed Ships and Vessels belonging to the Rebels, (which I believe are the same that attacked the *Glasgow*) that he was carried on board the Rebel Commodore to be examined, and that while he was there a person was brought on board who wore the Uniform of a Lieutenant of the Navy, which from his Description was probably Lieutenant [Edward] Sneyd who Commanded the *Bolton* Armed Brig, for as she is still missing I am afraid she has fallen into their hands; and he farther adds that he was informed they had been at the Island of [New] Providence, from whence they had taken the Governor, his Secretary, and most of the remaining Stores. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. The *Syren's* capture was made March 15, 1776, and the commanding officer of the artillery company was Captain Francis Proctor.

3. The identity of this prize has not been established.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

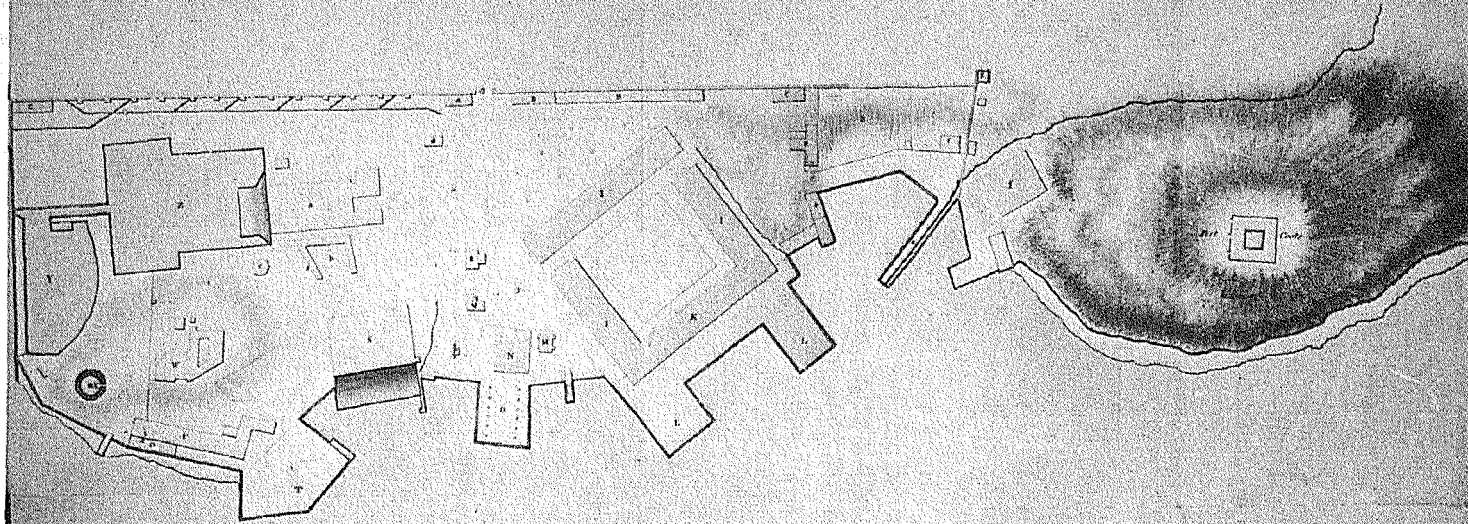
[Extract]

My Lord

Halifax 25th April 1776

By the Arrival of the *Milford* in Nantasket Road on the 26th of March I was honored with your Lordships Dispatches of the 5th. January, with a Copy of His Majesty's Instructions for Major Genl Clinton's Conduct to the Southward, as well as other Letters Duplicates and Enclosures of a distant Date, which I defer answering by the present Conveyance of a small unarmed Sloop returning to England in the Service of the Navy, as I intend to write fully by the *Harriot* Packet lately arrived, and to sail in a few Days with Governor [Francis] Legge; wherefore I shall confine myself in this to a few Particulars more immediately necessary to be communicated to your Lordship for His Majesty's Information, accompanied by Duplicates of my Dispatch from Nantasket to be delivered by Judge Brown.

PLAN of the NAVAL-YARD at HALIFAX



References

A	British Lodge.	M	Field House.	U	A Storehouse.
B	House for English Officers.	N	Parade Square.	V	Storehouse for Iron.
C	D. O. for Naval Officers.	O	Book House.	X	Flag Staff Tower.
D	Commodore's Kitchen Garden.	P	Water Cistern.	Y	Two great small Stores.
E	Household.	Q	Master's Storehouse and High Water-works Office.	Z	D. O. for Surge Master.
F	Dispensary.	R	Surgeon's Office.	a	Wood House.
G	Black Shop.	S	Black House.	b	Luncheon Yard.
H	Refracting Wharf.	T	A Wood Wharf.	c	Penal House.
I, I, I	Storehouse for Corks and Tapes for the Fleet.			d	Engine House.
K	Officers' Mess, and Log for Ships' Stores when Loading down.			e	English D.
L	Clothing Wharf.			f	Light House without the Guard Wall.
				g	Blacksmith.

The 47th Regiment of Foot sailed from here the 20th Instt for Quebec under Convoy of the *Niger* Frigate, which may be seasonable Relief should it arrive before the Forces sent from England early in the Spring, as mentioned in your Lordships Letter of the 5th January . . . I do not propose sending any more from hence. . . .

The Fleet and Transports sailed in two Divisions from Nantasket Road, the last with the Admiral on the 27th March, and got in here the 2d Instt: But I am sorry to inform your Lordship that a Brig loaded with valuable Goods, chiefly belonging to Persons deemed to be highly disaffected to Government, not being ready to sail with the Fleet, has been since taken by three armed Vessels, after parting Company with the *Niger* Frigate left to convoy her and some other Vessels in the same Situation; a Midshipman was on Board with a Serjeant and twelve Soldiers for her Protection, who after defending themselves with great Obstinacy were at length compelled to surrender. We feel this Loss the more at present as there was a Quantity of Shoes on board which are much wanted for the Soldiery, as well as woollen Articles that would have been very usefull to them.²

By some Masters of Vessels who had been Prisoners at Salem, and obtained Liberty to return to England, we learn that the Rebel General is gone to New York with a Part of his Army, having before detached a large Reinforcement to Canada, and that those left behind were erecting Works upon Fort Hill in the Town of Boston. By the arrival here of Captn Wallace commanding the *Rose* Frigate, I am also informed that the Rebels are fortifying Rhode Island, but I do not apprehend they can prevent His Majestys Troops from taking Possession of it, when the Strength of the Army will admit of a Division for that important Service, as it can be approached by shipping in every part.

New York being the greater Object of the two, and the Possession of it more extensive in its Consequences, as well as more conducive to the Credit of His Majesty's Arms, will be my principal Aim when enabled to proceed thither by a sufficient Supply of Provisions, since both Services cannot be undertaken with the present Force, and it is become highly necessary that the first Exertion of the Army should be directed to the most important Purposes, to check the Spirit which the Evacuation of Boston will naturally raise among the Rebels . . .

Many of the principal Inhabitants of Boston under the protection of the Army, having no means of Subsistence here apply to me to find them a Passage to Europe, which they cannot otherwise get than at a most exorbitant Rate: They have my Assurance that the first Transport that can be spared shall be given up for this Purpose. I am sorry to inform your Lordship that there is an absolute Necessity for issuing Provisions to the whole of them, about 1,100, from the Kings Stores, without any Prospect of stopping it – It must be confessed that many, having quitted the whole of their Property and Estates, some of them very considerable in Value, are real Objects of His Majesty's most gracious Attention.

Advices received from Major General Clinton of this Day, dated in Cape Fear River 26th March, mention that the Armament destined to the Southward was not arrived at that Time, and I enclose for your Lordships Information a Narrative of what has lately passed in North Carolina, with the Copy of a Letter from Governor Martin to Major General Clinton.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93, 277-84.

2. The brig *Elizabeth*, taken April 2 by John Manley's squadron of Washington's schooners.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Senegal*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON ¹

April 1776 Moored as before [Herring Cove, Nova Scotia]
 Saturday 20 Paid the Starbd side with Varnish of Pine, Sent the Boat
 to Port matoon [Mouton] –
 Sunday 21 Paid the Larbd Do Boat returned with Schooner a Prize.
 P M Sent the Prize to Halifax,²
 Monday 22 Anchored here the *Swan & Halifax* –
 Tuesday 23 Squally Wr AM unmoored, Employ'd getting ready for
 Sea –
 Wednesday 24 Fresh gales & Cloudy, at 4 AM weighed & came to Sail at
 8 Cape Le Have WSW 4 Leags – Several Sail in sight –
 Spoke the *Milford's Prize* – Do Wr at 4 PM turning up to
 Halifax at 11 Anchored in 17 fam
 Thursday 25 at 7 A M weighed at 9 Saluted Rear Admiral Shuldham
 with 13 Guns, at 10 anchored in 10 fam

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

2. The schooner *York*, Robert Down, master, John Stone of Old York, owner. She was on a fishing voyage, had some salt and six weeks provision, and was seized in the harbor of Port Mouton, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1776

Boston, April 25.

William Jackson of this town, and Crean Brush of New-York, who were on board a brig taken the 3d instant by Capt. Manley,¹ are now imprisoned in the gaol of this town.

1. The brig *Elizabeth*.

JOHN COLLINS TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Dear Sir:

Newport, April 5 [sic 25?] 1776 ²

I congratulate you on the success of your Cruise with the Continental fleet; and, hope, nay, expect to see the day when the American fleets will give laws on the Atlantick Ocean. It will give me great pleasure to see your fleet riding in the harbour of Newport. The present motions in this town, I make no doubt, you are well informed of. We received with joy the ten cannon you sent us, and expect to get them mounted before this week is out, in proper forts and batteries. We have ten of our old twenty-four and

eighteen-pounders mounted, and two that you sent us; and hope you will send as many more as you conveniently can. I am, with great regard [&c.]

John Collins

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 1205.

2. The date, while estimated, is probably correct. The ten cannon from New London were landed on April 19 at Newport from the brig *Cabot*, and Collins' expectation of "getting them safe mounted before this week is out" would rather point to a Monday letter.

SAMUEL OLCOTT TO JOSHUA HUNTINGTON, NORWICH ¹

Sr

Hartford 25th April 1776.

Shall be much Obligd to you to Inform me by Mr. Coit, Whom I Shall Apply to for Service of the five Sloops that Went as transports, you Doughtless Remember their tunnage 370 Tons. think it Just for me to be paid untill they return here yr Compliance Will much Oblige [&c.]

Sam Olcott

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, XX, 280.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE ¹

Sir

Ship *Alfred* at New London April 25. 1776

You are make what dispatch you can to clean your Brig and you may take the Ballast out of the Bum Brig and what more you want you must make up with Stones – You must apply to Mr [Nathaniel] Shaw for whatever you may find Necessary – When you are get ready I desire you may take Care of the Marchant Vesels and Convoy them clear of the Land if the Coast is so clear that you can do it with Safety to them – and make what dispatch you can to Providence for further directions as I intend there as soon as possible Yours &c

E.H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Sir

New London, Apr 25, 1776

Inclosed is an Invoice of the wt & Size of Thirty four Cannon Recd from Admiral Hopkins, Ten of wich is landed at Groton, viz: 3 24 pounders & 2 18 & 5 12 do. The Remainder are at N L & are moastly fitted on carriages he has landed a great quantity of Cannon Ball, and shall pick out those that are suitable. Mr. Ledyard I suppose has carriages already made for the Guns at Groton so that we shall have the Cartridges, Ramers &c ready to pay a compliment to any of the British ships. Let them come soon as they please.

The Morters and Shells General Washington desir'd might be sent to N York & the Admiral has sent them. The Remainder of the Cannon are partly sent to N Port & Part on board the fleet which he wants to carry to N Port I Shew him the Resolve of Congress relative to there being delivd here but he says they cannot be taken out.

The Nine pounders are but ordinary Guns, the others are all very good Col [Henry] Knox a Gen whom Gen Washington desir'd to take a perticular view of this Harbour *thinks that it would be best to have four of the 12 Pounders mounted as Field Pieces – two on each side of the River which you will consider of I am, Sir [&c.]

Nathaniel Shaw, Junr.

P.S. When all the Shot and Iron Wheels are landed, will send you an account of the number of each and size.

To Governor Trumbull

[Enclosure]

Invoice of 34 Cannon received of Admiral Hopkins, viz: 3 24 pounders, 2 18 pounders 5 12 pounders sent to Groton. 8 24 pounders 2 18 pounders 10 9 pounders left in New London. The nines are old poor guns.

1. Trumbull Papers, ConnSL. The text to the asterisk is also in the Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

New York, 25th April 1776

Sir I received by Last evenings post, a Letter from Joshua Wentworth Esqr of Portsmouth, who I had appointed Agent for our Little fleet in that Province, it is dated the 15th Instant, an extract from which, I have the honor of transcribing for your perusal

[Here Washington inserted copy of Wentworth's letter of April 15, 1776, to Stephen Moylan.]

That Sir is an exact copy of part of Mr Wentworth's Letter to Mr Moylan, I now request you will please to direct me, in what manner I shall instruct the Agent respecting this Complicated Cargo, & Whether he may be impowred to dispose of the porter, or any other articles on board the prizes in his Care which the delay of establishing the Court of Admiralty, may make Liable to perish

I have not yet heard that there has been any trial of the prizes Carried into Massachuset bay this procrastination is attended with very bad Consequences, Some of the vessels I had fitted out are now laid up, the Crews being dissatisfied, that they Cannot get their prize money. I have tried the Congress upon this Subject, but the importance of it makes me again mention that if a Summary way of proceeding is not resolved on, it will be impossible to get our vessels manned. I must also mention to you Sir, that Captain Manly & his Crew, are desireous to know when they may expect their part of the value of the Ordnance Stores, taken Last fall, they are anxious to know what the amount may be as the Inventory of that Cargo is in the hands of Congress I woud humbly Submit it to them, whether a valuation thereof Shoud not be made, & the Captors Dividend be remitted them, as Soon as possible, it will give them Spirit, & encourage them to be alert in Looking out for other prizes –

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 619–25, NA. This letter is continued on April 26, 1776.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir:

New York, April 25, 1776.

I wrote you the 14th. Inst., giving Information of the sailing from this Harbour, of the *Phoenix*, *Savage*, and *Nautilus* Men of War; which, I apprehended were designed to join [James] Wallace in Order to block up the Fleet under your Command. The latter Part I since find to be groundless, as they have returned, and I find they make a Practice of stretching off from and soon returning to this Port. This convinces me that they are in Expectation of a Fleet and I am preparing for their Reception.

I expected to have met here a Force much superior to what I have found it. I was obliged to lessen it by detaching four of our strongest Battallions to Canada which lays me under the Necessity of requesting you to dispatch to this Place as soon as possible the 200 Men lent you from this Army that they may join their respective Corps, which are much weakened by their Absence. I am, etc.

P.S. Inclosed is a Copy of two Resolves of Congress respecting the Cannon and Stores &c.²

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 521.

2. The resolutions of April 16 and April 19, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Jovis, 10 HO.A.M.

April 25th, 1776.

A draft of a letter to Major-General Schuyler, to be delivered by Capt. Wynkoop, was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety,
New-York, April 25th, 1776.

Sir – Your letter of the 8th ultimo, requesting seamen for the service on the lakes, came to hand on the 16th; the Provincial Congress on that day sent Capt. Wynkoop to Major [William] Douglass on that subject; his answer was not satisfactory. The Committee of Safety wrote to him; his letter in answer was, in our opinion, indeterminate. Capt. Wynkoop was ready for the service, but refused to serve under Major Douglass. The Committee of Safety immediately recommended Capt. Wynkoop to [the Continental] Congress for the command, enclosing copies of all letters on the subject, and requesting they would give immediate directions, which we have not received. On the 13th instant, on sight of your letter to the General, we found that Major Douglass was gone to Connecticut.

We then prevailed on Captain Wynkoop to undertake that service, on condition to have leave to resign and leave that department, if any person should arrive there to take the command of the vessels as his superior.

Nothing but the pressing necessity of the case, an attachment

to the service, the cause of his country, and to you, sir, as his general, would have prevailed on Capt. Wynkoop to enlist the men and proceed to put the vessels in order under the present uncertainty of his station. Should the appointment of a superior oblige him to quit that department, we hope, sir, it will not be considered to his disadvantage.

It was not in our power to send you seamen without an officer. We assure you, sir, that we have done every thing in our power in this matter, and had it not been for the difficulties which arose from the appointment of Major Douglass, you would have had the seamen in due season, and in the month of march. We are [&c.]

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and transmitted.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 418.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1776

New-York, April 25.

We hear from Sandy Hook, that 16 men from one of the ships of war, having landed there in order to get water, they had all got into an upper room in the Light House, where they were carousing; when a party of the New Jersey militia, surprised them, and taking away the lower part of the stairs, made them all prisoners, burned their boat, and filled up the well.

New York Packet, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1776

[New York, April 25.]

To the Friends of our American Navy.

An exact list of the number of men employed in the Provincial ships and privateers during the last war in America.

Nova-Scotia,	—	—	—	—	—	—	300
Massachusetts-Bay,	—	—	—	—	—	—	2300
New-Hampshire,	—	—	—	—	—	—	500
Rhode-Island,	—	—	—	—	—	—	1500
Connecticut,	—	—	—	—	—	—	900
New-York,	—	—	—	—	—	—	1200
Pennsylvania,	—	—	—	—	—	—	1060
Maryland, Virginia, and the other Southern colonies,							1000
							<hr/> 8760

Besides these many of the merchantmen, who were letters of marque, carried from fifteen to forty sailors.

When we add to these the number of American sailors who were pressed in the beginning of the war, to man the English fleet, the proportion of sailors belonging to the continent, would not amount to less than 12000 or 14000. The trade of America at the commencement of the present war

with Great-Britain being one third at least greater than it was at the conclusion of the last war with France, the number of sailors in America must have increased in the same proportion. It is true, many of the men who manned our privateers were landsmen, but as the same objects, namely PRIZES, are held out at present, as were in the last war, and as there is now added to these, the glory of establishing the freedom of the colonies, there is reason to presume a greater proportion of landsmen will embark in the present war by sea, than in any former one. Twenty thousand men employed in ships of suitable force, would be sufficient to guard our coasts and trade against all the navy that Britain could spare from her harbours, and foreign dominions, to molest us. And America can spare that number of men for the purpose, without impoverishing her land forces, or without putting a check to her agriculture or manufactures.

[These observations precede the complete text of the resolutions of the Continental Congress of April 3, 1776, and the instructions to commanders of private ships of war or letters of marque and reprisal.]

We have information from good authority, that the ministerial fleet is arrived at Halifax; and that the Tories are in the greatest distress, and can scarcely get shelter from the weather.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, April 25, 1776

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration, the letter from General Washington of the 27 of March last,² &c.; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matter referred to them, and had come to a resolution.

The report from the committee being read,
Resolved, That it be postponed.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 307, 309, 310.

2. See Journal for April 24, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU ¹

April 1776

Cape Henlopen No 59 Wt dist: 60 Leagues.

Thursday 25

at 6 AM got up Top gallant Yds at 7 out 2d reef of Main
do at 1/2 past 8 saw a sail to the Eastward out 1st reef &
gave chace set the driver & steering sails, at 11 hauled down
steering sails & driver at 1/2 past found her a sloop from
Rhode Island to the West Indies,² got the Prisoners on
board & sent a Midshipman & 6 Men to take Charge of her.
Fresh gales, & Cloudy with rain
PM wore ship & made sail the Prize in Company

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

2. The sloop *Sally*, Arthur Crawford, master, Zachariah Allen, owner, from Providence for Hispaniola, with 100 barrels of flour, four thousand hoops and one thousand staves. She was

bonded at Providence on April 13, 1776, JCBL. She is listed in Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

No 130

To the Deputies for Maryland in Congress

Gentn We send the Person of Alexander Ross together with his Papers, and Copy of his Examination under a Guard to the Honorable Congress – have wrote the President to that Purpose – we find several Papers, that relate to a Scheme of Trade in West Florida, and two Letters of Recommendation, one from Governor Eden, and the other from Lord Dunmore. – these we think are material, his other Papers, which we likewise send, we have searched, and find Nothing of Consequence – since our last Nothing new has occurred, except the Examination of Mr Purveyance before our Board – he at first deny'd the anonymous Letter, afterwards on Recollection acknowledged it contained some of his Sentiments, but could not remember, when he wrote them. – he prevaricated most abominably. . . .

P.S. We send you a Copy of Gen [Charles] Lee's Letter to Saml Purvi-
ance

[Annapolis] 25th Apl 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[Halifax] Thursday April 25 1776

Resolved, That Charles Robb, Thomas Douglas and Thomas Mander, lately taken at Occacock on Board of a Tender, be admitted to their parole they have signed a Declaration for that purpose

Ordered; That Mr Harnett [Cornelius Hartnett], Mr Thomas Jones and Mr Skinner, be a Committee to settle the Salvage of such Vessels as are lately taken, which the Captors may be intitled to

Resolved That a Special Court of Admiralty be appointed to Try the Tender Sloop the *Lilly* and her Cargo, and that for this purpose Richard Cogdell, Esquire, be appointed judge of the said Court John Cook Esquire Advocate, and Thomas Setgreaves, Esquire Register and Martial; and that in Case of Condemnation the proceeds of the Sales after defraying the reasonable Charges of Condemnation, be divided between the Captors.

1. Secretary of State Papers (Provincial Conventions and Congresses/Councils 1774–1776), NCDAH.

ACCOUNT OF POWDER AND ARMS IN THE PROVINCE OF MARYLAND ¹

Province of Maryland Dr

1776		powder	Lead & Shot	Flints	Guns	Gun	Locks	Cartouch Boxes	Bayonet Belts	Gun Slings
		lb	lb							
Janry 18	To Amount of Arms & Ammunition in Charles Co[un]ty	1205½	5,170½	2540	25					
	To Amount of do in P. Geo:	32	183	228	10					
	To Amount of do in Ann Arl.				80					
	To Amount of do in Frederick	5283½	14,548	4560	426					
	To Amount of do in Baltimore	2428	3645½		130					
	To Amount of do in Harford	225	485							
	To Amount of do in Cecil	50	200							
	To Amount of do in Kent	800	3781		221					
	To Amount of Do. in Somersset & Worcester by Captain Waters }	500								
		10,524	28,013	7,328	892					
	Purchased of Mr West (P. G[e]orges)	575	1,000			92				
						22				
	Purchased of Lux & Vanbebber (Balt)	450								
	Imported in <i>Seaflower</i> Capt Waters (do)	509	1,527							
	delivered in Somersset & Worcester } Counties by Capt Waters }	13	2,118							
March 8	Imported in Capt Conway	5,782			12					
	36 Barrels from Willing & Morris (suppose[)]	3,600			620					
	Advanced by Congress	2,000								
	Recd from Capt Tibbit ²	1,907	8,960		57					
								25		

	Recd in Payment from Congress	1,875									
23	received from Philip Littig					62		76			
April 24	recd from Do					18		18			
	Recd from Congress & sent to Chester	2,003									
	Recd from Congress & sent to Cecil 5 Bls	500	1,000								
March 25	Recd of John Andrus & others						325	325	325		
12	Recd of ditto						800	800	800		
Apl 25	recd of John Gordon						2105	2278	2278		
	Purchased by Mr. Alexander, Ream										
Mar 6	Purchased of Mr. James Dick		659								
	Purchased of Trustees for Church		shot 40	1,100							
			3,481								
	Advanced by Congress to Virga & lent by Virga Deputies to Deputies of Maryland	2,000									
19.	Bought by Captn J:A. Thomas						27				
Carrd. forwd		31,738	46,798	8,428	1067	237	138	3230	120	3403	3403

1. Executive Papers, Box 6, Md. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, Captain James Tibbett, on March 8, also brought in 32 swords, 6 hangers, 11 pair of fuzils, 22 sword scabbards, 24 pistol locks, 9 pistols and 5 blunderbusses, and Mr. Robert Alexander purchased 50 reams of cartridge paper.

APRIL 1776

1257

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. Lawrence*, LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES¹

April 1776 In Cape Fear River No Carolina
 Monday 22 Mode and Clear fired musquetts at the Rebbels who fired on us
 Tuesday 23 Do Wr fired 6 four pounders and 6 swivels at the Rebbels who fired on us
 Wednesday 24 Do Wr Loosd sails to dry
 Thursday 25 Do Wr at 1 AM came on Bd 2 Refugees who Escap'd from the Rebbels
 First part clear latter cloudy wt Rain came on Bd 2 negroes who had Escaped from the Rebbels

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

PIERRE ROBERT TO STEPHEN GIRARD, CAPE FRANÇOIS¹

Port-au-Prince

April 25, 1776.

Sir,

I have the honor of your letter of the 17th instant, with a letter of exchange for the sum of £2475 drawn at sight by Mr. De Lapinot, merchant from the Mississippi on Messrs. Nau & Company.

I have made the demand to Mr. Nau who, in accordance with your letter written to him, gave me a draft dated 24th ultimo for the amount
 £ 2409. . . . 7/8

for two months at sight on Mr. Marchant, merchant at Cape Francis in your favor, to value, in our letter of exchange from said Mr. Lapineau of Louisiana

Your receipt for the amount of

66. . . . -

2475. . . . -

On the back of the letter that you wrote him I have an acknowledgment for the draft and in case anything happened that Mr. Lappineau should not arrive with the cargo, that you will be held responsible for the payment of the above draft for £2409 and the sixthy-six pounds 66. . . . -

You will find inclosed the said letter of exchange and the receipt; about the commissions, they are not worth while, you will remit to me only the postage for your letter and for that which you write to acknowledge this.

I have the honor to be very sincerely, Sir [&c.]

Pr Robert

1. Stephen Girard Papers, APS.

NAU & COMPANY TO STEPHEN GIRARD, CAPE FRANÇOIS¹

Sir,

Port-au-Prince, April 25th, 1776

We received with pleasure the honor of your letter of the 17th instant which informed us of your safe arrival in which, as in all that concerns you, we took a deep interest.

We see by your letter and by that from Mr. De Lappinot that he

is trying to hurry and that he comes with a cargo of wood, we hope that he may arrive safely and we will be charmed to meet him.²

Although you feel that his voyage may not be free from emergencies and that a thousand things may prevent his arrival, we have honored his draft by giving Mr. Robert, according to your request, a letter of exchange payable in two months at sight, but under the express condition that if the brig and her cargo did not reach us in a proper time counting from when you left it to be sent, that you would reimburse us for this amount; you will understand since we have none of Mr. De Lappinot's money, we could only give it to you on this condition. We have remitted to Mr. Robert your receipted bond for 66.

We hope that you will do a good business; we will hear of it with pleasure while waiting to see you here. We have the honor to be very sincerely,
Sir [&c.]

Nau & Company

[P.S.] We have not received any letters for you.

1. Stephen Girard Papers, APS.

2. Lappinot was expected in one of Girard's vessels. In a declaration "Made at Mississippi, March 1, 1776," he stated: "I declare by this present that the sale of the bateau 'Marie' which was made to me by Mr. Girard is only a fictitious one; that the said bateau belongs to him and that this is only a formality made to avoid the risk which he fears by meeting some vessels of the King from England. In faith of which I sign the present for the use of all whom it may concern," *ibid.*

26 Apr.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO CAPTAIN HECTOR MCNEILL¹

Dear Sir,

Camp before Quebec, April 26th 1776

I am much obliged to you for the information you give me in yours of yesterday which I have received and say in answer - I shall write Genl Arnold concerning the *Acadien* & also to arrest Palmer.

I have Ordered four Barls Pork to be sent you from here, should be glad you would send two of them to Capn Scott. If you can possibly procure flour at Point au Tremble I hope in a few days to be able to replace Cash for it. I am informed that Mr Cole with a large sum was left at Crownpoint and was every hour expected at Montreal.

With regard to the *Gaspee* please to procure a Pilot and put some hands on board of her from Capn [Uriah] Church's party and send her to Jackes Cartier with Orders to be left ashore there. Let Matherman follow his Capt. The Articles for the *Maria* with a Gunner were sent from this place yesterday. I have sent for Capn [William] Goforth from Three Rivers, a very good man, to take charge of her - Prince, Pepper's Mate, I shall send after immediately. Give me leave to congratulate you upon the Good News from Boston & believe me [&c.]

David Wooster

1. Allen, ed., "Captain Hector McNeill," 28.

APPOINTMENT OF PIERCE LONG AS NAVAL OFFICER FOR PORTSMOUTH,
NEW HAMPSHIRE ¹

In Committee of Safety, April 26th, 1776.

Pursuant to a Recommendation from the Honble Continental Congress for Regulating Trade, and permitting the Inhabitants of these Colonies to trade with some of the European nations under certain Limitations:

You are hereby appointed an officer for the Port of Piscataqua and fully authorized and Empowered to procure Registers signed by the President of the Council, for all vessels outward Bound belonging to this Colony; Enter and Clear all vessels coming in & going out of said Port; having a strict Regard & obedience to the Regulations & directions of the Continental Congress; but by no means to counteract the same – Taking such Reasonable fees as may be an adequate reward for your service, and no more, and to continue in said office until the determination of the Council & Assembly thereon.

(Copy)

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 121–22.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] April 26, 1776

Whereas a Resolve passed this Court dated the 17th April Current, directing the Selectmen, Committee of Safety &c of the Town of Truro, to deliver to James Holmes late Master of the Ship *Friendship* stranded on Cape Cod Shoar in Feby last; the remainder of his Private property that was then in the hands of said Selectmen and Committee – by Virtue of which Resolve (as this Court is informed) said Holmes has made demand of the greatest part of the Cargo found on Board said Ship –

Therefore Resolved that by the Words “The remainder of his private property that is yet in the Hands of the Selectmen & Committee of Safety &c” mentioned in said Resolve, shall and ought to be understood, the remainder of his Cloathing Cabbin Furniture, Sea Books, Cash and private papers which were then actually in the hands of said Selectmen & Committee – said Holmes making it appear that the Cash was actually his private property, and said Resolve shall not be construed to extend to any part of the Cargo or Stores found on Board said Ship –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 810.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO WILLIAM BARTLETT ¹

Sir

Boston 26 April 1776.

By a Letter from General Washington of the 18th Instant, he informs me it is his opinion that all accounts respecting the armed Vessels, should be paid by the Agents, and as the trial of the Prises cannot be much longer deferred, they will have cash for the Goods which may be condemned in

their hands much more than sufficient to answer the demands upon them, for the Mens Wages,&c.

His Excellency recommends fitting out the Ship *Jenny*, and the Brigantine,² which were taken by Commodore Manly, as Cruizers, if they are upon examination found to be fit for such Service. If you with the advice of Commodore Manley & Capt Gustavus Fellows should judge those Vessels or either of them proper for such use you will purchase one or both of them for the United Colonies. Commodore Manly will have his choice of them, & he desired to attend the fixing one of them out; – and the sooner this is put in execution the better. I am, Sir [&c.]

Artemas Ward

1. William Bartlett Papers, BHS.

2. The *Little Hannah*.

THOMAS CUSHING TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE¹

Dear Sir

Boston April 26: 1776

I wrote you fully on the 22 Instant p post Am Surprized You scold so much about my not being more particular, when you are so very deficient Your Self, You do not write me a word about Congress, what you are doing or what you are about to do, pray be a little more communicative, I am sure I have Sett you a good example – I am glad to hear you are bending your whole Attention to Cannon and that you have contracted to have those designed for the Ships here cast at Philadelphia for I have no prospect of procuring them here Seasonably; Mr Hobart I hear has got his Air Furnace finished but cannot learn whether he has yet cast any Cannon, he has engaged to Cast a number for this Province & for the Ships, but goes on very Slowly, I have wrote him Repeatedly upon the Subject, My heart is engaged in this Matter, for I consider Cannon as a very Valuable article & shall do all in my power to encourage their being Cast in this Province – I hope the Ships will soon be launched and as soon as they are equipped for Sea I shall have finished the Business assigned me, however I am heartily disposed Still to serve the Continent & promote the glorious Cause we are engaged in and Stand ready at all times to Obey such orders As the Congress may give me; doubtless an Agent for these Ships will be wanted in this Province, as this will be in my way of Business & what I am somewhat acquainted with, when such an Appointment Comes on, Should be obliged to you for your Interest or that I may be improved in any other Way Wherein You may think I can be serviceable. I am [&c.]

Thomas Cushing

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

COTTON TUFTS TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

Weymouth April 26. 1776

Dear Sr. Soon after the Removal of our Enemies from Boston, I sat myself down to write You the Proceedings of our Army from their Cannonading

the Town to their taking Possession of it. But meeting with some Philadelphia Papers (before an Opportunity of sending it presented) I found that You had a History of the whole, since then I received Yours of the 29th March and find that You had not then received Intelligence of the sailing of the Ministerial Fleet. On the 25th. of March 48 of them saild and the Remainder in Numbers 75 – except one 50 Gun Ship and some Tenders left the Harbour on the 27th – to the great Joy and Comfort of the Province. And well might it have been expected that we should have then begun to fortify in such a Manner as to keep out any Fleet that should have venturd to molest us. I know it was the general Expectation. But must I tell You that not a single Stroke has been struck but within a fortnight past except what was orderd by General Washington on Fort Hill, and not untill the 12th Inst. was a Vote pass'd in General Assembly for the Purpose of securing the Harbour and this extends no further than the Security of Boston – a small Fort on Dorchester Point – Do. on Noddles Island, and Castle or Governors Island, Hulks to be sunk in the lower middle Ground. – I have been amazed at the Stupidity and Negligence of Government, and have not known to what Cause to attribute it. Perhaps there may have been an Expectation from General [Artemas] W[ar]d that he would have undertaken these Things. Had the Worthy Gen. Washington continued here, his Influence with the Court and his Assistance with the same Troops that are now here Would have effected much. But a Want of Spirit, order and Method will ever be attended with Inaction and Confusion – and to this much of our Conduct may be ascribed. We must have Men acting in distinct Departments. Our Counsellors must not be Judges, Generals, Colonels, Fortmakers and Omnium Gatherum Nor our Representatives sent throughout the Province during their Session upon Matters belonging to other Departments. We Want a Council of War, an able provincial General, a Skilful Engineer &c. – With Powers from the Province similar to what is given by the Congress to their General &c.

The best Security to the whole Harbour Would be Hull, Pedicks Island and Georges, these well fortified and supported, together with a few Row Gallies would under Providence secure the Harbour with but a little expence further, and perhaps without blocking up the Channell. But if need be the Narrows might be stopt up at a Quarter of the Expence they must now be at in stopping up the lower middle Ground near Castle Island And if the Narrows are stopt up for ever it is no Matter as there is Plenty of Water thro the Western Passage I mean by Long Island West End and the Moon at which Places Forts might be erected to good Purpose and indeed one at the East End of Long Island might be of Advantage. These Places well fortified would have rendered any further Works above in some Measure unnecessary. Suppose a Fort on Point Alderton, one on North Head of Hull calld Lorings Hill, one on Pedicks Island opposite to that on Lorings Hill and the strongest and main Defence on Georges. Would not these be a noble Security. The fort on Lorings Hill and Pedicks would command Nantasket Gut as well as help command Ship Channell. Within this Gut

on the South Side of Hull is as fine a Retreat or Harbour for Privateers and other Vessells up to 30 Guns as can any where be found. All Vessells passing thro this Gut must come within Musket Shot of a Fort on Pedicks, as All Vessells of 20 Guns and upwards passing by Georges up to Boston must be in the like Scituation. Row Galleys are absolutely necessary, to take Care of Broad Sound and to prevent small Craft from harassing the Islands, and would be a very excellent Support to our Islands and without them our Harbour will never be secure.

I have a great deal more to say upon this Subject than You will have patience to read or can be comprised in a single Letter. I will only add that this present Week Accidentally I fell in with the Courts Committee and labourd this Matter with them and I found the greater Part of them in Sentiment with me. I represented especially the Importance of Hull that if possess'd by the Enemy and fortified not any Army we could raise would dislodge them no not 40000 Men. I found out that all the Southern Members had been warm for fortifying below, the Western Members with Majr. H[awle]y had opposed it. In short I am sometimes out of Patience when I think upon this Affair, and can scarcely write or talk upon it – my Mind being possessd with this Idea – That the present Time may be the only Time for this Purpose. . . .

The particular State of our Colony at present has led me to think whether the securing and fortifying of Capital Places on the Sea Coast should not be a Continental Charge as particular Provinces may so far neglect this as to involve the Continent in amazing Expences and unless these were something obligatory on the Side of the several Colonies to do it, Would they not be apt to neglect it.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 393–96.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND¹

[Providence] Fryday Evening 26 April 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment

Voted. That Five pounds fifteen shillings and three pence be paid Saml Coy for Painting. – out of the Treasury

Voted. That One pound Ten shillings and Nine pence be paid John Smith out of the Treasury for Expences in sending to Hingham for Ship Carpenters.

Voted. That Forty Fire arms be purchased of Capt Jos. Cooke for the Use of the Ships at three pounds L My p piece. –

Voted. That Capt Christopher Sheldon procure two good and Faithful Men to Watch the ships till they are Launched to prevent Accidents &c. –

Voted. That Seven pounds three shillings & six pence L My be paid Elisha Mowry Esqr being the Ballance of his Acct for Timber. –

Meeting adjourned to Monday Evening –

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE TO HIS SISTER, LYDIA MCFUNN ¹New London April the 26th 1776 *A: Doria*

My Dear Lydia

I think I may safely say that this is the first spare moment I could find since our first arrival at this port, to speak one word to you. I have been either Sailing or under sailing Order continually and could find no time to tell you what I know you long to hear. I mean account of our Proceedings. And now unfortunate fellow that I am, it is too late. A very circumstantial account having appeared in the papers – Had the Plauguy papers but held their confounded tongues what a fine field Should I have had before me. With What Pleasure could I have said that in Lattitude North and Longitude West we did Wonders and that in Latt South and Long East we did a great deal more. But Alas I have now nothing to tell you worth your notice except that in the beginning of April one very fine morning we exercised Great Guns and small Arms and had two men hurt by it. And that I am most Affectionately yours. dont be Angry or frightend or Amazed I am not going to follow Charles example to write a note instead of a letter.² No no My Dear Lydia I am too much like Genny G., and Nancy B,³ (thats a Rhime and believe me I did not intend it,) and your own dear self to be so soon tired of talking – Do give My most sincere love to those two Dear Girls. – But dont tell them that I am in love Because I am not quite certain of it Myself. to be sure I was a few days ago. But there never was a more free sociable set of dear Creatures got together in any one place as in this. And so I went into another Company. And so I alter'd my Mind And so I am at a loss. Yes at a loss to know which I love most. I am sure I begin to grow Old for My Love fits dont hold half their Usual time. I have known the day when I have been held in Chains during a whole tide of Ebb. I wish you would write to me in Providence or Newport and tell me whether or not My old flame H G is Married ⁴ Yet I wont own I have a hankering that way

I think I was never more happy from home than at present, owing as I take it to my being fully employd. I am now (I do not mean at this instant I am writing) Cleaning my Brig: for a Cruise. And hope in three or four days to sail. Should I feel in a writing humour before I go out you may probably hear from me again. If You should not swear that I had not time, or any thing else you Please except that I wanted inclination. Remember me most sincerely to Our dear Mother tell Her She may depend on hearing from me as soon as ever Madam Fortune is pleased to Smile upon me. Tell My dear Sisters and Brothers how Much I love them, but that You Cannot. Tell Andrew Robeson ⁵ I long to hear from him and from all the Rest of My most sincere friends. Tell Cato ⁶ and his Party that if I take a trip to Purgatory I will never Return to America if they Make peace with the English D – gs. Tell Your Dear Polly ⁷ that I love her a thousand times

better than She thinks I do. Tell the Dear Girls in Your Neighbourhood I long to be acquainted with them. Tell Yourself that Katy Hucheson alias Hudson [is] the finest Woman in Providence except My Polly Gold. She was in St Vincents when the Caribbs were subdued and has since been in London Bermuda and Philadelphia. She enquired but could not find you out. Do not scold so abomanably. I will conclude as soon as ever I can tell You that I am your most Afft. Brother

N: Biddle

1. Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP.
2. His older brother, Charles Biddle.
3. "Genny G" has not been identified; "Nancy B" was his first cousin, Ann Biddle.
4. "H G" has not been identified.
5. Andrew Robeson (1753-1781) appointed register of the Admiralty Court of Pennsylvania, in April, 1776.
6. "Cato" was the signature of the writer of a number of letters appearing in certain colonial papers, which sought to undo the effectiveness of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*.
7. Mary Biddle McFunn.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1776

New-London, April 26.

During the last and beginning of this Week, several Men of War have been seen cruising in the Offing.

We hear that it is the Determination of the Continental Congress, to fortify New-London Harbour in the best and most effectual Manner; it being judged a good and convenient Rendezvous for the Continental Fleet.

Yesterday Week [April 18], the Brig *Cabot*, Capt. Elisha Hinman, one of the Continental Fleet from this Port, was chased into Newport by a Man of War of 28 Guns, commanded by John Simmons: ¹ The said Ship sailed from Halifax 14 Days before, in company with a Brig of 10 Guns: ² - They watered at Block-Island last Saturday, when several People from the Island were on board the Ship and learned the above Particulars; and were further informed, that the Ministerial Fleet from Boston lay at Halifax when they came out, waiting Orders from Home.³

1. H.M.S. *Cerberus*, Captain John Symons.

2. H.M. Brig *Diligent*, Lieutenant Edmund Dod.

3. From journal of the *Cerberus*: "April 1776, Saty 20th, at 3 P M TKd & stood in shore, saw the *Diligent* made the Sigl to Anchor at 5 Came too wth the Bt Br in 7 fms So End Blk Island SbE½E No End Nbe off shore 2 Mile," PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

[New York] April the 26th

I had wrote thus far before I was honourd with your favor of the 23d Instant - In obedience to the Order therein Containd, I have directed Six Regiments more for Canada, which will embark as soon as vessels & other necessarys Can be provided, these Regiments will be Commanded by General [John] Sullivan, I shall give him Instructions to join the forces, in that Country under General [John] Thomas as Soon as possible -

With respect to Sending more troops to that Country, I am realy at a Loss what to advise, as it is impossible at present to know the designs of the enemy – Should they send the whole force under General Howe up the River St Lawrence to relieve Quebec & recover Canada, the troops gone & now going will be insufficient to Stop their progress; and shou'd they think proper to Send that, or an equal force this way from Great Britain, for the purpose of possessing this City, & secureing the Navigation of Hudsons River the troops Left here will not be sufficient to oppose them, & yet for any thing we know – I think it not improbable they may attempt both, both being of the greatest importance to them, if they have Men –

I coud wish indeed that the Army in Canada shoud be more powerfully reinforced, at the same time I am conscious, that the trusting this important port (which is now become the Grand Magazine of America) to the handful of men remaining here is running too great a risque – the securing this port & Hudsons River, is to us allso, of so great Importance, that I cannot at present advise the sending any more troops from hence; on the contrary, the General Officers now here whom I thought it my duty to consult think it absolutely necessary to encrease the Army at this place, with at Least ten thousand men, especially when it is Considerd that from this place only, the Army in Canada must draw its Supplies, of Am[m]unition, provisions, and most probably of men; that all reinforcement[s] can be sent from hence much easier than from any other place. . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 627–29, NA. Continuation of April 25 letter.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 10 HO. A.M.

April 26th, 1776.

A copy of a letter from Governor Tryon, to the mayor of this city, dated the 19th instant, was read. He thereby informs that the commanders of the King's ships, on this station, had thought it necessary to burn the pilot house near the light house. That proper care has been taken of Adam Dobbs and his family and effects, and that if a sloop is sent down to receive Dobbs, his servants and effects, she will be permitted to return safe.

Ordered, That Captain William Dobbs wait on His Excellency General Washington with the said copy of a letter.

1. *New York, Provincial Congress*, I, 421.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL
WILLIAM PALFREY ¹

Dr Palfrey

New York April 26. 1776

It is his Excellency's request that you apply to Colo Hancock, the Committee of Safety or those appointed to send powder to the Camp at Cambridge, & procure an exact List of the Quantity sent from time to time, the dates & persons entrusted with It. From the letters of Congress more appears to have been forwarded or Ordered, than was ever received – His

Excellency is apprehensive that there has been mal-play among the Carriers.² I am [&c.]

Rob H Harrison

1. Walter Fuller Don Collection, SI.

2. Both Harrison and Palfrey were aides-de-camp to Washington.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, April 26, 1776

The committee, to whom the letters from General Washington of the 22 and 23, were referred, brought in their report, which was read: Whereupon . . .

Resolved, That this Congress approve the assistance given by the General to Commodore Hopkins.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 310, 311, 312.

MEMORIAL OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] April 26, 1776

The Committee under the authority of the Provincial Assembly, having built vessels and erected works to fortify and strengthen the approaches to the City of Philadelphia by the River Delaware, have employed therein all the large Cannon now in their possession, tho' but very few in number, and entered into Contracts for procuring more, with which they hope speedily to be supplied; but as from the particular circumstances of a part of their Defences, some of heavier metal than those they now have or may in any reasonable time expect to have cast in this Province, will be extremely requisite; they took an early occasion of solliciting your honorable Body for a few pieces of the heaviest Cannon taken by Commodore Hopkins at Providence, since landed at New London. The Committee from an earnest desire of saving their City from the Ravages and calamities of War, as well as from an idea that its Preservation is of Importance to the Common cause of America, beg leave to renew their Sollicitations on this subject, requesting that you would give Order that a part of such heavy cannon, together with two of the largest Mortars, and their proportion of Shells, be appropriated to the use of this Committee, for which they will allow the full value.

1. Hazard, et al., eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 735.

OATH OF CORBAN BARNES, MASTER OF THE SCHOONER *Julia*¹

I do swear that I will not take any Pilot on board the Schooner *Julia* now bound down the River and Bay of Delaware further than the Town of Chester on the said River And that I will not suffer any Pilot to go on board or to remain in the said Vessel after leaving Chester afd

Corban Barnes

[Philadelphia] Sworn the 26. Apr 1776
Coram

1. Pa. Arch.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO LORD DUNMORE ¹

[Extract] *Roebuck* Delaware Bay 26th April. 1776.

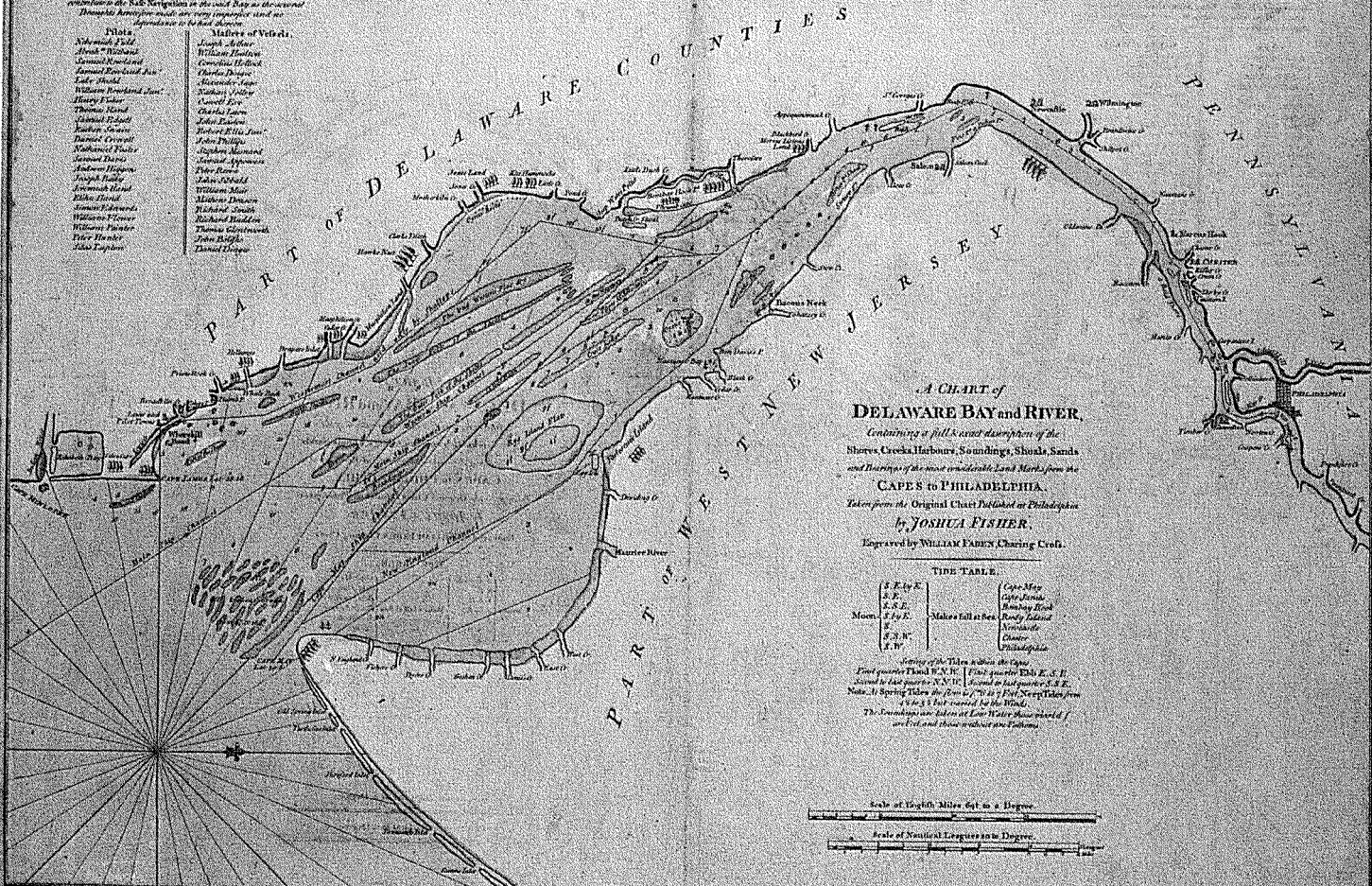
My Account says, the Congress has sent an express to New London to order Hopkins round here immediately to attack the *Roebuck*. How far this is to be depended on I cannot say: but I confess I dont think it unlikely, as they have a ship of 20 Guns (whose bottom they Tallowed last week) ready now to come down the River, and a Brig of 16 Guns laying in the shoal water under Cape May ready to assist them.

It is with great concern I acquaint yr Lordship, that Mr. Boger, on returning to the Capes of Virginia from Conveying the Packet, was taken by this Brig I mentioned to you in my letter by Mr. Mason. The story I have heard about it is this, when he saw the Brig he gave chace to her, and she suffered him to come up with her: as soon as he began to fire to bring her too, she opened her Ports, and returned his fire, upon which Mr. Boger engaged him, but I should rather think made a running fight, as he received a shot in his stern betwen wind & water, which killed a man in the cabin, and let in so much water that they soon called out for quarter, not having, it seems, any Plug ready to stop it with. The *Lexington* then took possession of her and carried her towards Egg Harbour, wherè he landed Mr. Boger & his People, who were marched from thence to Philadelphia. The Vessel he sent thro' Cape May Channel in the Night, with his Pilot and two Men, who arrived safe with her at the Town and she is now fitting out with great expedition as a Privateer and will undoubtedly be sent to the Capes of Virginia: and by not being known for an Enemy, might of course, do a great deal of Mischief among our small Tenders. I have for that reason lost no time in dispatching the *Lady Stanley* back to yr. Lordship with this intelligence; and had she not arrived as she did, I should this very day have sent my Pilot schooner round to you for that purpose. . . .

I would give more than I can express to have the *Otter*, or even the *Otters* Tender here for a few days, as without a small Vessel that can go in shallow water it is totally impossible (or at least very unlikely) that I shall be able to do any thing with this Brig *Lexington*. All the North side of Delaware Bay is encompassed with shoals & shallow water, having a channel of about 13 or 14 foot water within them: and this passage Mr. [John] Barry is at present master of. I have chaced him several times but can never draw him into the Sea. The day before yesterday as I was coming in from the offing, he stretched along to the southward with an Easterly wind, a back of the shoal called the overfalls, where I was very near doing his business. He at first tryed to stand round the shoal, and lead me up the Bay, but on finding I drew nearer to him than he wished, he tacked to the Northward, and was just able to tread his ground back, and I believe with some difficulty weathered the shoal. I was far from being in an eligible situation, as I run with all my studding sails, blowing very fresh, right before the wind, into 4½ fathm. water, which is as near, my Pilots tell me as was possible for me to go. However, I trust if my good stars will be but propitious enough to

By the Adjutants General passed the annual Strength of
DELAWARE BAY.
A Return made to the Honorable Convention, and sent, yearly
containing the Name, Regiment or the said Bay as directed
through the Adjutants General, are very complete and are
of singular Use to the said Adjutants.

- Philas.**
 Abraham Field
 David Wilson
 Samuel Rockland
 Samuel Chapman, Junr
 Luke Smith
 William Woodard, Junr
 Henry Fisher
 Thomas Ward
 Samuel Edgell
 Nathan Green
 Daniel Criswell
 Nathaniel Fisher
 Samuel Davis
 Andrew Higgins
 Joseph Smith
 Jeremiah Ward
 Eliza Ward
 James Robinson
 William Farrow
 William Fisher
 Peter Hunter
 John Layton
- Malices of Veterans.**
 Joseph A. Moor
 William Hartson
 Cornelius H. Wood
 Charles Dixon
 Benjamin Long
 Nathaniel Vetter
 Samuel Cox
 Charles Lane
 John Ewing
 Richard W. Hill, Junr
 John Phillips
 Stephen Mearns
 Samuel Mearns
 Peter Ross
 John O'Neil
 William Moore
 William Dixon
 Nicholas Smith
 Richard Borden
 Thomas Robinson
 John Hight
 Daniel Clapp



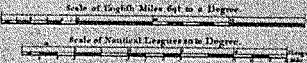
A CHART of
DELAWARE BAY and RIVER,
 Containing a full & exact description of the
 Shores, Creeks, Harbours, Soundings, Shoals, Sands
 and Bearings of the most considerable Land Mark, from the
CAPE to PHILADELPHIA.

Taken from the Original Chart Published at Philadelphia
 by **JOSHUA FISHER,**
 Engraved by **WILLIAM FAREN** Charing Cross.

TIDE TABLE.

S. E. by E.	Cape May
S. E.	Cape Dennis
S. N. E.	Wilmington
S. by E.	Makes full at Sea
S.	Roady Island
S. N. W.	Maria's
S. W.	Gloucester
	Philadelphia

Velocity of the Tides within the Cape
First quarter Tides N. N. E. [First quarter Ebb E. S. E.]
Second & last quarter N. N. W. [Second & last quarter S. S. E.]
 Note. In Spring Tides the Run is $\frac{1}{4}$ of Foot, Neap Tides from
 18 to 22 Feet raised by the Wind.
 The Compendious Tables are here inserted for
 use and those without are Followed.



me to send me any Vessel that can carry 50 Men, his reign will be of short duration, especially as his success of late has made him bold. I forgot to mention that the *Liverpools* Tender killed him two men.

1. *Aspinwall Papers* (Boston, 1871), Part II, 780-84.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Friday 26 April 1776.

Ordered That the Treasurer of the Western Shore pay to Captain James Nicholson two hundred Pounds on Account of the Sea forces under his command.

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL SMITH'S NARRATIVE OF HIS CONDUCT.¹

[Annapolis, Friday, April 26, 1776]

On Monday the 15th April I was on the Field exercising the three Companies Stationed in Baltimore, when Mr Samuel Purviance (Chairman of the Committee) came out to me, & begged I would immediately attend the Committee: That an Affair of the greatest Consequence demanded my Attendance; That there would be Occasion for Eight or Ten of my Men under my own Command to go in Capt'n [James] Nicholson's Tender. - He then found it necessary to inform me of the Business, & enjoined the strictest Secresy - I kept the Troops about a Quarter of an hour longer on duty; and discharged them all except my own Company, out of which I chose Ten good Men & a Sargeant; and orderd them to be in readiness at half past One - I waited at Mr Purviances (on the Committee as I thought) but found only the Chairman there. He shewed me the different Letters respecting the Business I was to go on, and I agreed with him that too much dispatch could not be made. - I then Went in Quest of Major [Mordecai] Gist, but could not find him - About One OClock Mr S Purviance passd by the Barracks. I spoke to, & told him that I was ready & waited but for Orders. He said I should have them immediately. - I again went in search of the Major & found him at Dinner - I told him my Men were ready. - As soon as he had finished dining he went to Mr Purviance's, where I followed him in about ten Minutes, & found him reading my Instructions. - (t Mr Purviance mentiond that if the Governor was still at Annapolis I should have nothing to do, as he supposed the Council of Safety would put him under Guard before I should get down t) I received my Instructions from the Major & with my Men went immediately to the Point, where I went on board the *Defence's* Tender commanded by Lieutt [John] Nicholson. After taking proper Stores from the *Defence* we proceeded down, arrived & came to Anchor off the Harbour of Annapolis at abt 3 OClock on Tuesday Morning - At Day break I went ashore & deliverd a Letter to Messrs John Smith, Benjamin Nicholson & John Sterrit. - They told me what had passed between them & the Honble Council - I asked them whither I might not inform the Co[uncil]le of my Business. - They said the Council had enjoind

the strictest Secresy, and advisd me not to mention it till I had their (the Council's Leave. – (t I shewed them my Orders, they advised me not to shew them to any other Person, as it was their Opinion they were in some Degree improper. – They said they were to wait on Major Jeniffer after Breakfast & woud let me know when they returned how I was to act. – On their Return to the Coffee House they told Me he highly approved of the Tenders being sent down; and that they were to meet the Council at 10 OClock who woud give me Orders. t) –

About 11 OClock I observed the Governors Boat hove out & cleaning. I thought it my Duty to make it immediately known to the Honble Council, & accordingly waited on them & was refusd Admittance – I with Difficulty perswaded the Doorkeeper to ask Mr B Nicholson (who was with them) to come out. – After an half hours Attendance he came – I told him what I had seen, & beggd he woud tell the Council that I waited their Orders whither to remain with the Tender or return home. – They answerd by Mr Nicholson, That they desired Me to remain with the Boat & act according to the Orders I had received (or Words to that Amot). – A Short time after Sunset I went on board. – The Midshipman who came on Shore for me, pointed at a Schooner lying off the Governors Wharf, wh he said had come out, and on seeing The Tenders Boat rowing towds her, put back immediately, and came to, where She then lay – On my Return to Annapolis next Morning, (Wednesday) We knew her to be Mr Sprigg's. – About Eleven She hove up, and attempted going out, but was brought to by the Tender. – About Twelve the Governors Boat also got under Way, and the Tender brought her to. – I saw what was done, I thought it my Duty to go on board. – I searchd the last mentioned Boat narrowly, & found Porter & Claret, which made Me suspect his Excellency intended making his Escape – I put a Guard on board with some of the *Defence's* People, and am sorry to say that 2 Bottles Portar & One of Claret were drank by them. – Mr Sprigg came off to us, & seemd much surprisd that we shoud dare to stop his Boat. – & asked what Orders we had. – I thought this Question impertinent, and answerd it as it deserved with Silence. – I went ashore with him, he grumbling all the time. – Secretary Smith was on the Wharf. he asked Mr Sprigg what was the Matter; who answerd that by Order from the Council of Safety his Schooner was stoppd. Mr Smith immediately replied, that he coud assure him the Council of Safety had given no such Orders. – I said it was sufficient I had my Orders for what was done. I then went to Dinner, and there understood by Verbal Orders from Mr [Gabriel] Duvall, that the Affair was settled & I might return home. Mr Sprigg came in & I promisd to send his Boat up to Annapolis according to his Desire. – I went down to the Wharf with Intention to go on board, where I met Lieutt Nicholson with a Pass from the Governor for his Mullatoe, to pass unmollected in Chesapeak Bay. – We thought proper to deliver it to some Member of the Hon Council; and seeing Mr [Charles] Carroll talking with Mr Sprigg, We went up to him, and Lieutt Nicholson deliverd it. – Mr Sprigg complained of ill Treatment. Lieutt Nicholson told him, he only did what he had a

Right to do. – He replied, he supposd that he (Lieutt N) might think he was right. I answerd that he not only thought so, but was so. Mr Carroll said that the Council had given no such Orders. Both Lieutt Nicholson & myself assured him that We had Orders, And on being asked to shew them, We did so & promisd to leave Copies of them. – About Two oClock we went on board & returnd to Baltimore Town ²

Sam Smith

N B. The Paragraphs markd (t) I recollected since I wrote the Narrative deliverd to the Honl Council. – I wrote it in a great hurry or I might then have remembered many other Circumstances relative to this Affair. –

1. Red Book, I (item 26), Md. Arch.

2. With a day's discrepancy in date, Governor Robert Eden's account of this final episode, reads:

On the 18th day of April, in the morning, one of the Baltimore privateer boats boarded his Excellency's, which was going out to call back a gentleman's vessel just sailed from hence, which they also took, and detained them both.

Mr. Samuel Smith, of Baltimore, who was with the troops in the Baltimore boat, came on shore, and went to C. Carroll, Esq., Barrister, with Mr. Nicholson, the Captain of her; when Mr. Smith produced Mr. S. Purviance's order for seizing his Excellency, and Mr. Robert Smith, and their papers, as also his Excellency's boat, and to carry them all to Baltimore; the boat was set at liberty that evening.

Eden's report to the Royal Council; June 7, 1776, Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, VI, 732-40.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON ¹

No 132

Sir We consider the Schooner *Resolution* to be fitted out only as a Tender for the Ship *Defence*, and therefore have given you Directions to put Officers on Board out of your own Ship, as you may think best for the public Service.

[Annapolis] 26th Apl 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

LORD DUNMORE TO JOHN BROWN ¹

Ship *Dunmore* in Eliza. River
Virginia, April 26th. 1776 –

Sir The Bearer Mr. Walker being willing to Load his Sloop, and return again to this Colony with a Cargo of Fruit and Turtle, I wish you would permit him to bring some Small Ordnance here; three and four pounders are most wanted for His Majesty's Service, also a few Six's and as many Shott for each as he can conveniently bring with him. I was Sorry to hear that the Rebels had taken Mr. Brown [Montfort Browne] Prisoner. The sooner Mr. Walker's Vessel could be dispatched, the more agreeable it would be to Sir [&c.]

Dunmore

1. MNHP. Brown was acting governor of New Providence, in the absence of the governor who had been taken prisoner on board the Continental fleet in March 1776.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, SUPPLEMENT, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1776

Williamsburg, April 26.

There have, within these two or three weeks, been taken and brought into Norfolk, by the tenders, &c. the following vessels, viz. The sloop *Congress*, with 110 barrels of gunpowder and a large quantity of cloth, linens, osnaburgs, &c. A schooner, with a very large cargo of medicines, particularly jesuits bark. A large new ship from Baltimore, bound to Liverpool, with 1900 barrels of flour and bread, and 5000 bushels of wheat; this last taken by old [John] Goodrich, who commands a privateer, fitted out by himself, and has likewise fitted out two others, one commanded by his son William, the other by a certain William Pickett. A brig, outward bound, loaded with provisions. And a New England schooner, supposed to be bound for Maryland. — There were taken and brought in, some little time before, three vessels with gunpowder, about 5000 stand of arms, &c. also a New Englandman, bound for Baltimore, with cheese, cider, potatoes, chestnuts, &c. — ¹ An unarmed brig was despatched, about a month ago, to Lisbon, for a cargo of Fruit and Wines, for the use of Lord Dunmore and the army expected from England, which it is supposed will arrive about the middle of May. Keep a sharp lookout, boys, for this vessel. Punch is a most agreeable and enlivening beverage in the hot summer weather; and our good housewives will want plums, &c. against Christmas, to trip up many a dainty dish for that festive season, when it is to be hoped we shall all be merry, and sufficient cause to rejoice.

All masters of vessels taken bringing in arms and ammunition are put in the prison vessel and laid in irons, and are to be sent to England for trial.

Ammunition is in such plenty on board the fleet, that Lord Dunmore gives it gratis to those who fit out privateers.

Last Saturday his Excellency the General,² with his two aids-de-camp, and secretary, Col. [Thomas] Bullitt, &c. set out for Suffolk; since which, we learn that his Excellency has marched from that place, at the head of a large body of troops, upon some secret expedition.

By two deserters who came into York last Sunday from Goodrich's pink, commanded by one Picket, of the Eastern Shore, we learn that the tenders took off our Capes a French sloop with 150 barrels of powder, and 250 stand of arms; there were three engineers on board likewise, whom the Governor ordered to be put in irons. They also inform that Lord Dunmore has fitted out a vessel with 16 oars, that carries 50 men, 6 three pounders, with 12 swivels; and that another was on the stocks, under the inspection of old Goodrich.

1. None of the prizes mentioned are to be found on any British prize list; they probably were taken by Goodrich and others in private vessels.

2. Major General Charles Lee.

PERMISSION TO THOMAS YOUNG TO LOAD RICE ON BOARD THE SNOW *Georgia* ¹

Georgia By His Excellency Archibald Bullock Esquire President and Commander in Chief of the Province aforesaid.

To the Officers and Men Stationed on the different Rivers, Creeks and Inlets in this Province, and to all others whom it may concern. Be it known that Thomas Young Esquire has obtain'd permission to Load and Ship on Board the Snow *Georgia* now lying in the River St. Mary and bound to Lisbon, Two hundred Barrels of Rice, and you are hereby directed and required not to obstruct the said Thomas Young either in sending to or Loading the said Snow with the Rice above mentioned.

Given under my hand at Savannah the twenty sixth day of April 1776

Arch^d Bullock

By His Excellency's Command

Edw^d Langworthy, Secy

1. Lloyd W. Smith Collection, MNHP.

SILAS DEANE TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

Dear Sir

Bermuda, April 26th 1776

We arrived here, on the 24th after a passage of Ten Days, standing in to the S West part of the Island the Sloop struck but were off in a few Minutes, I beleive without any damage, save knocking off some of her Sheathing – A pilot came on board instantly, and the Wind heading brot her to an Anchor. I went immediately on Shore, & found The Island absolutely destitute of Corn, & nearly so of Flour – The greater part of the Families, not having had a supply of Corn, for some Weeks but on inquiry found the prices limited by their Act of Assembly, could not be exceeded, which were by much too moderate for the risque of such a Voyage, yet considering the situation in which We were, and the freindly disposition of the Inhabitants, I could Not think of going further with the Cargo, as the whole Island were apprized of the Arrival in Three hours after We Anchored and the Report was that Congress had heard of their wants, & had permitted this vessel to come with this Cargo to their releif how such a Thought came into their Heads (God only knows,) but they are many of them very inquisitive & equally Communicative, so that one might almost Question, if there are many Secrets in the Island – Capt [John] Tucker immediately, on getting the Sloop in set off to enter her, & will return I expect This Day, in the mean time, judging it by no means best to proceed in her, I have Chartered a Sloop of about Eighty Tonns of Mr [John] Jennings The particulars of which with the Charterparty &c I send you inclosed, she is said to be, the Swiftest Vessel in the island, is about Fifteen Months old, & well found, so that, probably, you may Judge it best, to Take her, at the Value –

Your Effects from Jamaica may be bro't here safely, & I doubt not that your plan on that Subject will be executed But I am in doubt [what] to think of Venturing any of the Supplies of the Continent This way, for the Reason[s] above given, & that only, for the people are zealous in the Ameri-

can Cause, and appear willing to do every thing in Their power to promote it – I hope to get away from this, Next Wednesday, at farthest before which, shall add to this as things occur, I have got a very clever Captain of the Sloop I have Chartered one [Charles] Morgan, who had just returned from the Bay in her Captn Tucker is quite an obliging agreeable Man, & I have been very happy with him, in my short passage, but as he has been little acquainted with transacting business himself, advise you, to be very explicit, in the Instructions, you may from time to time send him, which I think he will not knowingly deviate from, I have given you this hint, on recollecting some Conversation of yours on this Subject when you proposed sending out a Factor to this Island on the business – The Governor who is become very obnoxious, has been threatening the Inhabitants with Cruisers stationed at each End of the Island, & Troops, but no man of Sense can beleive so useless & expensive a Measure will ever be adopted, The Vessels in here from the Islands, give an Account of the Disposition of the People there, which is very farr from meriting the indulgence shewn their property, in the late Resolution for Reprisals, – in Antigua, & Barbadoes, an American is not safe either in his person, or property, if he is known to be freindly to the Continental Interest, & they exult in the prospect or rather hopes of a total reduction of the Colonies by Administration, one Consequence of which they are promised will be, the Confining the American Commerce in the West Indies absolutely to the English Islands This may be relied on, to tie the present Temper of the Islands in General, – This Island suffors much, One hundred & Twenty vessels are now on hand, unemployed, and the people happy. [if] They can keep from an absolute Famine, for the produce of the Island is next to nothing at all. Vessels proper for privateers, might be taken up here to good Advantage and Gunns for them purchased, as there are a great Number of good Ones, of those used, in the late Warr now on hand – A Number were lately purchased, & shipped – as I heard, and more may be had of Four to Nine pounders. – Mr Jennings, has a fine Shipp on the Stocks of Eighty Feet Keel, may be launched soon & would make a fine privateer, he would be glad to sell her, and I beleive could procure the Gunns for her – I did not venture to bring the proceedings of Congress with Me my Name being often mentioned, might give a lead to Suspicion, which might otherways sleep. I wish therefore you would send me Five, or Six of the Journals of the first, & present Congress by which I may oblige a Freind, also collect all the Newspapers that have been published, since my leaving Philadelphia and send them to me continuing to do so, by every vessel, this will save you the trouble of writing many things in the News way, and serve to give me from time to time the Situation of Affairs, as from my Acquaintance with the Colonies I shall form a tolerable Judgment what is, or is not true, and you may with your pen write against any peice of intelligence, which may probably be doubtful, or not to Me, in one Word, in what Light it is viewed with you – as thus – “This may be depended on”, – “Doubtful”, “probable”, Wants Confirmation, improbable, “contradicted by private Letters”, or Confirmed by them. &c, &c, Notwithstanding the many Falsehoods

published in the Newspapers, they are generally a good Clue, to lead, to the Sentiments, & Complexion of the People and the Times, and may be of more Consequence to Me than a meer Amusement .

A Sloop this instant arrived from Antigua & brings Acct that Twenty One Sail of Transports under Convoy of Two Men of War sailed the beginning of this Month for the Continent, from Antigua, and by the Captn the Report of the disposition of the people of that Island, & Barbadoes toward the Colonies, is confirmed with many Aggravating Circumstances. -

Capt Tucker met with no Difficulty in entering at the Custom House, where he is now gone to procure a New Register in the Name of Henry Tucker junr & himself and will be ready to Sail in a Day, or Two to execute your plan in Jamaica - Considering the Consequence to you of prosecuting that Business, & that the Sloop of yours was fitter for that, than my purpose, being but an indifferent Sailer, and that the Sloop I should take up here, would, beside her being sailed at a Cheaper lay, have every Advantage, of a Bermudian Bottom, without the possibility of any the least cavil, or Suspicion, & by changing both Master & Crew int[ire]ly in this Way prevent danger from another Quarter I judged it, most for the interest of the public to take this Method & hope it will meet the Approbation of the Committee - I have taken the charterparty, in the Name of the Contractors, as Mr [Henry] Tucker, by your Letter, knew of their Names, and that I had Connection with them, in the End it amounts to the same thing, on whom the risque is fixed, as it falls ultimately on the Same stocks, and by this, my Views could be Considered, only as Commercial - finding a Considerable Ballance, would be left on hand unless I waited longer than was Consistant with my Business abroad, I have taken some Logwood in Ballast, to lessen the sum to be left, and help Appearances Accts of which is inclosed - The Sloop will be ready by the Time (viz) Wedne[s]day next on which Day Weather permitting I shall sail. The Captain is gone to the Custom House, & will Clear for Leghorn with a Cargo of Logwood, the reports being that the lastich [*sic*] is very high there, and the Owner here will give every Necessary Instruction on that head Copies of which will inclose you - The Situation & present State of this Island demands the attention of the Continental Congress, & I have had several Conferences with Mr Bell, on the Subject, it is unnecessary to attempt a particular Description, of an Island, so well known as this, but you will remember that by the Acct givn in to Congress the Number of its Inhabitants were set, at abt fourteen thousand, one half Blacks, and the Quantity of provision annually imported into the Island was then stated, which moderate as it appears, is much more, than the Inhabitants will hereafter be able to pay for unless they can be put on a different footing from their present one - Their Negro men, are all of them Seamen, & Mechanics, such as Coopers, Ship Carpenters, & Black Smiths, & the produce of their Labor makes Nine Tenths of the support of both their Masters & fellow Slaves, their being no employ worth the mentioning for either the Female Slaves or Children, as the Land is absolutely fitt for Nothing but the growth of Cedar - it is well known that almost the whole of that trade, & shipp Build-

ing which employed them & their Slaves depended on the intercourse between the American Colonies on the continent, & foreign parts – This Ceasing throws them instantly into distress, without Stock of provision, & without the means of paying for it could it be procured, & on a soil incapable of supplying them, were they to Cultivate every Inch of it – This is, simply, their present Situation, which greatly Alarms them, the Governor has threatned them with sending for Vessels of Force, in such Case, instant Famine is inevitable unless they can subsist on Fish alone, and if they cannot by some means procure speedy Supplies from the Continent, they will be in the same unhappy Situation. sensible of this the Inhabitants have had meetings, have Chose a large Committee, of which Col [Henry] Tucker is Chairman, and the Inhabitants, are contributing all in their power to ward off the impending danger, but any releif they may obtain can be only Temporary, Momentary I may say, Unless the Continent take them immediately under their protection this is I conceive neither impracticable, nor would be attended with any very heavy Expencc, & the Consequences might be very beneficial to the Colonies, – it is hardly possible for a person, never on these Islands (for they amount to Hundreds of little ones) to form an Idea of them, & their harbors, it is sufficient to say they are the most difficult of access in the World, & some of the safest when entered – on the South there is no Water for any thing more than a Whale Boat over a Reef running the whole extent at about half a League from the Shore, at the West End where We landed there is a Channel thro. the Rocks, & Shoals, which extend near Two Leagues off Shore but so winding that it requires a skillful pilot to bring You thro. and in the best Weather it is alarming to a Stranger to see the Rocks on every Side, & Under him (their Clear White Shining thro. the Water) as he passes and finally enters where the high land on each Side is not a Musket Shot from the center of the Channel – on the North side the Breakers run almost out of Sight of Land, thro. which there is one passage but so difficult that the Islanders themselves make little use of it – At the East End, the harbor is more capacious than this at the West, but equally Difficult, & easily defended But when you are once entered either of the Harbors you may have your Choice of a Number of lesser Ones formed by the little Broken Islands, between which is generally good Depth of Water & safe anchoring – This from my Own Observation, & inquiry is the Natural situat[ion] of the Island, which running between the NE. & SW., every Vessel, passing between Great Brittain, & the West Indies, unless drove out, of their Course, sails within about One Hundred Leagues, of one of its Extremities, this considered it is Evident, they being fortified, so as to make a safe Harbor, for Our Cruisers, the whole West India Trade must be intercepted, & that by a Small Fleet, of swift sailing Frigates, & Sloops, – I am no judge of the expence of such fortification, but Gentlemen, of some Acquaintance with such Affairs estimate it low, & as to a land force, the most Trifling, even the Militia of the Island properly supplied with Stores, would be sufficient to guard a Country, as impenetrable after landing as it is inaccessible – there are a sufficient Number of Cannon on the Island for that

purpose, & to Arm a Number of Cruisers besides – And the Inhabitants I am Confident would receive you as their best Freinds. & my Confidence of this is founded on their situation. – As the Continent are driven into a Naval Warr, it must be a principal Question in what manner the Trade of Great Brittain can be most advantagiously to the Colonies Attacked and as the parliament have in effect closed with the Congress, in the stopping all Commerce, between the Continent, & G Brittain or other British Dominions, it must be the policy of America, to intercept, as far as possible, their intercourse between each other as well to supply Ourselves, as to distress them to effect which some Harbor, or Harbors must be pitch'd upon convenient for the purpose, & secured, & the question will be are those of this Island the best – I think they are, for The Reasons hinted at, above, and for the probability that the Enemy unsuspecting of such a Maneuvre & intent on blocking up the ports, on the Continent, may receive a heavy blow, in their West India Commerce before they are aware of, or guarded against it, and if they attempt to defeat such a design it must be by drawing off their Forces from Our Coast for a While at least – These hints I submit to maturer Consideration, & to the present Turn of political measures, which I am sensible may have Altered since my leaving you, but a minute inquiry into the practicability, and expence, of such a Scheme, will Cost, neither Time, nor Money, worth Mentioning, and I wish it may be made by some person of better Judgment, than I conceive myself or perhaps my informers here to be, who have discoursed with Me, on this Subject, – if the Sloop I have Chartered, answer the Character given of her for Sailing, I shall send her back with part of the Effects and order her to Call at this Island, having agreed, with Captn Tucker on the Signals, & for him to keep a look out, shall therefore depend you will punctually inform him of the situation of the Cruisers to the Northward – Any Lettr you can get to him, can be sent Me by the Way of St Eustatia, put under a Dutch, or French Cover, to Bourdeaux, or Amsterdam – I have discoursed with Col Tucker among other things on the procuring one or more swift sailing Vessels of this Island for the purpose of carrying intelligence and he says he can either build, or purchase if you determine on any such Measure, you may depend on this Gentleman, & on the Intelligence he gives you from time to time with respect to this Island

Capt Tuckers Acct of Sales of [George] Ords Cargo I have received & with it the Balls being £700..10..11 for which I have drawn on you & Co agreeable to your Orders – inclosed you have also H.Tuckers rect on back of Bill of Lading for the Sloop *Betsey's* Cargo, & Copy of my Rect to him for the Money I have received of him both of which Sums are to the Credit of the Indian Contract, I have had some Words with Mr H Tucker, on the score of Commissions which to Me Appear exorbitant, and he finally referr'd the Matter to you saying he was willing to submit it to you – I find so much light Money passing that that will be one reason, of my not receiving More of the *Betseys* Cargo, I shall direct Mr Tucker to invest the Balls in good Bills which he says can be done in a few Days and send them by Way of St

Eustatia under French Covers, to Messrs Saml & J.H. Delap, at Bordeaux for Me – The Bearer of this Mr [George] Bascom[e] is waiting – I hope to sail this Day May 1st but an Unforseen Difficulty arises, Capt Tucker by advice reported his Vessel as from the Mississippi with Corn, and both the Governor, & Collector told him his Sloop was entered, & that that was the method of proceeding – after which the Collector gave Orders to the Office for a New Register in form as I had directed, when to Our surprize, the Comptroller refused his Consent to the New Register, or even to any entrance or Clearance of the Sloop this rises partly from a quarrel between the Collector & him & partly from a desire of appearing very Strict in these times – this Trick, for I can call it no other, Vexes Me, Capt Tucker has got his old Register, so that the Sloop is safe from seizure here, indeed the populace would not permit of such a step, and the Comptr declares he will not seize her or any other Vessel in such Circumstances but that he will have nothing to say to them one Way or another this man is one [Copeland] Stiles – Capt Tucker is again gone to the Office and I have directed him to get a Registr & Clearance from the Collector, & Governor without Noticing the Comptr in them, if he procure this, he will proceed on his voyage tomorrow will write you one Word on his Return – I wish if in your power to serve Capt Bascom you would assist him as he has been kind eno. to wait some time for this Lettr – if Capt Tucker fail of a New Registr he is advised, (& inde[e]d by the Comptr) to proceed to Turks Island, enter as from St Eustatia, take on board a trifle of Salt, & clear for Jamaica obtaining a New Register there, to do which Mr H Tucker will give him the Necessary papers, situated as he is I know of no safer plan, but I will write you how he makes out before I sail, and as I can detain Capt Bascom no longer must Close this Long Lettr with Complts to all of my immediate Freinds, & assuring You I shall exert myself to make all the dispatch in my power

I am with Esteem Dear Sir Your [&c.]

S D

P.S. The Charterparty, & particulars of expences, Wages, &c on the Sloop, as also Copies of the Receipts I shall not be able to send by this unless Capt Bascom can wait a few Hours if he cannot will leave them inclosed to be sent by another Sloop sailing soon.

I. USNAM.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE GRENADÉS, DATED APRIL 26.”¹

A few days ago two small American vessels were brought into this place by one of Admiral Shuldham's fleet, laden with flour, &c. which was sold for the benefit of the crew of the frigate, and fetched a good price, as do all sorts of provisions, owing to our not being supplied from the Americans, which we used to be; and now we are often afraid we shall be in want before we can be supplied from England; we have several ships almost ready to sail for England with new sugars on board.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 28 to May 30, 1776.

27 Apr.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Extract] Camp before Quebec April 27th: 1776
Gentlemen

... I have sent a company to take post & fortify Point de Chambeau at the falls of Richlieu & purpose also to fortify the important pass of Jackes Cartier; I hope with the help of Batteries properly placed & some Gondelos which are building at Chambly together with what Vessels we have to command the River. I have a fire Ship which has been prepared for several days & waits only for a wind to attempt setting fire to the Shipping in their harbour. I am in hopes in some way or other to get possession of the Town before a great while —

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 161, II, 309-11.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO CAPTAIN CHARLES HUDSON,
H.M.S. *Orpheus*¹

(Copy)

You are hereby required and directed to proceed with His Majesty's Ship under your Command, and Cruize between the West end of Long Island and Cape Henlopen, at such distances from the Shore, as from the information you may receive and your own Judgment may be most likely to intercept the Ships and Vessels belonging to His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects.

As soon as you arrive at your Station You are to call in at New York, and deliver to Captain [Hyde] Parker [Jr.] the Dispatches you will herewith receive, with whom you will confer and obtain from him such intelligence as he may think necessary to communicate to you for His Majesty's Service: You are then to proceed to the River Delaware and deliver to Captain Hamond the Packets directed for him, which you will also receive herewith, and after having obtained from him such information as may be conducive to the Service you are employed on, You are to repair to your Station without loss of time.

You are at your discretion to put into either of those places as you shall judge it necessary for His Majesty's Service for the purpose of Obtaining Intelligence or otherwise According as Circumstances may require.

You are to Take, Sink, Burn or Destroy all American Armed Vessels belonging to, or fitted out from any of the Colonies in Rebellion against His Majesty, to detain and seize all Vessels belonging to, or Trading with the aforesaid Colonies and send them to Halifax to be proceeded against according to Law, and for your further Guidance, I refer you to the late Act of Parliament, and the General Code of Orders and Instructions you have already received.

You are to continue upon this Service as long as your Provisions shall last, and then join me for further Orders.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* in Halifax Harbour 27th April 1776.

M Shuldham

By Command of the Admiral E. Bragge

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Glasgow, at Halifax the 27th April 1776

Sir Please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that on my passage from Rhode Island to New York April the 6th. At half past two A M Rhode Island then bearing about N. b E. distant 14 or 15 Leagues. I fell in with a Rebel squadron, consisting of one Ship of Thirty guns, another of Twenty eight, Two Brigs, one of sixteen, the other fourteen guns, and a Sloop of twelve, and all full of Men, and continued engaging them broad side, and broad side an hour, and a half, when my Masts, Sails, and Rigging being very much shattered, and an Attempt made to board us, I bore away for Rhode Island, and continued a close running fight, until half past six, when they left us. As their principal intention was to disable, and then board us, Our Masts, Sails, Rigging, and boats have suffered very much, by which means I was so fortunate as to lose but one Man, and only three wounded; all by their Musquetry. At Eleven I joined the *Rose*, *Swan*, and *Nautilus* at Rhode Island, who immediately went in pursuit of them; And after fishing all my Masts, and refitting my rigging as fast as possible, I made the best of my way for Halifax, where I arrived the Nineteenth Instant.

I should do great injustice to Lieutenant Pulteney, did I not mention to their Lordships, his great coolness, and bravery, during the whole action, As well as all the rest of the Officers, whose good conduct, Animated the Men, and made them fight like British Seamen. I am Sir [&c.]

Tyringham Howe

[Endorsed on verso]

15 Jun Let him know that I recd on the 10 instt. his Lre of the 27th of April from Halifax & having laid it before my Lds was commanded by their Ldps to acqt him that they are well satisfied with his conduct & with account he has given of the behaviour of his Officer & Men; which [you] will signify to them.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1902, Section 22, 1.

JOHN LAMBERT'S BILL FOR CARPENTRY WORK ON BOARD THE
MASSACHUSETTS ARMED SCHOONER *Diligent*¹

Messrs Jackson Tracey & Tracey of Newbury Newbury Port agents for the Schooner *Diligent* for the Service of the Massachusetts

[Be so kind] as to pay this my Second Bill my first Not paid – to Benjamin Foster Esqr or order Chairman of the Committee of Safety at Machias the Sum of five pounds Eleven Shillings

It being for what the Said Committee have paid To Carpenters for Makeing two New Carridges Cutting Gun ports makeing a New boom & Topmasts &c for the Said Schooner *Diligent* when in want of the afore Said Articles. & your Compliance will oblidge [&c.]

John Lambert

Machias April 27. 1776.

[First endorsement] In The House of Representatives June 1776. Resolved that the Sum of Five pounds Eleven shillings, be Allowed, & paid, Out of the Colony Treasury to William Tupper, or his Order, in full of the within bill, for Supplies towards [the] fitting out the Schooner *Diligent*, he or they giving proper receipts to the Treasurer for the Same.

[Second endorsement] Received the within Contents of the Coloney Treasurers in full Received By me William Tupper Clerk of Committee at Machias -

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 292, 41.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] Saturday April 27, 1776

Resolved, That One third part of the money's (after the Charges of Condemnation are paid) arising from the Captures that may be made by any of the Armed Vessels fitted out on Account of this Colony and shall be finally Condemned in any Court of Justice Erected for the Tryal and Condemnation of such Captures shall be distributed among the Officers, Seamen & Marines in the manner following - Viz -

To a Captain Six Shares & all the Cabin furniture	The Carpenter Two ditto
The First Lieut Five ditto	The Carpenters mate One & half
The Secd Lieut Four ditto	The Surgeon Three Shares
The Master Three ditto	The Surgeons mate One & a half
The mate One & a half do	The Master at Arms One & a Quar
The Boatswain One & a half do	The Pilot Two shares
The Boatswains mate 1¼ do	The Cook One & a half
The Steward Two Shares	The Drummer One & a Quartr
The Gunner One & a half do	The Boys One half Share
The Gunners mate One & a Qur	The Seamen & Marines One do

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 813.

THOMAS CUSHING TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Dear Sir

Boston April 27 1776

Since my last I have not favoured with any of yours, as Mr Sharp Missed of the opportunity of Selling your Ship to the Person that was about it. If you still Incline to dispose of her, I will do all in my power to sell her for you, if you will let me know the lowest price you will take, perhaps as Trade is now open I may meet with an opportunity -

I hope you are thinking about the Cannon for the Ships, we Shall have two as fine Ships as any upon the Continent & I think we shall be ready as soon if not sooner than many of the rest Messrs Greenleaf & Cross's hearts are engaged in the Cause, they are very active & Industrious² I find I shall want some more money immediately to keep the wheels agoing, pray forward Some directly.

I hope the Marine Committee or Congress will give Some orders immediately about the officers & men for the Ships, it is high time it was done, I have many good Men that offers them Selves for Service for some birth or another – where am I to get the small arms & Cutlasses – Your humble Servt.

T Cushing

1. Walter Fuller Don Collection, SL.

2. The Continental frigates *Hancock* and *Boston*, building at Newburyport by Jonathan Greenleaf and Stephen and Ralph Cross.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1776

Providence, April 27.

Yesterday the Continental Fleet arrived in the River from New-London.

We learn by the Western Post, that on Tuesday last [April 23] a Party of our brave Rifle-Men surrounded and took 35 Men belonging to the *Asia* Man of War, who had landed from a Boat near Sandy-Hook to take in Water; the Boat and Water-Casks were likewise secured.

Since our last about 20 Prisoners, which were taken in the two Vessels lately rescued from the *Scarborough* Man of War at Newport, by the Gallies belonging to this Colony, arrived here, and are secured in Gaol.

The late Conflagration among the Enemy's Shipping at Georgia, may perhaps account for the *Scarborough's* Flight from thence.

Wednesday last a Sloop from this Place, bound to New-York, was chased near the Harbour of Newport by the *Cerberus* Man of War, of 28 Guns, and a Brig of 14 Guns, said to be commanded by one Dawson; but the Sloop out-sailing them, she escaped.

ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE *Providence Gazette*, SATURDAY APRIL 27, 1776

Colony of Rhode-Island, Providence, ss.

At a Court erected to try and condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the Sea Coasts of America, and brought into said Colony, to be held at Providence, in the County of Providence, on Tuesday the 21st of May, A.D. 1776, at the Hour of Ten in the Forenoon, will be tried the Justice of the Capture of the Brigantine called the *Georgia Packet*, Burthen about 90 Tons, laden with Bread, Flour, &c. said to have been commanded by George Bunner: Also, at the same Court, will be tried the Justice of the

Capture of the Sloop called the *Speedwell*, Burthen about 80 Tons, laden with Salt, said to have been commanded by Levi Carman: – Both which Vessels, as 'tis said, were first taken by one of the King's Ships, called the *Scarborough*, from some of the Inhabitants of the United Colonies, and then retaken from said Ship, and brought into said County of Providence, and are said to have been employed in supplying the Fleet and Army acting against the United Colonies: And therefore the said Vessels, together with their Cargoes, are libelled in the Court aforesaid, and will be tried at the Time above appointed, unless the Length of the Trial of the one, should prevent the Trial of the other on the same Day, in which Case the other will be tried as soon after as may be. This Notice is given, pursuant to the Law of the Colony aforesaid, that the Owner or Owners of the said Vessels, or any Persons concerned therein, may appear at said Court and shew Cause, (if any they have) why the said Vessels, or either of them, with their Cargoes, should not be condemned.

John Foster, Judge of said Court.

Now in this Town, among the Prisoners taken in the Prizes rescued from the *Scarborough* Man of War at Newport, a middle-aged Negro Man, of middle Stature, who calls himself Caesar Cabbot, says he belongs to John Cabbot, of Salem, and was pressed last Summer at Piscataqua. His Master is hereby notified to come and receive him.

Providence, April 27.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir –

Lebanon 27th April 1776 –

Your Letter of the 12th Instant, with the Commissions &c. directed to our General Assembly are received and will be laid before them ² – likewise another of the 17th with the Enclosure for Comodore Hopkins – after Perusal I immediately sealed and forwarded it agreeable to Direction – I wrote to Mr [Nathaniel] Shaw to furnish me with Intelligence that I might Act agreeable to the Spirit of the Resolves of Congress – enclosed is Copy of his Letter & Enclosure to me –

Fortifying the Harbour of New London and securing the Navigation of the Sound to the Colonies, are Objects which demand the most serious & early Attention – I am, with great Truth and Regard, Sir [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

1. Papers CC (Connecticut State Papers), 66; I, 161, NA.

2. The blank letter of marque and reprisal commissions.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Fort George April 27th 1776

Being restricted by Congress to build no more than one hundred Bateaus, and eighty of these being occupied by the Troops above mentioned, General [John] Thomas the Commissioners, the Artillery and Stores, provi-

sions & Captain [Ebenezer] Stevens's Company with the Mortars & Shells, I have only twenty new ones left, and thirty seven of those built last Year – the whole of which will carry no more than fifteen hundred – I have however ventured to construct an additional Number, and such a Number of Carpenters are now employed as will daily build for the Conveyance of fifty Men; hence I hope no considerable Delay will be experienced: but I fear the Troops in Canada, when joined by those coming up will be in want of pork before a Supply can be thrown in as we have not 150 Barrels of pork left at this place and Tyconderoga, and those that are gone in could not take more than 100 Barrels exclusive of ten Days provision which was issued to them at Tyconderoga.

The Vessels on Lake Champlain are sufficient to convey five hundred Men to St John's, but no Sailors are yet arrived – The Convention of New York have been wrote to long since to send them.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

BRIGADIER GENERALS JOHN SULLIVAN, NATHANAEL GREENE AND
LORD STIRLING TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[New York, April 27, 1776]

To His Excellency General Washington,
Commander-in-Chief of the American army.

May it please your Excellency – In obedience to the orders given us, we have met and deliberated upon the several matters referred to us by your Excellency, and beg leave to report that the following signals be given upon the approach of any number of ships towards this port, viz: Upon the appearance of any number of ships by day from one to six, a large flag is to be hoisted on the highlands of Neversinks; upon the appearance of any number from six to twenty, two flags; and for any greater number, three flags; those flags to be hoisted upon flagstuffs arranged there from east to west at twenty yards distant from each other. The signals by night to be given by an equal number of fires arranged in the same order and at the same places; these signals to be repeated both by day and night on the heights of Staten island by flags and fires arranged in the same manner. The commanding officer in each of those departments to see that a good look-out be kept for ships both by day and night, and upon their appearance he is not only to give the signals before mentioned, but is as soon as possible to give intelligence by express to the Commander-in-Chief.

We recommend that the day signal be given by large ensigns with broad stripes of red and white, and that upon the appearance of three flags by day or three fires by night, the country is to take the alarm and communicate it as soon as possible, for the purpose of calling in the militia.

Jn^o Sullivan, Nathaniel Greene, Stirling.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 423.

CAPTAIN HENRY MILLER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

New Utrecht April 27th 1776 –

I send you this by Express to inform that at dawn of Day this Morning a Small Sloop came down the River the Sentry on Staten Island hailed her as also those on our side but she wou'd not come too each of the Sentries Fired several Guns at Her which she disregarded & pass'd under a Smart Breeze to the *Asia* Man of War, our lower Sentry informs me that when she came near the *Asia* she Hoisted a blew Flag & they sent out a Barge to meet Her I have Just observed going to the Hook where she came from I cannot learn but immagine from New-York she bore off from our shore so much twas impossible we cou'd stop Her passage –

Henry Miller Cap 1st Regimt.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, April 27, 1776

An affidavit of Thomas Higgins and James McClery touching the capture of Captain [W.] Ginn's brig

Resolved, That the affidavit be delivered to the Secret Committee. ²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 314, 315.

2. The affidavit came from North Carolina.

JOHN HANCOCK TO THOMAS CUSHING ¹

[Extract]

Philada., 27th April, 1776

I have not time to write Capt. Manly and [Isaac] Cazneàu, but if you have Oppor[tunity], do Acquaint them from me that they are Appointed Commanders of our two Frigates, and pray them to send me their Answers.

Inclos'd you have a List of the Officers, etc. determin'd for each Ship. I wish you and Capt. [John] Bradford, with such others as you chuse to advise with, would immediately Recommend proper persons to me for Lieutenants, you will observe there are three for each Ship, and also Recommend proper Persons for Capt[ain]s and Lieu[tenant]s of Marines. With Respect to the other Officers say, Masters and all other inferior ones, I leave their Appointment to you and Capt. Bradford, and I beg it be immediately done, and their Names Transmitted to me that Warrants may be made out, pray let them be good Men, etc. I have not time to enlarge . . .

Capt. Bradford is Appointed Agent for Prizes, with Power to Appoint Deputies where he Judges necessary, as I have not time to write him, do inform him and beg his Answer, if he accepts I will send his Commission and Instructions, he must excuse my not writing him now, as I am closely engaged . . .

I shall send you every necessary paper Relative to the Engaging Men, etc. and by next will send you the Names of the two Frigates.

1. *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, LX, 108–09.

JOHN ADAMS TO BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, April 27, 1776

I am grieved to find the least Intimation of Languor among my country-men], in fortifying Boston and its Harbour, I have not written a Letter Since we received News of your Success, in driving the enemy from that town, without stuffing it with Exhortations, as well as Plans for the Fortification of that harbour. — [James] Warren writes me that they have sent a Committee to fortify the Harbour so that I hope it will be done. G. [General] Ward's resignation is accepted, but We must have a general officer in Boston — I hope Gen[eral] Washington will send one. —

Your opinion of the Difficulties General Howe will meet with, in attempting to get up the St. Lawrence early, gives me great Comfort — God send him Wind and Sea enough —

You ask me what you are to think of Rob. Morris? I will tell you what I think of him — I think he has a masterly Under standing, an open Temper and an honest Heart: and if he does not always vote for what you and I should think proper, it is because he thinks that a large Body of People remains, who are not yet of his Mind. He has vast designs in the mercantile Way. And no doubt pursues mercantile Ends, which are always gain; but he is an excellent Member of our Body —

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] April 27th

... past 2. went to Kinsington where a number of persons not much short of 150 were Collected in order to get the upper deck beams into both the frigates building there, the Same was Completed, without any accident hapning, by six in the evening.

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen:

Lewis Town, 27th April, 1776.

When I wrote to you Last, on the 27[16th], I acquainted you of what Had past for several Days before, and now shall go on to send you by Every Opertunity a kind of a Journal of what is Transacted by the *Roe Buck* and her Tenders. The same Day that my last was Dated their arived a small Tender, as I apprehend, from Virginia; as she is one of that Built, Viz., a smawl Sloop, she brought in with her a small Coasting Schooner, the wind being at W.S.W., the Ship Hove up in the afternoon, as did the Brig I mentioned, and stood out to Sea, the Ship Returned, but the Brig went away to the Southard; the Ship, Tender, Bauldens Boat and Schooner Remaind in the Road all Day on Friday, on Saturday morning they all went to the Southward. At 2 o'Clock this afternoon the Ship came in with the wind at

South – she sent Bauldwins Boat and her sloop Under Cape May, she seeing two Vessels above Cape May making up the bay they all made sail after them, but before the ship got two Leagues above the Cape the wind took her at Northwest by West; she still Keeps up the Chase, and is at this time as high up as the Brown, which is 4 Leagues above the Cape; the Tenders is over under the Cape May Channel. How far they may Proceed up is uncertain, but by all appearance she is in Quest of the two Vessels that is above her – but as it is my Duty to Give you Notice of any British Pirate making up our Bay, so that you may be apprized.

But after writing the above I went up to take the other look at the Devil, to my Great Joy I Perceived her on shore away to the Eastward of the Brandywine, as near as I Can Judge, and what is better she Run on at the top of high water, where I hope she may Remain, till some of your arm'd Vessels may Come and fill her as full of holes as Ever there was a ship in the Bay of Honduras, by the Worms. Haveing no more to add, I remain [&c.]

Henry Fisher.

N.B. The above was sent off] at a Quarter after six o'Clock, from me. Saturday Evening.

H.F.

[Endorsed]

Ceder Creek, April 27, Recd the above $\frac{1}{3}$ after 8 O'Clock, pr me,

Thos. Evans.

Recevd $\frac{1}{4}$ after one O'Clock – Despacht at 2 Sunday morning, Dover, April the 28th.

F. Battell

Recd 45 minutes after Six – Dispatched at Seven.

Mat'w Delany.

Recd 20 Minutes after Ten, and Dispatcht 26 after Ten.

Thos. Shean.

Recd a 12 – Dispatch 20 m. after.

Wm. Kerdin

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 736–37.

RICHARD PARKER TO RICHARD HENRY LEE¹

[Extract]

[Fredericksburg] April 27th, 1776

... A Tender came last Week to Hobbs Hole and took a new England man loaded with grain & flower from the warf; an Alarm was given and the Militia of Essex and Richmond pursued them in Vessels they retook the prize and brought her back; the Tender escaped tho pursued within three miles of Urbanna, A negro fellow belonging to Walker who was skipper of his boat was killed but no other damage done to our men. We have a Report which I believe to be true tho it may be improper to propagat it unless fully confirmed, That young Mr [Richard] Wormsley is under close Confinement in Williamsburg, He was taken in a tender going to

Dunmore. Charles Nielson & John Grymes were also taken in another Tender carrying Provisions to that Monster. . . .

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

DIXON & HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1776

Williamsburg, April 27.

Thirty eight sail of the men of war and transports distined for North Carolina, from England, are said to be arrived at Cape Fear, and that they took on the passage a large French ship with arms and ammunition.¹

Captain John Dixon, in a vessel from Gloucester, bound to the West Indies, who was lately taken by a man of war, and carried into Antigua, has returned from St. Eustatia, and landed a cargo in this colony consisting of four thousand pounds sterling worth of linens, sail duck, &c. The Captain informs, that the *Argo* sloop of war had chased a vessel among the islands, but was prevented from taking her by a French frigate, who exchanged a few shot with the *Argo*, took the vessel under convoy, and carried her safe into a French island.

1. This was a premature report.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Scorpion*, CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE¹

April 1776 Moor'd off Brunswick in Cape Fear River, No Carolina
 Friday 26 Mode & Cloudy with Rain. Fir'd Eight Swivels with Round & Grape at the Rebels
 Saturday 27 Boat Empd Fishing
 fir'd several Musquets at the Rebels.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Solebay*, CAPTAIN THOMAS SYMONDS¹

April 1776 Cape Roman N67.35 W 120 Lgs
 Saturday 27 Fresh Breezes bt the So Br Cablè at 1/2 past 9 the *Hartcourt* made the Sigl for seeing Sail in the NW Qr our Sigl to Chace could not come up with her² haul'd our wind to Join the Come

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/909.

2. The vessel pursued in vain was the Continental brig *Lexington*, Captain John Barry. See *Pennsylvania Journal*, May 8, 1776.

28 Apr. (Sunday)

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER¹

[Extract]

St. Johns, 28th April, 1776

Colonel [Moses] Hazen told us that the carpenters are much wanted here to build row gallies to prevent the enemy's vessels from coming up the St. Lawrence; he says, a single sloop with a few carriage guns could effectually prevent the arrival of the forces going from Chamblee to

Quebec. no doubt General Arnold has written to you on the subject. I mention the matter only to show you of what importance Colonel Hazen thinks it is to have the row gallies built – but built they cannot be in here to prevent the enemy from intercepting our troops or barring their passage should they be able to fit out a vessel from Quebec. Mr. [Benjamin] Franklin Mr. J[ohn] Carroll & Mr [Samuel] Chase join me in compliments to you and yours. ² . . .

1. *Rare American Historical Autographs. The Collection of Frederick S. Peck* (Philadelphia, 1947), No. 5.
2. Charles Carroll, Franklin and Chase were the members of the Committee of Congress sent to Canada and John Carroll, a Catholic priest, accompanied them for the purpose of influencing the French Catholics.

CAPTAIN CHARLES STUART TO HIS FATHER, THE EARL OF BUTE ¹

Halifax, April 28, 1776

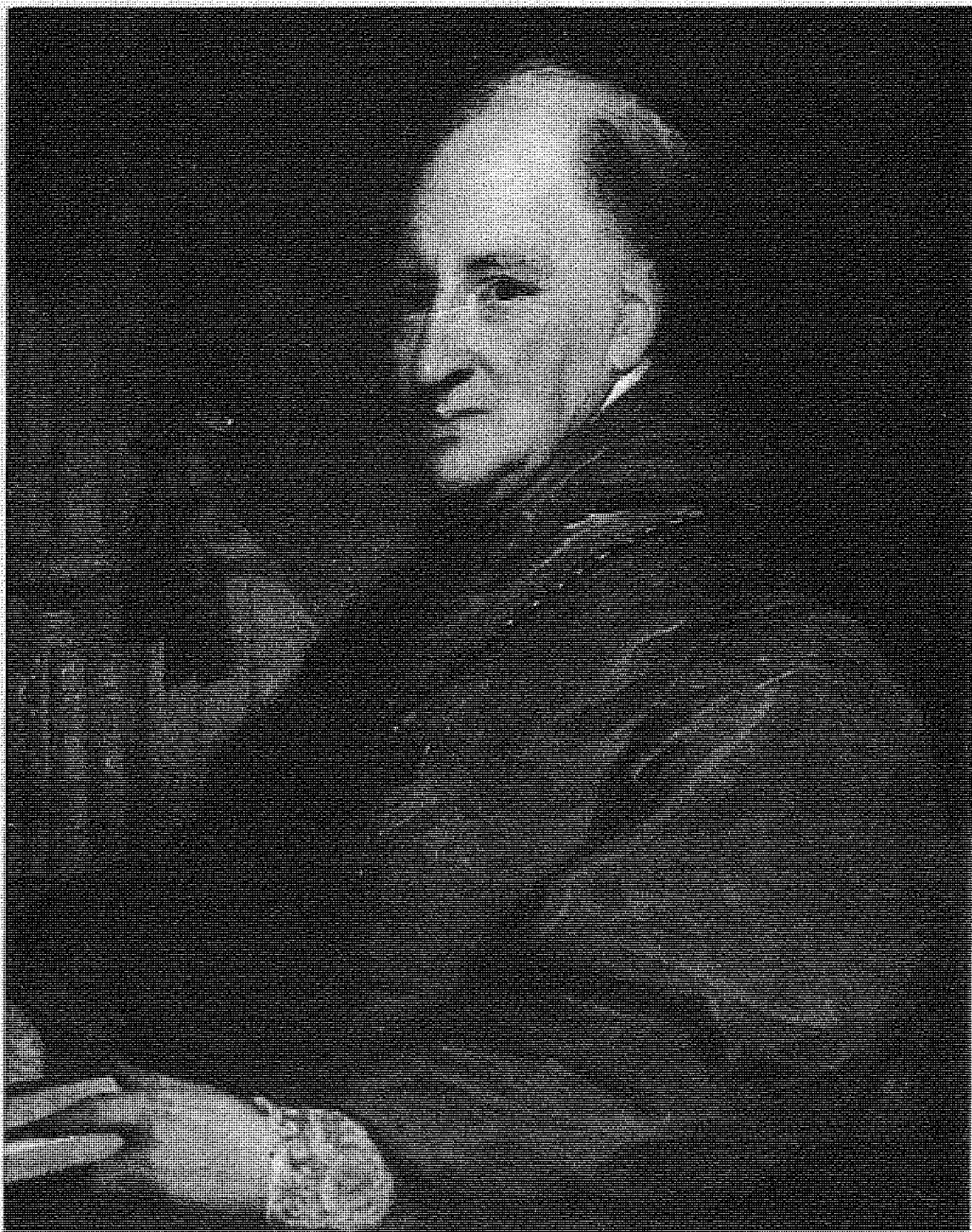
There have happened so many things since my last, that I am afraid I must go back to Oct. to account for many wise actions planned and executed by the Rebels in consequence of a few follies committed at that time by our Army.

I believe I told you that General Clinton, with the consent of Gen. Howe, took a few Companies of the Lt. Infantry to drive into boats some bullocks from a small peninsula call'd Phipp's Farm, a well cultivated spot with few trees, within 1,200 yards of Boston. The party succeeded without opposition; on the firing of a few pieces of cannon the Rebels quitted the ground, and the troops, who were in flat bottomed boats, landed at 11 o'clk. on a fine calm morning. Upon our returning the enemy appeared with a reinforcement of 700 men, and in my opinion we lost an opportunity by not immediately bringing these miscreants to an action, from which we must have reaped uncommon advantage. From Charlestown Heights we could have covered the relanding of our men with cannon, and by taking post upon the neck which forms the peninsula, preventing their escape, we should, without a doubt, have cut the Rebels to pieces and secured ourselves a good post.

Trifling as this affair seems, we owe our present disgrace to this, and a similar blunder which you shall read and judge of.

About a fortnight later we were surprised one morning by the appearance of a very strong work the Rebels had thrown up in one night on Cobble Hill, a spot commanded by their cannon, and commanding Phipp's Farm. We fired several shots at them, which they returned, being just able from that post to reach Boston. The post was looked upon as trifling and merely defensive; however, on the 17th Dec. we were much surprised in the same manner with a remarkable strong work on Phipp's Farm.

Frequent consultations were held about it, our Officers still agreed it was defensive; however, it was resolved to open a Battery from Boston's Point in the town, but either from want of knowledge or judgement in our Artillery Officers; we were obliged to discontinue, as it did not prevent the enemy from continuing their work.



The Reverend John Carroll.

In the beginning of Jan. Majors [James] Grant and [John] Maitland were sent with a detachment of Marines to Georgia for provisions for the Army. This Colony was thought to be well affected to the Government; however, the people of Machias [*sic* Savannah] were found to be quite otherwise. The party succeeded in cutting 18 Merchantmen out of the Harbour, which so enraged the people that they set fire to a ship worth £30,000, and sent her into the middle of the Fleet, by which three ships were burnt, and the rest escaped with difficulty . . .

Nothing particular happened till Feb.; we took a few prizes, and the enemy were more than equally successful in this point.

About the middle of Feb. we were informed that the Rebels had a quantity of fascines and entrenching tools on Dorchester neck for the purpose of throwing up works . . . Deserters informed the General that the enemy intended to bombard the town, and preparations were made to annoy them. A Battery of four 32 pounders was made on Shoredon Hill and another strong one at Boston's point. The Rebels at the same time made a Battery within point-blank cannon shot of our lines, and with such caution that we could not discover that it was intended for a Battery.

On the 3rd March at 9 ocl. at even they began a pretty hot cannonade and bombardment. Their shells were thrown in an excellent direction, they took effect near the centre of the town, and tore several houses to pieces; the cannon was usually well fired, one shot killed 8 men of the 22nd Regt., and houses were pierced through and through with balls they fired from Phipp's Farm. Our lines were raked from the new Battery they had made, and tho' we returned shot and shell, I am very, very sorry to say with not quite so much judgement.

The bombardment continued for five nights and a nobler scene it was impossible to behold: sheets of fire seem'd to come from our Batteries; some of the shells crossed one another in the air, and then bursting look'd beautiful. The inhabitants were in a horrid situation, particularly the women, who were several times drove from their houses by shot, and crying for protection.

On the 8th or 9th March, I forget which, they ceased firing, and at day-break next morning we perceived two posts upon the highest Hills of Dorchester peninsula, that appeared more like majick than the work of human beings. They were each of them near 200 ft. long on the side next the town, and seemed to be strong cases of packed hay about 10 ft. high with an Abattis of vast thickness round both. We discovered near 6,000 people, most of them at work; they opened embrasures before 9 ocl., and about 2 ocl. had made a ditch and connected the two hills by a breastwork.

We fired a few shots, but the position was too strong to be affected; the General therefore determined to attack it. A quantity of Artillery and three Regiments immediately embarked under the command of General [Valentine] Jones, the Grenadiers, Lt. Infantry, and other Regts. amounting in all to 2,500 men commanded by General Howe, Ld. [Hugh] Percy, and General [James] Robertson.

Brigadier Jones was to have staid with the three Regts. aboard ship until he was joined by Gen. Howe at 9 ocl. at night, when the whole was to have gone in boats and landed. God knows whether it was a fortunate circumstance or not, but at any rate so high a wind arose that it was impossible for the boats to take the sea.²

The next day the General assembled the Field Officers, and acquainted us that the intended attack had failed through the inclemency of the weather, that he had consulted the Engineers, who declared that the works had been so strengthened as to render any present attack very doubtful, and that should the enemy augment their works upon that peninsula from such a commanding height we should inevitably be drove from the town.

He also told us that there was no more than 6 weeks' provisions in the Garrison, which obliged him to go to Halifax instead of to New York.

The principal citizens, on hearing that the town was to be evacuated, came to General Howe, and requested that the town might not be burnt; the General made answer, that if the Enemy molested him in his retreat he would certainly burn it; if not, he would leave the town standing.

This was made known by a flag of truce to the Rebels, in consequence of which we made our retreat unmolested.

We sailed soon after under convoy of the Admiral to this place. From a scarcity of transports we were crowded with two Regts. in each ship, and nothing could be more horrid.

Soon after our arrival here [Halifax] Captain Wallace of the *Rose*, who commanded at Rhode Island, was cannonaded out of that harbour with the *Glasgow* Man of War, and several arm'd vessels. The *Glasgow* was attacked on her way by the rebel Admiral Hopkins in a 36 gun ship, with 4 arm'd Privateers from 20 to 6 guns; she with difficulty escaped, her rigging and hull much damaged.

They inform us that there is not a little port to the south where they are not building very formidable Privateers.

I had a long talk with a Captain Paine, who arrived some days ago from Antigua, who assures me the people are disaffected beyond measure in our West Indian Isles, and do not scruple avowedly to declare their sentiments by wishing success to the great American Cause, as they term it.

We at present have little more than a month's provisions, having most of the fugitives from Boston to sustain, and are without camp equipment at a very advanced season, and I am very much afraid that if these wants are not speedily supplied, all schemes for this campaign will be rendered abortive. However, our Army is in better health, and like soldiers we hope for the best. I every day get more fond of my profession, and a better state of health than usual makes my friends say that promotion agrees with me.

1. *New Records of the American Revolution The Letters, Manuscripts and Documents sent by Lieut.-Gen. Sir Charles Stuart, to his Father, the Earl of Bute, 1775-79 and Letters of General Howe, General Clinton, and other Officers to Sir Charles Stuart, during the Revolution, 1779-81* (privately printed, n.d.), 6-8.
2. Stuart's dates of the bombardment and of the proposed attack on Dorchester Heights are incorrect.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP ¹

April 1776

Pidgeon Hill N W B W 6 or 7 Ls

Sundy 28

Fresh Breezes and fair Wr at 10 AM saw a Sail on our Lar-board Bow Made Sail & gave Chace
 Light Airs & Variable fired a Shot at the Chace at 8 PM came up with the Chace found her to be a Sloop Loaded with Lumber, her hands had taken to the Boat & Left her with her Sails set ² sent a Petty Officer & Men onboard her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

2. "Unknown sloop and cargo, captured off Cape Ann with no papers on board the crew having quitted her before capture, some time in May [sic] 1776, by H.M.S. *Lively*," Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5 N. S. Arch.JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹[Watertown April 28 1776] ²

In the House of Representatives April [28] 1776

Ordered that [blank space for several names] be a Committee to wait on the Majority of the Honl Council, with the following Message –

May it please your Honor's

The House having with due Attention, And great Satisfaction Considered your Message of April 27th Instant, are of Opinion, it is Expedient, as Soon as may be, to fortify the Town of Hull, & Some of the Islands Adjacent, that may Effectually Secure all the Towns lying within or near the Harbour of Boston and are now about to take under Consideration & determine, what are the most Salutary measures for that purpose

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 68.

2. The date is suggested by the fact that so important a message from the Council would have had an almost immediate reply.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Boston 28 April 1776 –

By Mr [Robert Hanson] Harrison's Letter of the twenty second Instant, I am informed your Excellency can not supply me with the Cash I wrote for; I am very sorry as there are many demands on the Commissary and Quartermaster, which are not all of a late date. I have made out Warrants for the payment of the five Regiments here for the month of February, and have found it necessary to give Warrants for the payment of the men on board the *Hancock*, *Franklin*, and *Harrison*, Privateers, otherwise they must have been hauled up.

I have made enquiry respecting the arrival of powder at Cambridge since your Excellency's departure, and am informed by Mr [Nathaniel] Barber that none has arrived.

I have given all attention in my power to the Works, the fortress on Fort Hill is in good forwardness, there are now eight twenty four pounders and two twelves mounted and furnished ready for action. The [General] Court agreed to have a Fortress built at Castle point, which is nearly fin-

ished and I intend to have the Cannon mounted in it this week. The work at Charlestown point I expect will be completed in seven or eight days. Our works and other business, have been much retarded for want of Teams.

Capt [Gustavus] Fellows, the Gentleman I sent to Beverly to view the Ship *Jenny* and the Brigantine, ² has j[ust] returned and informs me that he with Commodore Manley and Capt [William] Bartlett viewed the above Vessels, and are all of opinion that neither of them is fit for the service.

As there are several of the Enemy's armed Vessels which cruise in this Bay that are larger than our Privateers, I wish that a Ship [of] sufficient force to take them might cruise this way. I am Your Excellency's [&c.]

Artemas Ward

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The brigantine *Little Hannah*.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL, LEBANON ¹

Sir

Providence April 28th 1776 -

I am to acknowledge your kind indulgence of putting your Colony Vessels under my Care - the bearer, Captn [Robert] Niles has behaved like a good Officer - has follow'd my Orders and been beneficial to the Fleet - he has now onboard some Shells and one Mortar for General Washington which he will take out at New London, or carry to New York as your honour thinks fit - but I believe his schooner would be fitter for Service if she was ballasted with Iron which he tells me can't be procured nearer than New York I am with great Respect Sir [&c.]

E. H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF H.M. BRIG *Diligent*, LIEUTENANT EDMUND DOD ¹

April 1776

In Block Island Bay

Sunday 28

AM Anchd in the Eastern Bay of Block Island with the Best Br in 5 fm Veer'd to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable, Empd Watering First & latter parts fresh breezes, Middle light breezes & Calm PM the *Cerberus* stood in & Sent us on board our foresail & then stood to Sea. at 8 got on board all our Water.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4109.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Fort George April 28th: 1776

Last Night I was honored with your Letter of the 4th Instant inclosing sundry Resolutions of Congress, which shall claim my closest Attention the Moment the Troops under the Command of General [William] Thompson are past Tyconderoga, he and they arrived at Albany on the 24th Instant.

General Thomas, I have Reason to believe reached Quebec Yesterday. Dr. [Benjamin] Franklin and the other Gentlemen Montreal on the same Day, and the last of the Troops with the Cannon, Military Stores and some

provisions I dare say will be at St John's to Day – I saw them set out from Ticonderoga on Thursday and left it myself the Evening of the same Day, and arrived at four next Morning at this place, where I am doing all in my power to prevent a Detention of the Troops coming up for Want of Craft.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 121–22, NA.

JOHN ADAMS TO ABIGAIL ADAMS¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] April 28 1776

You will see an Account of the Fleet in some of the Papers I have sent you. Give you Joy of the Admirals Success. I have Vanity enough to take to myself, a share in the Merit of the American Navy. It was always a Measure that my Heart was much engaged in, and I pursued it, for a long Time, against the Wind and Tide. But at last obtained it.

. . . Pray keep me constantly informed, what ships are in the Harbour and what Fortifications are going on.

I am quite impatient to hear of more vigorous Measures for fortifying Boston Harbour. Not a Moment should be neglected. Every Man ought to go down as they did after the Battle of Lexington and work untill it is done. I would willingly pay half a Dozen Hands my self, and subsist them, rather than it should not be done immediately. It is of more importance than to raise Corn.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 398–400.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL¹

[Philadelphia] April 28th

. . . after Supper Joseph Lecond & my Self took a walk down to Plumstead's wharffe, in order to See what readiness the two Ships of war were in as they were under Sailing orders Occasioned by an express arrived about 3 this afternoon who left Lewis Town about 6 last night Sent by Land from Harry Fisher given an Account how that the man of war the *Roebuck*, pursuing of a vessel, had that afternoon run a Shoar on the Bran[d]ywine and was then to appearance fast & they vessels were nigh ready as we learnd & Sd would Sail in the morning.

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen:

Lewistown, April 28, 1776

When I wrote you last, I acquainted you of the *Roebuck* being on shore to the Eastward of the Brandywine; she Remain'd there all Saturday Night [April 27], on Sunday morning she got off and made sail, steering over S.S.W., and in a short time she stuck fast again, but by the wind being to the Eastward, and her Lightning her self got off again – (to my great Greif) it appears that the Vessels she was in Chase of Yesterday was Capt [John] Barry and a Sloop, for this morning there is to be seen a Brig, two

Schooners, two Sloops, the French Tatan & one Pilot Boat, all going down under Cape May, out of Reach of the *Roe Bucks* horns. About 10 O'Clock this Forenoon, the ship and Bauldwins boat anchor'd in our Road, the wind at this time at South East.

I have forwarded this by Express to Mr. Archibald McCall, and having no more to add, I Remain [&c.]

Henry Fisher.

(P.S.) Please to send me Down by the bearer, Mr. John Maull, one of Nearns Best three feet Spyglass, as I am in great want of one. Yours &c.

H. F.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 737.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

April 1776

Cape Henlopen Lighthouse SW 2 Miles.

Saturday 27th Moderate and fair weather, at 4 in the morning weighed and made Sail, at 7 Anchored with the Stream near the Bouy of the Small Bower, and Swept the anchor with a new viol and hove until it broke, and the Buoy rope breaking with it gave up all thoughts of getting the Anchor; therefore weighed and made Sail.

Ditto weather, at 2 PM Sent two Boats manned and armed after a small Schooner standing up the Bay, and made Sail in order to support them; at 3 gave chase to an Armed Schooner,² and at 4 having been well to the Eastward of the Flatts of the Brandywine, began to Shoal the water fast, and Ship missing Stays got aground on them; at the same time the Boats returned with a Schooner they had taken from Saint Eustatia to Philadelphia laden with Arms and Coarse Linnens for the Rebels;³ dispatched my Tender to Virginia for assistance, in case I could not get the Ship off; the Cape Henlopen bore at this time S $\frac{1}{2}$ Wt and Cape May SEt, at Midnight found the Ship had Scored 4 feet;

Sunday 28th

at 4 in the morning the tide lifting much more than we expected, hove her off without any apparent damage, and made Sail for Old Hoar Kill Road, at Noon anchored in that place in 7 fms the Lighthouse SbE.

The first part ditto weather, latter fresh gales and rain. In the afternoon found that the Best Bower Anchor Stock had broke when aground; got it in and new stocked it.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. Continental schooner *Wasp*.

3. "*Ranger*, nobody on board her; from St. Eustatia to Philadelphia; with bale goods and arms," Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

THOMAS SMYTH TO JAMES HOLLYDAY ¹

[Extract]

Dear Sir

Annapolis April the 28th 1776

... I now sett down to give you a relation of the extraordinary proceedings of some gentlen at Baltimore Town as well as what measures the Council has taken in consequence of the intercepted Letters from the Secretary of State to Governor Eden – on Tuesday the 14th Instant the Committee of Baltimore Town [illegible] received a Packet by Express from the Committee of Safety of Virginia covering a packett for our Board, copies of the intercepted Letters to Governor Eden, two Letters from Genl Lee one directed to Mr Hancock & the other to Mr Purviance Chairman of the Committee of Baltimore Town and desiring that an Express might be forwarded to Congress with copies of the intercepted Letters to Mr Eden – The Committee mett & sent off that Night their Despatches for the Congress, and altho Genl Lee & Mr Purviance thought it of the last importance that the Governor should be seized immediately yet the Letter for our Board did not reach them I think untill Tuesday – on Monday Mr Purviance applied to Captns Nicholson & Sl Smyth the former for the Tender and the latter to go in her with as many chossen Men as he shoud think necessary & proceed down to Annapolis to seize the Governor shewing them General Lees Letter and the intercepted Letters as a foundation for the measure – they consented – Mr Purviance gave Capt Sl Smith Orders as Chairman of the Committee without their knowledge Capt Nicholson also at Mr Purviances Desire gave his Lieut very extraordinary Orders not only to proceed to Annapolis but if the Governor should be gone to proceed down to Coll Fitzhughs and if necessary to assist Capt. Smith to search the house, in all these Orders no Direction was given to apply to the Council nor the commanding Officer when they shoud arrive at Annapolis but to apply to four Members of the Baltimore Committee who attend there for further Orders, and if they shoud seize the Governor or his Secretary to carry them to Baltimore unless those 4 Gentlemen shoud direct their being delivered up to the Council, Capt Sl Smith was at Annapolis three or four Days and did not acquaint the Co[uncil] of his Business and it seems it was by Accident the Council got Possession of his orders & Capt Nicholsons to his Lieutenant.

The Council on the Receipt of the intercepted Letters waited on the Governor and acquainted him with the Occasion of their visit & after some Conversation desired untill the next Day 12 The Clock to return an Answer to the Councils Demand, which was that he shoud give them his parole not to leave the province untill the Convention shoud meet or that they must arrest him – The next Day the Governor returned his answer which was firm & decent and promised that he shoud be found in Annapolis at the meeting of the Convention. two Days after the Council had taken their measures with Him they received an Order from Congress to take him immediately into Custody and all his Papers and send such as related to the American Dispute

to Congress – The Council then waited on the Governor and acquainted him with the Order. he then delivered them two Letters which he had received last Summer from his Brother William Eden & one from Lord Dartmouth & gave them liberty to search his Desk & Bureau of papers among which were Copies of Letters he had wrote to Administration in Feby last of very favorable to this Province and the next Day sent the Council his voluntary Parole in a very polite Note. the Council then wrote the Congress what they had done & that they could not comply with their Request in any other manner than they had which they hoped would be satisfactory & with all let them know that we did not think they had any power over our internal Affairs this was not relished by the hot Gentry and some very high motions were made thereon they were told in answer that the Council were not made of very pliant Stuff and nothing has been done further by the Congress in this Matter. we acquainted our Deputies with every measure we have taken respecting the Governors Affair they highly approve our Conduct & are determined to support us – there has been a good deal of warmth in Congress about Purviances Letter respecting the temper of our Board. We have had Purviance before us for daring to assume the supreme executive Authority of the Province and bound him over to the Convention for their Consideration of his Conduct and have had those Officers from Baltimore who undertook to give Orders without applying to the Council they were hurried into the measure by Purviance without reflection & were very sensible they had proceeded too far. . . .

1. Hollyday Papers, MdHS.

ROBERT BRENT TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Virginia Aquia April 28th 1776 –

A Vessell in James River bound for Glasgow, with many Passengers on board, was seiz'd as British property. A considerable quantity of Specie taken for which General Lee willingly gave the owners and they are as unwillingly oblig'd to receive Convention money – Three sloops belonging to the Factories of Fredrburg & Falmouth seized in Rappahannock In one of which it is said, I believe with truth, numbers of Scotchmen were ready to embark. It's not believed they would have attempted to cross the Atlantic in the Sloop – They would probably have Exchang'd her for a better vessell with Lord Dunmore. Charles Nelson, John Grimes, and sundry others from that part of the Country, had procur'd a Vessel embark'd their effects, and join'd a tender in the Bay – which had just before taken a New England Schooner. Nelson and other passengers went on board the Tender to pass the night a Storm arose the Capt of the New England prise was adroit enough to slip his cable, cut that of the vessell on which Nelson & Coms effects were – they both drove ashore, were seizd, and Secur'd. Nelson &c unable to proceed for want of cloaths & money, came ashore, and demanded their property. They were immediately arrested, carried to Wmsburg, and thrown into Jail. Nelson however was releas'd on giving Security to take

his trial in Middlesex agreeable to ordinance. In one of his trunks was found a Letter from R. Wormsley Junr to L. Dunmore the contents have not transpired – a guard was sent immediately to apprehend him, he has been in Wmsburg and is to take his trial before the Convention – . . .

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

COLONEL LACHLAN MCINTOSH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

The *Raven* & *Cherokee* are the only two ships of War which remain now stationed at Tybee in the Mouth of Savannah River, with whom we have no kind of Communication. – Several Armed Vessels infest our other Inlets to the Southward, & made Several Captur[e]s, which we cannot prevent as we have not a Single Vessel of any force, but they have alway[s] been drove off of the Shore, when they attempted to get a Supply of provision. – Savannah in Georgia 28th April 1776.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. ARMED VESSEL *Cherokee* ¹

April 1776 Moored in Savannah River Georgia
 Sunday 28 at 7 AM sent 4 Seamen Armed on board the *Ravens* Tender to bring in a Schooner, at 9 the Tender came in with the Schooner she proved to be the *Kitty* from Bloody point in Ballast

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Bristol*, CAPTAIN JOHN MORRIS ¹

April 1776 Cape Roman WNW. Distance 127 Leagues
 Saturday 27th Moderate & fair Wear At 5 AM found Variation pr Amplede: 00:36 Et & Variation of Azimo 00:46 Et At 10 made the *Solebays* Signl to chace a Sail in the N Wt Quarter At Noon 17 Sail in Compy & *Solebay* in sight.
 Sunday 28th Fresh Gales & Hazey Wear At 5 AM join'd Company the *Solebay* without speaking the Chace Sounded Several times but found no Ground At Noon 13 Sail in Company.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/137.

29 Apr.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Triton*, CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE ¹

April 1776 Cape Rosier SWbS 10 or 12 Leagues. Wt End of Anticosti NWbN Et End of Anticosti SEbS
 Monday 29th ½ past 12 AM, one of the Convoy to Leewd having Tackd – made the Signal & Tack'd also – ½ past 9 saw 2 Sail in the SW – made the Signal for the Convoy to stand on & have

Chace in Shore—Got up Top Galt Masts &c & set Top Galt Sails—at noon chasing & 4 of the Convoy in Sight —
 1st & Mid pts Light Breezes & clear — lat. fresh Breezes —
 at 1 PM, one of the Ships to Winwd made the private Signal which I answered—at 4, spoke the Chace, his Majesty's Ship *Niger* from Halifax bound to Quebec with a Transport in Tow—2 of her Convoy had parted Company—they had the 47th Regt on Bd at 6, made Sail with my Convoy as did the *Niger* — One Strange Sail in Sight in the SE —

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1013.

LETTER OF AGENCY OF THE CAPTAIN AND OFFICERS OF H.M.S. *Rose* ¹

No 15 Know all Men by these Presents that we the Captain & Officers of his Majestys Ship *Rose* at present in the Harbour of Halifax in Nova Scotia have Constituted ordain'd and made and in our stead and place put and by these Presents do Constitute ordain & make and in our name and place put Alexnr Brymer Mercht & Edward Bragge Gentleman to be true sufficient & lawfull Attorney for us and in our Names and stead and to our use to ask Demand levy require recover & receive of and from all & every person or persons whomsoever the same shall or may concern all and Singular Sum and Sums of Money Debts goods wares Merchandize Effects and things whatsoever and wheresoever they shall and may be found due, owing payable belonging & comeing unto their said Constituents by any ways & means whatsoever, nothing excepted or reserv'd Especially to take care of all such Prizes & seizures as we shall make & to prosecute the same in the Court of Vice Admiralty and when Condemn'd & Sold to Demand & receive for us the neat Proceeds thereof Giveing and hereby Granting unto our said Attorneys our full and whole strength power and authority in and about the premisses & to take and use all due means Cources and process in the Law for the Obtaining and recovering the same and of recoveries & receipts thereof in our Name to make Seal and Execute due acquittance and Discharge and for the premisses to appear and the persons of said Constituents to represent before any Governour Judge, Justice, Officers and Ministers of the Law whatsoever in any Court or Courts of Judicature, and there on our behalf to answer Defend and reply unto all Actions, Causes matters & things whatsoever relating to the Premisses. Also to submitt any matter in Dispute to Arbitration or otherwise with full Power to make and Substitute one or more Attornies under our said Attorneys and the same again at pleasure to remove and generally to say do and transact, determine, accomplish and finish all matters and things whatsoever relating to the premisses as fully amply and Effectually to all intents & purposes as we the said Constituents if present ought or might personally although the matter should require more special authority than is herein Compris'd. We the said Constituents ratifying allowing and holding firm and valid all and whatsoever our said Attorneys or their Substitutes shall lawfully do or cause to be done in and about the

Premises by Virtue of these Presents – In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our Names and Seals the twenty ninth day of April, Anno Domini 1776 and in the 16th year of his Majestys Reign.

Sign'd Seald & Deliver'd
in presence of
W Hodgman
Alex. Stuart

Ja^s Wallace Captain
Tho^s Laurie Lnt
Savage Gardner Mastr
H. Hargood Purser
James Thompson Boatswn
Benjamin Ridley Gunner

[Endorsed] receiv'd & Registered 3d Octr 1776 Liberd 2

1. Register of Letters of Agency, 1776-1781, Vice Admiralty Records, N.S. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Experiment*, CAPTAIN ALEXANDER SCOTT ¹

April 1776 So end St George's Bank N14E 152 Lgs
Monday 29 at 6 [A. M.] saw a sl to the SWtward made sail & gave Chace,
at Noon carried away the Larbd foretopmt Studdg sl boom by
which the lower Studdg sl was lost Still in Chace we took her
to be an Arm'd Brigg, All sail Sett, lost a logg & three lines
The 1st & Middle part Fresh Gales wth rain, latter Strong Gales
& hazy att ½ past 1 shortnd sl left off Chace & wore to the
Convoy ½ past 3 join'd them,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/331.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] Monday April 29, 1776

Resolved That for further encouragement to Seamen to inlist into the Colony Sea Service, One Months advance Wages be paid to the said Seamen at the time of their passing Muster, and also that their Wages be paid at the End of every Three Months or as soon afterwards as they shall arrive in some Port of this Colony – Resolved That the Officers of said Vessels be and hereby are allowed to inlist men out of the Companies raised for the defence of the Sea Coasts, and the Officers of said Companies are hereby directed to permit any of their Men to Inlist into the Colony & Continental Sea Service only and to inlist others to supply vacancies ocasioned thereby as soon as may be

Resolved that the Committee appointed to Build and fix out Armed Vessels, or any of One of them Muster the men raised for the Armed Vessels of this Colony, and pay them their advanced Wages. and receive out of the Treasury a Sum agreeable to an abstract to be returned for that purpose

Resolved that such Men as shall be inlisted for the Sea Service of this Colony, and are not able to furnish themselves with Arms agreeable to a former Resolve of this Court be furnished with the same by this Colony and that Twelve shillings be deducted from the Wages of each Man so furnished

Resolved that the Uniform of the Officers be Green & White and that they furnish themselves accordingly. and the Colours be a White Flag with a Green pine Tree, and an inscription "appeal to Heaven" –

Resolved That the Commanders of said Vessels receive their Orders and Instructions from a Committee hereafter to be appointed by this Court, and to be Conducted as secretly as possible –

Resolved that the Rations or Provisions allowed to the Officers be the same as is or shall be allowed to the Officers of the same rank in the Continental Service. –

Resolved that the Committee to be appointed as aforesaid, furnish each of the Commanders of the Armed Vessels of this Colony with Instructions to regulate their Conduct agreeable to the resolves of this Court –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 816, 823, 824.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1776.

Colony of Massachusetts Bay, Essex ss.

Libels are filed before me, against the brigantine named the *Dolphin*, burthen about 100 tons, commanded by William Wallis; against the ship named the *Statkesby* [*Stakesby*], burthen about 300 tons, commanded by one Willis; and against the schooner *Industry* from [New] Providence, laden with turtle, commanded by Francis Butler – Which vessels are said to have been improved in carrying supplies to the fleet and army employed against the United Colonies, and brought into the county of Essex. A libel is also filed before me against a cable and anchor, said to have belonged to the *Fowey* man of war (at the time of the caputre, infesting the sea coast and navigation of America) and brought into the county of Essex. And the court erected to try and condemn all vessels that shall be found infesting the sea coast of America and brought into either of the counties of Suffolk, Middlesex, or Essex, will be held at Salem, in said county of Essex, on Tuesday the 14th day of May, 1776, at the hour of ten in the forenoon, to try the Justice of the said captures. Of which this notice is given, pursuant to the laws of the colony aforesaid, that the owners of said vessels, and of the said cable and anchor, or any persons concerned therein, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the said vessels with their cargoes and appurtenances, and the said cable and anchor should not be condemned.

Timothy Pickering, Junr.

Judge of said Court.

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, Suffolk, ss.

A libel is filed before me, against the snow named the *Industry*, burthen about 280 tons, commanded by James Furse, and said to be improved in carrying supplies to the fleet and army employed against the United Colonies, and brought into the said county of Suffolk. And the Court erected to try and condemn all vessels that shall be found infesting the sea coast of America and brought into either of the counties of Suffolk, Middlesex, or

Essex, will be held at the Court House in Boston in said county of Suffolk, on Friday the tenth day of May, 1776, at the hour of ten in the forenoon, to try the justice of the said capture. Of which this notice is given, pursuant to the laws of the colony aforesaid, that the owner of said vessel, or any persons concerned therein, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the said vessel with its cargo and appurtenances should not be condemned.

Timothy Pickering, Junr.

Judge of said Court.

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, ss.

At a Court erected to try and condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the Sea Coast of America, and brought into the Counties of Plymouth, Barnstable, Bristol, Nantucket, or Duke's County to be held at Plymouth, in the said County of Plymouth, on Wednesday the 15th Day of May 1776 at the Hour of Ten in the Forenoon, will be tried the Justice of the Capture of a Schooner called the *Volant*, Burthen about 70 Tons, commanded by Edward Marsh: – And of the Schooner called the *Loyalty* Burthen about 15 Tons, commanded by Daniel White – Which Vessels, said to be improved in supplying the Fleet and Army, employed against the United Colonies, taken and brought into the Counties of Bristol and Plymouth, aforesaid, together with their Cargoes and Appurtenances, are libelled in the Court aforesaid, and will be tried on the day above mentioned: And notice is hereby given, pursuant to the laws of the colony aforesaid, to all persons claiming property in either of the aforesaid vessels or cargoes, or anyways concerned therein, that they may appear and shew cause (if any they have) why the said vessels, or either of them, with their cargoes and appurtenances should not be condemned.

N. Cushing, Judge of said Court.

Connecticut Courant, MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1776

The following prisoners, lately officers in the British Navy, who had given their parole of honor, not to depart from the bounds of the town of Northampton without leave from the commander in chief, did, in the evening of the 27th instant, abscond and run away, viz. *Henry Edwin Stanhope*, 24 years of age, of lightish eyes, hair, and complexion, pitted with the small pox, has a large nose, and is about 5 feet 6 inches in height. Also, *George Gregory*, 24 years old, with light colour'd short hair, light complexion and thin favoured, about 5 feet 8 inches high. They took away a young stone horse, almost black, with a white face and hog mane, and an old red roan gelding, both good horses. It is hoped the greatest vigilance will be exerted to apprehend the said prisoners, who, in return for the indulgence shewn them, have basely violated their Word of Honor. Five Dollars, and all necessary charges will be paid for apprehending and se[c]uring either of them.

Per order of the committee of Northampton

Robert Breck, Chairman. ¹

The Printers in this and the neighbouring Colonies, are desired to insert the above in their several papers.

[Northampton] April 29, 1776.

1. In Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 418, is a bill dated April 28, 1776 for £14.11.2 covering the expenses of seven men in pursuing the escaped prisoners, with a petition from Breck to the Massachusetts General Court reading: "beg your Honors to consider the above Acct & pay the sum above specif[ie]d to your petitioner being one of the sd Committee who has advanc'd the sum aforesd to the several persons there mention'd which Acct the said Committee think are but a reasonable allowance for the said service in pursuing the sd prisoners aforesd."

JOHN BROWN TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sr

Providence April 29th 1776

an Express havg arived here from Phileda this Evening With the Inclosed Letters for You, we ware at a Loss Weither to Forward them to Newport or to keep them till You Return, but havg opend that from the Merine Committe at phileda & findg it to Contain Matters Requireing the Graitest Dispatch, have therefore Now Forwarded them by Express hired on purpose to Reach You before morning - We are Sr. [&c.]

John Brown for the Committe

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR., NEW LONDON ¹

Recd of Mr Henrey Billings Mr Joseph Russels Receipt for one Thousand and Ninty three Pounds Powdr which he Recd for Mr Williams of Mr N. Shaw

Providence april 29. 1776

Esek Hopkins

Nathl Shaw junr Esqr Contl Agent -

1. Shaw Papers, NLCHS.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1776

Newport, April 29.

Last Wednesday a ship, supposed to be the *Scarborough* or *Cerberus*, and a black brig,¹ were standing off and on a little without the entrance of this harbour great part of the day; they were twice close in with the light house; two American brigs, and three sloops, the same day, were chased by the above black brig, but got clear and went in on the east side of this island.

Last Thursday night, the Continental ships *Alfred* and *Columbus*, and the brig [*Cabot*], arrived in our bay, and anchored near Hope; a station occupied by British pirates a considerable part of the winter.

Capt. Ebenezer Barker, arrived at Bedford last Thursday, in 23 days from the West-Indies informs, that last Wednesday, a little to the southward of Montague, he was chaced by two large ships, but night coming

in, he made his escape; that the islands were in great want of provisions, and were planting most of their cane-land – with potatoes, &c. and that the transports which were blown off the coast last winter, were to sail for Boston about the time he sail'd.

1. *Cerberus* and the brig *Diligent*.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] April 29th, 1776.

Moved that a committee may be appointed to take care of the prisoners sent to Windham from on board Commodore [Esek] Hopkins' fleet, and who are now confined in prison there: And thereupon Col. Elipht Dyer, Jed. Elderkin, Nathl Wales, Samll Gray, and Constant Southworth, Esqrs, are appointed a committee to take care of, oversee and direct the said prisoners; and if they shall think proper, to take the parole of any officers there, and suffer them to be at large, and to disperse the men as they think best, to be at labour, and on their refusal, or ill behavior of any, to be remanded and dealt with, at the discretion of said committee, according to the orders of the Governor and this Council. *Copy given.*

Voted, That Adam Babcock, Esqr, of N. Haven, be allowed to purchase of Esqrs Elderkin and Wales 200 pounds of gun-powder for the use of his privateer now fitting, and in the mean time, if need be, Col. [Jonathan] Fitch of said town is directed to lend him the same quantity out of the Colony stores, until he can obtain and replace it from said Col. Elderkin and Wales' manufactory, or otherways. *Copy given, delivered Mr. J. Rice.*

Voted, That an order be drawn on the Pay-Table for four hundred pounds, in favour of Capt. James Rice of New Haven, for expences of fitting the Colony brig and building the row-galley *Whiting*, and expences in the Colony service, and to render his account. *Copy given.*

Voted, That Zadock Brewster is appointed Lieutenant of the row-galley under command of Capt. Theops. Stanton.

Voted, That Capt. Theops Stanton be directed to pick out four cannon at New London for the use of the row-galley under his command, and see that the same be properly bored and fitted for service. *Copy given.*

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 265–66.

EPHRAIM STARR TO CAPTAIN JOHN MCCLEAVE ¹

Sir

Goshen 29th April 1776

Herewith I send you the Oars you agreed for (vizt)

40: long Square Looms	973 feet a 3:3/4	£15..4..03/4
349 “ a 2:1/4		[3..5..51/4]
		£18..9..6

As I have had a good dele of Trouble in geting the oars out so soon as we agreed & it being more Costly at this Season of the Year to Transport

them cant afford them under the price perfixed above which sum please to pay to the Barer hereof Mr Harrison Yours [&c.]

Ephraim Starr

To Captn McCleve²
att New Haven

N B: In case Capn McCleve is out of Town it was agreed for the above Oars to be Delivered to Mr James Rice in New Haven and he would pay the Money therefor on Delivery

E: Starr

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, Row Galley papers, 16a, ConnSL.
2. Captain of the galley *Whiting*.

PETITION OF CAPTURED BRITISH NAVAL OFFICERS TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

To His Excellency General Washington

Sir – We are sorry to trouble your Excellency so often, only our health as well our Duty to our fellow-creatures, makes it necessary, having upon us the strongest symptoms of a contagious distemper; and being confined in a close room together with three other gentlemen, they undoubtedly have the greatest reason to be apprehensive of its consequences. As we believe it foreign from your intention to endanger our lives, or the Lives of others, we should be glad if you will order our case to be looked into. We remain your humble servants

Tho^s R. Harris, Master's Mate,
William Metcalfe, Midshipman,
of His Majestys Ship *Savage*
City Jail; New-York, April 29, 1776.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 1129.

PIERRE VAN COURTLAND TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

In Committee of Safety, N. York, 29th April 1776.

... We thank you for the information respecting the signals fixed upon below to give intelligence of the approach of an Enemy. . . . We hope, Sir, that the general nature of the cause we are engaged in, the generous attention of the Continent to the defence and security of this Colony, and the readiness of our neighbours to come to our assistance, from time to time, when they have apprehended us to be in danger, will serve to exclude from our minds the narrow distinction of Colonies, and teach us to esteem the British fleets and armies as much *our* enemies while on the coasts of Connecticut, New-Jersey, or Carolina, as if they lay in the East river.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 425. Van Courtland was chairman of the New York Committee of Safety.

PROCLAMATION OF GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

By His Excellency George Washington, Esq; General and Commander in Chief of the Army of the United Colonies.

Whereas an intercourse and correspondence with the ships of war, and other vessels belonging to, and in the service of the King of Great Britain, is highly detrimental to the rights and liberties of the said colonies. And whereas the Committee of Safety of the colony of New-York, taking the same under their consideration, on the 18th instant did resolve and order, "That no inhabitant of the said colony on any pretence, or for any purpose whatsoever, either in person or in writing, should directly, or indirectly, presume to have, or maintain any intercourse whatsoever, with any ships belonging to, or employed in the service of the said King, or with any of his officers, or ministers, or with any person, or persons on board the same, on pain of being dealt with in the severest manner," Notwithstanding which, there is reason to believe that sundry base and wicked persons, preferring their own present private emolument to their country's weal, have continued to carry on the same, particularly some who under pretence of coming to the market of this city by water, have put themselves, their vessels and effects in the way of the said ships of war, for the purposes of giving them intelligence and furnishing them with supplies of provision; and have been taken: To the end that such evil and pernicious practices may be remedied and prevented in future, I hereby publish and declare, that if any person, or persons shall hereafter presume to have, hold, or continue to carry on such intercourse, or any kind of correspondence whatsoever, or furnish and supply the said ships of war, and other vessels in such service, with provisions and necessaries of any kind, that he, or they so offending, will be deemed and considered as an enemy, or enemies to the rights of the said colonies, and if apprehended will be treated accordingly.

And I do hereby will and require all officers and soldiers in the army under my command, and most earnestly entreat all persons well attached to the interest of the said colonies to use their utmost care and diligence for preventing the same; and apprehending and securing all persons that shall be guilty thereof.

Given under my Hand, at Head Quarters, in the City of New York,
this Twenty Ninth of April, Anno Domini, 1776.

G. Washington.

1. *Constitutional Gazette*, May 1, 1776.

NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO NEW YORK DELEGATES IN THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Extract]

In Committee of Safety,
N. York, 29th April, 1776.

Gentlemen — On the 23d of March last, we wrote to you upon a subject of the utmost importance — the command in the marine department on the lakes. Our application was occasioned by a letter from General Schuyler, a

copy of which we then enclosed to you. The General, in that letter, informed our Congress that, in case Major [William] Douglas should decline that command, there was "no person he would more willingly have to command the vessels than Capt. [Jacobus] Wynkoop, and requested, at any rate, to send him up the soonest possible, with a sufficient number of sailors for the two schooners and sloop." We further informed you, that we immediately sent for Capt. Wynkoop, communicated to him the General's letter, and sent him with a copy of it to Major Douglass. That he delivered it to him, and received for answer, from Major Douglass, that he was then in service, and that it would be at least two months before he could attend at the lakes, if his health would permit. That we, thereupon, wrote him a letter, a copy of which, and his answer, we also enclose to you. In our letter to him, we gave him a gentle reproof, for his uncertain answer to Wynkoop, and signified that we expected his immediate answer, and in case of his acceptance, he should stand ready for the execution of his duty at a minute's warning, whenever the service should require it. In his answer, he informed us, "I told Capt. Wynkoop what I now tell you, that whenever I should receive orders from the [Continental] Congress, or the General, I was willing to comply if my health would permit; and as Capt. Wynkoop is desired by the General to get his men and go up, I beg you would assist and forward him, and if I am not called upon, should endeavour to serve my country in some station of as much importance as to command on the lakes." We farther reminded you, in the above mentioned letter, that the season was so far advanced that the service would suffer, if the vessels on the lakes were not immediately employed; and conceiving that Major Douglass's indetermination would make room for a new appointment, we took the liberty, through you, to recommend Capt. Wynkoop as a person who was bred a mariner, had frequently been master of mercantile vessels, had served with reputation last war, both in the land and sea service; that we then thought him (as we still do) an officer of merit, and that we had heard his conduct in the last campaign highly applauded, and conceived him to be worthy of the trust, and thought, from General Schuyler's letter, the appointment would not be disagreeable to him. We farther informed you that Capt. Wynkoop would not continue in the marine service under Major Douglass; but that, nevertheless, we had prevailed on him, with the argument of danger that the service would suffer, to engage seamen and proceed to the General with all possible despatch. To this letter we have hitherto not been favoured with an answer, but have heard a report that some order from Continental Congress had been sent to Major Douglass to repair to the post assigned him.² General Schuyler, still attentive to the importance of the service on the lakes, in a letter of 4th instant to General [William] Thompson, who furnished us with a copy of it, writes thus: "Will you be so good as to request the New-York Congress that the sailors may be sent up without delay." In consequence of this, we sent for Capt. Wynkoop, being convinced of the impossibility of sending up the seamen without an officer, and engaged him to enlist the men and proceed to put the vessels in order, under

the present uncertainty of his station, on condition that he be permitted to quit the service, in case he should be superseded. Of this we informed General Schuyler, by letter of the 25th instant, of which Capt. Wynkoop, who has gone up with his seamen, is the bearer.

After what has been said already, in recommendation of Capt. Wynkoop, we shall presume to say no more than that in case Major Douglass should decline, we hope that this fresh instance of Capt. Wynkoop's zeal for the public service, added to his former merit, will have sufficient weight with the Congress to confirm him in that command, which was destined for Major Douglass. . . .

To our Delegates at Phila.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 425-26.
2. See *Journal of the Continental Congress*, March 26, 1776.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1776.

New-York, April 29.

The 30th of March last, a Sloop called the *Liberty*, belonging to Perth Amboy, from St. Eustatia, with 83 Barrels of Gun Powder, 21 Bales of Dry Goods, and 2 Hogsheads of Medicines, was taken by a Tender off the Capes of Delaware, and sent into Norfolk.

CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR., R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM¹

Copy

Sir, I received your Dispatches of the Sixth Instant, by Captain [Hugh] Bromedge of His Majesty's Sloop *Savage*; Your Letter of the Twentieth of March is truly distressing and am afraid the unhappy cause that Obliged His Majestys Troops to go to Halifax will in a great Measure interrupt the Success upon this Province; there being now in the City of New York, upon Long Island, the Jerseys and Straten Island, Ten or Fifteen Thousand of the Provincial Army, which have, ever since the Embarkation of the King's Troops from Boston, been pouring in from the Camp at Cambridge and Pennsylvania, these are now indefatigable in Fortifying every Height; The Fortifications about the Town you have an Account of in the Papers Marked Numbers One and Two; Ground is Marked out upon each side of the Narrows for Batteries

You will see Sir, by the Printed Advertisement of General Putnam's that all communication with us is cut off,² and Hostilities commenced by them upon the Seventh; Suspecting that it would soon happen, I was desirous of having the Ships Water completed, for which purpose I Ordered Captain Bromedge to the Watering place upon Straten Island (a place we had always Watered at without interruption) Captain Bromedge's Orders were not to Fire, until our People were fired upon; these Orders were punctually executed; for, at half past Nine in the Morning, about Five hundred of the Rebels came down a hollow way, and were not discovered, until they were so near the People placed to look out, that their retreat to the Boats

was effectually cut off. The Rebels without any sort of Warning fired immediately upon the People employed filling the Water, upon which Captain Bromedge began, and not until then, he very soon dispersed the Body to about Fifty, which Sheltered themselves behind Rocks, and in little Hollows, laying upon their Bellies and keeping up a very galling Fire, so much so, that he dare not venture a Boat to bring off his Cutter, which his Petty Officer very imprudently had allowed to Ground, finding he was not able to dislodge those Rebels, I made his Signal to come off.

The Situation of the Two Ships at the Arrival of the *Savage* was the same Sir, as when I had the Honor of writing you by Mr. Clark. But having received information that the Rebels had an intention, of making an attempt to set the *Asia* on Fire, by means of a Number Vessels chained together, to be sent down upon an Ebb Tide, which runs very Strong. I was apprehensive this might be attended with disagreeable consequences, if not fatal, as her own Boats would be of very little effect upon such a Weight as a Number of Vessels chained together, in so strong a Tide's way. Besides the great probability there was that the Rebels would erect Batteries upon Red Hook, from whence they might have Annoyed her very much. These reasons induced me to Order her down, nor should I have risked that Ship so long, had I not been in daily expectation of the Fleet and Army. For while we were Able to keep those Stations; a clear passage was kept open up the North River. Since the *Asia* has drop'd down, the Rebels have taken possession of Governor's Island where they have thrown up some Works, and also upon Red Hook.

As any attempt of ours to interrupt their Fortifying the Narrows must in the end prove ineffectual from the great Height of the Lands upon each side, I judged it would be most conducive to His Majesty's Service, to preserve this place as a Port, and effectually Block it up, for which purpose, I have now placed the *Asia*, just above what is called the upper Middle Ground, a pass that the Rebels might in a great Measure, by sinking of Vessels, interrupt the passage of the Channel for the present. The *Phoenix* is at the Hook, which is the only place we can get Water, and this is of so Brackish a Nature, that I dread the Effects of it upon the Men's health's.

Upon the Twenty Seventh of March having information, that the ship *Lady Gage* was moving from the Kilns (a place she had lain Aground from the time of her Arrival in the Winter) in order to go to Elizabeth Town, from whence it was proposed to push for Philadelphia, to fit her out as a Privateer, I immediately Ordered the Boats of the Two Ships under the direction of Lieutenant Robertson, to go and if he found it practicable, to cut the said Ship out, if not to set her on Fire; At the same time to send a Boat to Elizabeth Town Point, where the *Blue Mountain Valley* Transport laid (the Ship taken during the Winter) and if the Officer found her unguarded, he was to board her and set the Ship on Fire, both these Orders were Executed with punctuality and without loss. The *Lady Gage* is a fine New Ship, and a remarkable fast sailing One.

On the Thirteenth the *Nautilus* Arrived with your Circular Letter; the other Dispatches you sent by the *Glasgow*, having been thrown Overboard in their Engagement with the Rebel Privateers.

The Situation His Majesty's Ships were in at this Port for want of Water, induced me to detain the *Nautilus* until the Twenty fourth, in Order to cover the Boats upon that service, until we had put the Light house in a State of defence, in doing of which I was reduced to the Necessity of burning the Dwelling house Annexed to it. The Lanthorn of it was totally destroyed by the Rebels on the Tenth of March, which has rendered the Light wholly useless as to Navigation.

I think it is my Duty Sir, from the confidence you have been pleased to place in me by communicating the Situation of His Majesty's Troops, to tell you, that I do not imagine any Quantity of Provisions is to be expected in this Province, until the Continental Army has received a severe Blow, and the King's Troops get possession of the Country, for however well inclined the greatest part of the Inhabitants of this Province are to give every Assistance, it is not in their power; As the Rebel Committee are in possession of all the Landing Places, which totally prevents the Shipping of Provisions &c unless by their Permission.

The Rebels have sent large Detachments of Troops towards Quebec, and a strong report prevails, that they have lately received another severe Check in that Quarter, but it is impossible in our present Situation to get at the Truth. They are exceedingly Assiduous both here and at Philadelphia in fitting out small Privateers, which I am apprehensive will in a very short time Infest this Coast so, that no Vessel unless well Armed will be able to approach this Port. Considerable Exportations of Flour are also carried out by the East end of Long Island.

The News Papers say that the Privateers which fell in with the *Glasgow*, have lost a good Many Men and are considerably Shattered. These Ships by the same Channel are said to have been at [New] Providence, taken the Governor Prisoner and brought off all the Military Stores to a considerable Amount. The Continental Congress Publicly publish in their News Papers Orders for making reprisals of all British Property, as also Copies of Commissions and Instructions for their Privateers.

From the Contractor of this Port, not being able to furnish the Ships with Rum, Pease, Butter and Cheese, the *Asia* begins to feel a great want in the three last Articles, to remedy this Evil as much as possible, I have Ordered her to be Supplied with Flour and Melasses from the Prizes in lieu of those Articles, and have also compleated the Spirits on board both Ships to three Months, from Rum of the Cargo of the Brig *Mary*. It having been represented to me, that the Limes on board the Brig *Diligence* were perishing; I have with Advice of the Surgeons; Divided what remained between the two Ships with Orders for a Quantity of the Juice to be Mixed with the Grog.

His Majesty's Pacquet Boat the *Swallow* Arrived at this place, March the Tenth and has been detained by the Governor, for Government Dis-

patches until the Nineteenth of this Month; Since which it has not been in my power to give her Convoy, being under the Necessity of keeping the *Savage* constantly in Store to Cover the people employed Watering.

Lieutenant Oldfield of the Marines having died since my last Letters, has induced me to defer the complying with your Order, for the Discharge of Lieutenant Sterling, until you shall be pleased to Order another Lieutenant to the Command of the Party.

You will see Sir, by the report of Vessels taken that a Number of them have been Sunk, and Destroyed, these were such that were by no means fit to be sent to Halifax and the putting Men into them would have Weakened our Ships considerably, I therefore saw no other Method of disposing of them, but destroying of them.

Having received intelligence of a Schooner with Arms from Providence being to sail soon after the Vessel in which those Letters for Admiral Graves came; I judged that those Letters might have contained some Intelligence respecting the Schooner, I therefore took upon me to open them.

Enclosed Sir, I have the Honor of transmitting the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, as also the different reports &c. respecting them since my last Letters.³ I have the Honor to be, Sir [&c.]

H. Parker

Phoenix, Sandy Hook New York 29th April 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. Putnam's order of April 8, 1776.

3. Parker also enclosed plan of the chevaux de frise in the Delaware River. See illustration.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, April 29, 1776

A letter from the council of safety of Maryland, with the examination of Alexander Ross, and sundry papers found in his possession:

Resolved, That the . . . letter from the council of safety of Maryland, with Mr. Ross's papers, be referred to a committee of five:

The members chosen, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. [Edward] Rutledge, Mr. [Robert] Goldsborough, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, and Mr. [Caesar] Rodney.

Resolved, That Captain Peter Adams, from Maryland, under whose custody Alexander Ross was brought to this city, be dismissed, and that the said Alexander Ross be delivered to the care of the officer commanding the continental troops in Pennsylvania.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 316, 317.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON¹

[Extract]

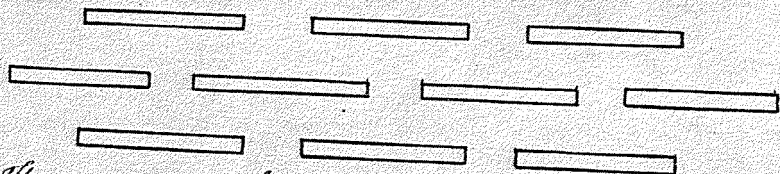
Philadelphia 29th April 1776

I rec'd yours of the 15th inst by which I find some of my letters respecting guns, canvass &c has not come to hand. I am doing every thing in my power to forward these matters and flatter myself shall be able to obtain an order for the canvass (by this post) to be forwarded from Providence or

If any part of the Fleet are Ordered up to Philadelphia, the formidable bug-bears which the Philadelphians have sunk in their River, and which they call Cheveaux de frise, may be passed by bribing one of the Pilots which carries their own Vessels through them. They are about Twenty feet high, and the Hypothemus about thirty feet, made of Spars about Eighteen Inches square, and One foot long; the wood frame pretty well joined, and the side view of it is thus.



It is about 16 or 18 feet wide, and the lower part will contain about 16 or 20 Tons of Stones. They bar the Channel across in this manner.



They are guarded by two Brigs which carry 18 Pounds, and a floating Battery which carries Ten 12 Pounds; but they are not Manned with Sailors. I should be very sorry to hear of the destruction of so fine a City, but should rejoice to hear of two or three Men of War passing through or weighing up their Cheveaux de frise, and taking their Vessels; that they may be convinced, that nothing is impossible to British Tars; and that 'tis in vain to contend with Great Britain. —

This from a Gentleman of Credit at Philadelphia
 Nov. 17

New London. I can say nothing about the guns, but what I have already wrote you: the colors has thirteen Stripes red and white for the field and a union. As to the Agency I wrote you that I had nominated you in Committee, where there was no objection, nor did I imagine there would be in Congress – but I was mistaken – for when the nomination came before Congress, there was objections from every part of the room on account of your being a member: it was proposed to be put off which I did not object to, finding I should not be able to carry it at that time. There has since been a motion that no Member of Congress shall hold any lucrative office; if this should not obtain I shall make another attempt.

Pray send a list of proper persons for officers for the ship; [Thomas] Thompson I think is a very good man; there must be three Lieutenants, a Captain and two Lieutenants of Marines; – the Master must be a very good man – I hope we shall have such men as will do honor to the Colony . . . The Committee have promised me an order tomorrow morning for the canvass to be forwarded from Providence – that is the heavy canvass – as for light canvass, I don't know where it is to come from: I shall send you the name of the ship next post and hope you will have the canvass soon after this reaches you.

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, I, 115–16, LC.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN THOMAS REED ¹

In Committee of Safety

[Philadelphia] April 29. 1776 –
11 oClock A.M. –

In Consequence of the Intelligence received that the *Roebuck* Man of War is aground upon Bra[n]dywine you are directed to proceed with the province Ship *Montgomery* under your Command down the River and Bay and join the Commodore who is already on his Way with the armed Boats to take or destroy her – As the Success of this Enterprise will probably depend upon Expedition that is used not a Moment must be lost, and it is expected you will obey this Order immediately upon the first of the Ebb. – It is intended your Complement of SeaMen shall be made up out of the floating Battery with a Detachment of Captain [Thomas] Proctor's Artillery, respecting which we expect the Commodore has left Directions at Fort Island. We hope you will also be join'd by a good many Voluntiers from the City. – ² & As these parties can follow in Boats you are not to wait a Moment at Fort Island but pass immediately through the Chevaux de Fris [Endorsed]

Orders to Capt Reed

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.

2. Charles Biddle in his *Autobiography* states:

In the spring there was an account came up to the city that the *Roebuck*, Captain Hammond, was aground on the Brandywine Shoal: We had at that time a provision ship of fourteen guns, fitting out under the command of Captain Read. It was determined this ship should sail immediately with two or three of the galleys. Captain

Cowperthwait waited on the Committee of Safety, and offered his company to act as marines. The Committee thanked him and the company, but said there was a full company of marines belonging to the ship. I then offered myself as a seaman, when Captains Souder, Jackson, Potts, and some others of the company did the same. Our service was gladly accepted, and we went immediately on board. The ship was fitted out with great dispatch, numbers of respectable people coming down to assist in getting the guns, water, and ballast on board. Although it rained very hard, they never left the wharf until she had everything on board. When we put off from the wharf, we had about one hundred and fifty men on board, but we were very badly fitted. Our guns were a great deal too long, and our crew were chiefly landsmen. There were not more than twenty seamen including the officers on board, so that we should have made a bad hand at fighting. Having some apprehension of being taken, I took on board only a few shirts and trowsers, being determined if taken, and the ship came into the river, to endeavor to make my escape by swimming. However, I was not put to the trial, for the day after we sailed intelligence was brought us of the *Roebuck* getting off the shoal, and the volunteers were all dismissed. Had Captain Hammond known our intention, and kept his ship on a heel near the shoal, he could easily have taken the ship and galleys.

The intelligence of the *Roebuck* getting off the shoal was brought by Captain Andrew Caldwell, who had been down to the Capes to see in what position the *Roebuck* lay. When the galley returned and anchored near the ship, Captain Read ordered the barge to be sent to bring Captain Caldwell on board. I went in her as coxswain, and the rest of the masters as the boat's crew. When we got alongside of the galley, I stood up with my hat off, and received him on board the barge with as much ceremony as if we had belonged to the barge of a British man-of-war, and he had been an Admiral. When we were at some distance from the galley, Captain Caldwell, looking at me very steadfastly, exclaimed, "My God, Biddle! is it you?" I answered, yes. He then recognized Potts and some of the other masters whom he knew. When he put the same question to Potts that he did to me, Potts told him that we had been unfortunate, and were obliged to enter before the mast. As he was well acquainted with my family, he seemed much affected; however, he was soon relieved by Captain Read, who wished us to mess with him. This we would not do, for having entered as foremastmen we were determined to act as such.

James S. Biddle, ed., *Autobiography of Charles Biddle . . . 1745-1821* (Philadelphia, 1883), 83-84. Hereafter cited as Biddle, ed., *Charles Biddle Autobiography*.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE SHIP
*Reprisal*¹

[Philadelphia, April 29, 1776]²

Ship *Reprisal*

Lambert Wick[e]s Esqr Commander.

To the Commissioners of the Navy.

Dr

— For First Cruise —

1776					
April 17	To	12 pieces	Canvass	Vizt	
		3 pieces	No 5	114 ¾ yds	@
		2 pieces	7	84	"
		1 piece	L	46	"
		6 Bolts	Russia		@ £7.10
					45.
26	"	1 piece	L Canvass	91 yds	@
29	"	2 Bolts	Russia Duck	@ £7.10	
"	"	1 Cask	of Oatmeal wt 4. . 0. 16	@ 10 pCt	2. . 1. 5
30	"	8 pieces	Canvass	Assorted	Vizt
		1 Bolt	No 7	39½ Yards	@
		1 do	" 2	38½ "	
		1 do	" 3	39¼ "	

	3 do	Ravens Duck			
	2 do	Russia do	£7.10	15..--	
May 24	"	90 Hammocks & 5 Cotts	@ 20/4		96.11..8
June 3	"	Cash paid to & for sundrys from 4 Apl to this day Vizt			
April 4	"	do " Joseph Stansbury for Stone & Glass ware		5..5..2½	
" 19	"	do " Thomas Oliver pr Order of Mr Towers		2..--	
" 20	"	do " Capt Lockton his bill for mens labour		15.18..--	
" 23	"	do " for ¾ Cord Hickory and hawling		1..0..4	
" 24	"	do " Mrs Bridges for making Collours		3..--	
" 26	"	do " for 3 Cordwood, Hawlg & Cordg		4..3..6	
" "	"	do " for Sawing & Splitting do		1..8..1½	
" 27	"	do " Porterage of 17 Bas Pease		2..4	
" "	"	do " do of Cwt Cordage		1..2	
" "	"	do " for 12 Cedar Bolts & porterage 1/6		19..--	
" "	"	do " George Wilson for hawlg 12 loads		1.10..--	
" "	"	do " scant[li]n[g]			
" "	"	do " for 1 Cord wood hawling &c		1..8..2	
" 29	"	do " James Rosebothems bill for whitewashing		2.19..6	
" "	"	do " for 55½ lbs Fresh Beeff, 13 lbs Mutton & Greens @ 5/2d		1.11..9	
" "	"	do " for 2 Bushells Indian Corn		7..--	
" "	"	do " for a large Slate for the Master		3.11	
" "	"	do " for 1 weeks Board of Mr [John] Harper		15..--	
" "	"	do " Joseph Turner for 1 faggot Iron hoops		2..5..--	
" "	"	do " for 1 Bushell Coarse Salt 6/6 & 1 Bl fine 12/		18..6	
" "	"	do " for 30 Galls Old Jamaica spirit		11..5..--	
" 30	"	do " for 2 Boxes Tallow Candles		4.14..4	
" "	"	do " James Allenby Coopers bill		3.17.11	
		Carried Forward		£65.13..8	

Ship *Reprisal* Lambert Wicks Esqr Commander. 1st Cruise

1776				
June 3		Brought Forward		65.13..8
June 30	To	Cash paid for 1 lb Amry 2/ and 1 lb Glue 1/6		3..6
" "	"	do " Leonard Philips for scrapping the ship		4.15..--
" "	"	do " Samuel Rhoads Junrs bill for hardware		5..7.10
" "	"	do " Henry Baggs for 219 lbs Fresh beeff @ 5d		4.11..5
May 1	"	do " James Wharton for 2 Sheep Skins		1..2..6
" "	"	do " for 310 lb Fresh Beeff he bot @ 4½		5.16..3
" "	"	do " John Locktons bill for days labour		34..9..--
" "	"	do " John Weaver for 7 Check shirts		4.11..--
" "	"	do " Henry Slesman for 13 do		8.10..--
" 2	"	do " Edward Oxleys bill for Shirts		12..7..--
" "	"	do " Philip Mitmans bill for do		19.13..--
" "	"	do " Sawing 1 Cord hickory wood		7..6
" "	"	do " The Boatswain 14 days labour		3..3..--
" "	"	do " Frederick Dutz's bill for Slops		24.10..--
" "	"	do " for 3l lb Fresh Butter @ 1/2 & 2 Jars 2/		2..--.9
" "	"	do " for a Coopers Cross stock		4..--
" "	"	do " Jonas Abram for boarding Wm Stanston } & Emanuel Britt 1 week		1..--..--
" "	"	do " John Bucks bill for Slops		51..4..--

"	3	"	do	"	Anthony Groves bill for 9 Shirts	6..-.-	
"	"	"	do	"	Nathaniel Donnell for 2 Grindstone	14..9	
"	6	"	do	"	for 2½ yds White flannell	11..3	
"	7	"	do	"	James Fulton for sundry port[era]ges	4.11..6	
"	"	"	do	"	Hawling a Cable	7..6	
"	8	"	do	"	for 1 Keg butter 61 lb @ 9d & Cag 2/	2..7..9	
"	"	"	do	"	William Harper for 483 lbs @ 7d & portg	15..2.10½	
"	"	"	do	"	Simon Skillen Carvers bill	1.18..-	
"	"	"	do	"	Thomas Cuthbert for wharfage &c	2..6..-	
"	9	"	do	"	Robert McGill Stationers bill	2..2.11	
"	10	"	do	"	for 1012 lbs Fresh Beeff bot by Aln Moore	23..3.10	
"	11	"	do	"	Peter Blancher for hawling carr[ia]g[e]s	3.18..6	
"	16	"	do	"	John Locktons bill for days labour	2..6..-	
"	"	"	do	"	Benjamin Condys bill	1.16..6	
"	"	"	do	"	Wetherill & Cressons bill for Boards	3..5..6	
"	"	"	do	"	Thomas Badge for 2 Boxes soap	4.16..2	
"	"	"	do	"	for 10 Galls Jama Spirit @ 10/	3..-.-	
"	18	"	do	"	Robert Carson for 283 lbs Fresh beeff	6..9..8	
"	20	"	do	"	Wm Waltmans bill for Port[era]ge	9.19..6	
"	24	"	do	"	James Moye's bill for makg hanks	2..6..-	
Carried Forward						348..3..6	

Ship *Reprisal* Lambert Wickes Esqr Commander. contd 1st Cruise

1776						
June	3		Brought Forward	£348..3..6		
May	23	To Cash paid	George Esterlys bill for repairing a Camboos	10.13..6		
"	25	" do "	William Roberts for amunition boxes	3..-.-		
"	"	" do "	John Elmslies bill	9..3..-		
"	"	" do "	Thomas Corgee for Ironing a harness tub	6..-	371..6..-	
"	"	"	Amot of Benjn Marshalls bill	22..4..9	22..4..9	
"	"	"	Amot Sundry Ship Chandlery Stores comprehending } Boatswains, Gunners, Carpenrs Stewards &c		417.13..-	
"	"	"	Amot Sundry Cordoage wt 67.2.26 @ 66/1 pCt		422..-..11½	
July	1	"	Cash paid James Hood for 2 bushls Salt		15..-	
"	4	" do "	William Shute for 2 boxes Candles & Cotton		5..5..-	
"	21	" do "	Wetherill & Cressons bill		10..-	
"	"	" do "	Allmore & Hellings for an Iron plate		6..3..-	
August	5	" do "	Estate of Jno Inglis for a Brass Compass		3..-.-	
"	27	"	Pig Iron for Ballast wt 21.12.1.3		191..1..2	
"	"	"	ditto for do 19..7.0.7		174..3..6	
"	31	"	Cash paid Thomas Oliver for making Cartridges		2..5..-	
"	"	" do "	Dunn & Hall for a yawl		13..6..5	
"	"	" do "	Porterage of a Capston	2..-		
"	"	" do "	Mason and Annis's bill	12..-..6		
"	"	" do "	John & Thomas Ridges bill	19..1..6	31..4..-	

[No balance shown]

1. Woodhouse Collection, HSP.

2. The date used is the day the *Reprisal* dropped down to upper chevaux-de-frise in the Delaware River. See note 2 under Commissioners of the oContinental Navy in Account with the Brigantine *Lexington*, March 28, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee 29 April 1776 –

Present – S. Purviance Chn – W Lux V Chn

A. Buchanan	J. Boyd	J. E. Howard	T. Sollers
C. Ridgely (of Wm)	T. Gist	J. Gittings	W. Asquith
W. Wilkinson	T. Rutter	J. Calhoun	G. Risteau
T. Harrison	J. Cockey		

Capt George Woolsey applied to the Committee for Liberty to take his Brig *Rogers*, which has been detained by them at Whetstone Point to be there sunk, if necessary, which Permission was granted to him –

Geo Lux Secry

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN JEREMIAH HOLDEN ¹

No. 134

Sir

We are informed that you have a Schooner, which sails well, and will carry 4 or 500 Barrels of Flour – if you incline to let us have her on Freight to the West-Indies, we will take her of you; and insure her to the Sum she may be valued at – her Loading is now ready at Baltimore Town – let us hear from you by Return of this Boat or by some earlier Opportunity.

[Annapolis] 29th Apl ²

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, the Council made the same proposal to Captain John Valiant for “a Sloop which sails well, burthen about 40 Tons.”

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Monday, April 29th, 1776.

Capt. Francis Bright is appointed Captain of the first armed Cruizer directed to be fitted out on the Eastern Shore, and Capt. Robert Cooke of the Second.

Instructions to Capt. Bright, as follows:

Capt. Francis Bright, &c. (copy filed.)

[A warrant] to John Hicks for £3. 8. 0, Gun to Capt. [Edward] Travis for his Galley.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 160.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Halifax] Monday April 29th 1776

Resolved, That the Companies stationed on the Sea Coast may be further encouraged to exert themselves in taking Armed Vessels, and others which may be taken by the Enemies Ships of War, and Armed Tenders such as they take as prizes, may be adjudged to the Captors after the Charges of

Condemnation; except Vessels owned by Americans and freinds to Continental Associations, &c., for which the Captors shall have Salvage

1. Secretary of State Papers (Provinciãl Conventions and Congresses/Councils 1774–1776), NCDAH.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES MOORE TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

Wilmington April 29th 1776

By two Men who deserted from the *Glasgow Packet* laying at Fort Johnston on Saturday Night the 27th Instant I received Intelligence that five Transport Ships (of 45 that sailed from Cork sometime in February with nine Regiments) have arrived in the [river] with about 700 Troops and that the rest are hourly expected. from every Circumstance I can gather it is beyond a doubt that the Enemy Mean to make this Province the Object of their Attention and that Governor Martin has still Expectation of Assistance from the Tories and Regulators lately defeated at Moores Creek Bridge I am very Apprehensive the Scheme mentioned to president [John] Rutledge of flanking the Ministerial Army with the Militia from the Northward and Westward will be found [torn] should Genl [Henry] Clinton land at little river as suppo[sed and] effect a junction with the disaffected of Anson and a part of Bladen which joins it in five days March the distance not being More than 60 Miles which would be sooner than a Sufficient Number of Militia could be embodied to intercept them.

I expect an immediate reinforcement from Bladen Onslow and Duplin, which will I hope enable me to send out strong Detachments to secure the Passes on Waggaman drowning Creek and the Marsh and cut off all communication with them and the Tories and over awe those who would wish to join them I shall take care to have such Officers and Men on that Service as are well acquainted with the Country and whose Conduct and Bravery I can confide in all the deserters who have yet come on Shore agree in this Point that Wilmington will be the first place Attacked which Obliges me to keep a Considerable Body of Men always in the Town for its Defence

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XV, 33–34, NA. Letter continues the following day.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM WILMINGTON, NORTH-CAROLINA, DATED APRIL 29, 1776” ¹

By two men who arrived here last night, after making their escape from the men-of-war below, I find there are a number of prizes, to the amount of thirty sail. They say five transports arrived a few days past from Cork, being part of a fleet of forty-five sail, viz: thirty transports, ten store-ships, one fifty-gun ship, two frigates, and two bombs, with nine regiments on board, destined for this place; which are expected to land when the whole fleet arrives. This is generally believed here, as the ships were seen off on Monday [April 22] by the pilots. The Militia, who have been but a few days discharged, are coming in fast, and who, with the Continental forces already here, will be able to make a good stand.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 1117.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE¹

The Commander in Chief

Cape Fear River April 29th 1776

In consequence of the orders I had given her the *Genl Gage* sailed yesterday but meeting with a Transport in distress she carried her into safety and acquaintd me – By a prize taken by one of the Transports² we are told that Your Excellency left Boston on the 25th of March, as I have not had the Honor of hearing from you I am almost in doubt whether the account is not premature, at all events I have thought in right to order *Genl Gage* to call at the Hook for intelligence

There are now eight Transports arrived and we are told some more off, but not a word by any of them that can give me the least insight regarding the Destination of the expedition under My Command – I have said above that one of the Transports had taken a prize, but as the Gentlemen of the Navy seem to express a doubt whether she can be condemned to the Military I have thought it my duty to lay it before Your Excellency and the Commander in Chief at Sea; till such time as I receive your Commands; The Money arising from the Sale will remain in the hands of the Agent appointed by the Captors – I wish this may meet Your Excellency at Your head Quarters of New York – By Washinstons Letter to Ld Stirling which we read in the papers they mean to dispute the Possession of the Town with you, I doubt that, in my humble opinion they will not dispute a Yard on York Island if you go in force – this I desired Govr Tryon to mention to Your Excell. and some Ideas in which we both agreed relative to Long Island, and how far the possession of that Island might operate towards that of New York – I most heartily wish Your Excell a good Campaign & have the Honor to be &c

H C

Not having received any dispatches from your Excel. or from Government I am at a loss to guess how I am to be disposed of
[Endorsed] by the *Genl Gage* armed Sloop sail at 1st May

1. Henry Clinton Papers, CL.

2. "The *Golden Rule*, Israel Thompson, a Transport, belonging to Whitehaven, (having on board two Companies of the 23d Regiment, commanded by Capt. Danzey) on the 24th of April, at Day-break, fell in with a Sloop belonging to the Provincials off Cape Romain, South Carolina, which, after firing a few Shot, and Half an Hour's Chace, she took and carried into Cape Fear River, to Gen. Clinton. She was called the *Defiance*, Capt. John Chace, of Providence, Rhode Island, bound to Charles-Town South Carolina, and laden with Coffee, Chocolate, Cyder, Spermaceti Candles, Oil, Rum, &c to the Value of 500 l. Sterling." *Public Advertiser*, London, August 16, 1776. The *Defiance* had been bonded at Providence, March 30, 1776. She was the property of John Brown; Account of Permissions granted by his Honor the Governor, R.I. Arch.

30 Apr.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Isis*, CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS¹

April [1776]

Father point W S W 10 Leagues

Thursday 25

4 A M Sett every sail that would Draw, at 6 the pass of Matane SbE²

- First & middle parts modt Breezes & Clear weather, latter fresh Breezes & Squally with Snow, 8 pm mount Camilles SWbW
- Friday 26 at 10 a m it being very thick weather, Anchord in 24 fathoms, at 11 it Cleard up, the Island Bic³ EbS 4 miles, weighd and made Sail
First and Middle parts Light Breezes & Thick hazey weathr Latter breezes & Clear, at 7 pm Anchored in 24 fms and Veered to a whole Cable.
- Saturday 27 Fresh breezes and fair Wr people empd Slinging the Yards, and Clearing Ship.
- Sunday 28 at 1 A M Weighed, an to Noon working to Windward, on the North Shore
Fresh Gales & Squally Wr 1 pm Anchored in 17 fathoms, down Top gallt yards, Mounted Swivel Guns, on the Quarter Rail.
- Monday 29] at Single Anchor Green Island ⁴ SW 3 or 4 Leagues
Tuesday 30] First part fresh gales & Clear, middle and lattr light Breezes, Carpenters employed making Fire booms, Armourers making the Iron work.
Modt breezes, 1 p m weighed & made Sail, at 4 Anchord little wind, at 6 weighd and made Sail, at 8 Anchored off Cacana ⁵

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/484.

2. Matane on the south shore of the St. Lawrence river in the Gaspé Peninsula.

3. The Isle of Bic in the St. Lawrence, off the town of Bic at the beginning of the Gaspé Peninsula.

4. Green, or Verte Island, off the mouth of the Saguenay river.

5. Cacouna, a town on the east shore of the St. Lawrence, approximately 120 miles northeast of Quebec.

LETTER OF AGENCY OF THE CAPTAIN AND OFFICERS OF H.M.S. *Glasgow* ¹

No 12. Know all Men by these Presents that we the Captain & Officers of His Majesty's Ship *Glasgow* have Constituted and appointed & in their stead and place put Alexander Brymer Merchant and Edward Bragg Gentleman at present of Halifax in Nova Sotia our lawfull Agents or Attorneys, jointly & severally for us & in our Names, to ask Claim Demand & recover all Prize Money Share or Shares of Prize Money which by any ways or means may become due to us & to take care of such prizes or seizures as we shall make & to prosecute the same in the Court or Courts of Vice Admiralty & generally to Do Act and Transact in all things respecting the Premisses as fully Amply & Effectually to all Intents & purposes as we might or could Do if personally present hereby ratifying allowing and Confirming all and whatsoever our said Agents or either of them may lawfully do or cause to be done in and about the premisses with full Power to make & Substitute jointly or severally one or more Attornies under our said Agents and the same again at Pleasure to revoke

In Witness wherof we have hereunto set our hands and Seals the 30th Day of April One thousand seven hundred & seventy six on board his Majestys Ship *Glasgow* in Halifax Harbour & in the sixteenth year of his Majestys Reign - 2

Signd Seal'd & Deliver'd in Presence of

Jno Nunn

Jn. Wyly

Tyring^m Howe

Ge Pulteney Lieut

W Robinson (Mastr)

his

John X Johnson (Boatswn)

mark

James Bignall (Gunnr)

J Pluckett Mr (Carpr)

James Cowan (Purser)

M Davies (Surgeon)

[Endorsed] Recd 3d Octr 1776

1. Register of Letters of Agency, 1776-1781, Vice Admiralty Records, N.S. Arch.
2. *Ibid.*, two other letters of agency were entered into the same day; the sloop *Tamar*, No. 5, and the ship *Scarborough*, No. 11. The texts were somewhat similar, and the attorneys appointed the same. For the *Tamar*, the signatories were Edward Thornbrough, captain, James Peyton, W. Langford and Wm. Carter. While not so designated in the agreement, Peyton was the first lieutenant, and Langford, master. For the *Scarborough*, the only signature was that of the captain, Andrew Barkley.

“ESTAMATE OF THE LOSS ON INCOME & THE TRADE OF CAPE ANN FROM
APRIL 1775 TO APRIL 1776”¹

80 Sail of fishing Schooners Worth 300 £ Now	
Worth 150 £ Each	£ 12000
Meterels for Cureing fish Lost Wholley	[6]000
Loss on the Income of 80 Sail fishing Vessels	
a 100 £ Each	8000
30 Sail Merchant men Worth 400 £ Each now	
Worth 200 £ Each	6000
Loss on the Trade of the Above Vesels 6 only } of Which have made One Voige }	
10 Vesels & Cargos Taken by the Enemy	
3 Large Boats taken by ditto	
11600 of superfine feet Wharf Useless	
48 Warehouses Useless	
130 of the Most Valueable Houses Shut up	
180 families partly Supported by the Town	
40 poor Wholly maintained by the Town	
233 Widows	
1059 Boys under Age No Employ	
2081 females	
Building fences &c damaged Eaquel to One Years Rent of the Same 300	
familys moved 4 miles out of Town at a Great Expence -	
Expence Building forts &c before Any Soldiers ware in pay	

The Town much Indebt & Obligd to hire Large Sums of money to Support the poor & Supply the famyls of those Gone in the Service of the State Not being able to Gether Taxes of Those who are Gone.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 351.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford*¹

April 1776 Cape Ann NNW $\frac{1}{2}$ W 4 Leagues
 Mondy 29 Saw a Sail in the SE Quarter Gave Chace Fir'd a Shot at the Chace & Brought her too sent an Officer onboard proved be an American Schooner Recd the Prisoners onbd at 8 Made Sail for Nantasket Road.
 Tuesday 30. Fresh Breezs & Clear Latter Mode & Cloudy, took the Prizes in Tow Tack'ed Occasionally at 12 Anchor'd in Nantasket Road with the Bt Bower in 5 fathms Veer'd to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable. Fresh Gales and Squally Middle Cloudy with rain Latter Mode & fair at 5 PM Weigh'd & came to Sail the Prize in Company² at 6 Saluted the Commodore with 13 Guns came to Anchor with the Bt Bower in 6 fathms Veer'd to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable found riding Here His Maj's Ships *Renown* Commodore [Francis] Banks and the *Hope* Tender

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

2. There is no further identification of this prize.

"ESTIMATE OF THE LOSS ON INCOME AND TRADE FOR THE TOWN OF SALEM"¹

[Salem, April 30]²

Estimate of the Loss of Our Trade In Our Merchandises & Fishery Since April 1775

50 Sale of Fishing Vessels in April 1775 } worth 300 £ Each Now worth 150 £ }	7500.00.00
Mat[er]ials for curing & Drying fish } Flakg &c for 50 Sale Vessels at } 50 Each Tottaly Destroyd }	2500.00.00
To the [total] Loss of the Fishing 1 Year } for 50 Sale at 100 £ Each }	5000.00.00
6 Sale Costing Vessells at $\frac{1}{2}$ Price	900.00.00
60 Sale of Shipping of which 10 Sale } only are Improved at 400 Each } and now Worth but 200 Each }	12000.00.00
Loss On Our Mark[e]tell Trade	
Rents of our Roall Grates Fell One third Part	
50 Houses & Parts of Do Ha[d] no improvements	
Our Stores & Warehouses [are so] going to Ruin & not Improv'd	

the Extraordinary Price for wood By Reason of our Harbors
being Blockt up By the Minsteriall Fleett

We were taxed for more than 100,000 £ trading Stock what
is our Stock now

Many Seamen are yearly lost in all Seaport Towns, their
places are supplied by strangers coming in, but that
Class of People left us when our troubles Come on and
left their wives & Children for us to support –

Half or thereabouts of our men are in the American Army,
and we are obliged to support Many of their families as
being Seamen chiefly are very improvident

The Town largely in Debt.

The Removall of 500 families into the Country & Back at 4 p 2000. .0. .0
Salem

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 349a.

2. An arbitrary date based upon the return for Cape Ann which was submitted at the end of
April, 1776.

BENJAMIN GREENLEAF TO JAMES WARREN ¹

Sr The Letter from which the Extract that accompanies this was taken, you
may consider, as wrote by Capt Willson who lately arrived from Bordeaux,
in a Vessell belonging to Newburyport, as he is a Gentleman of Reputation,
it may be worth communicating to you –

A Vessell I am told is also arrivd at Newburyport from Bilboa which
brings Intelligence nearly like this communicated by Capt Wilson – with
this Addition that 10,000 are destind to Quebec 10000 to New York and a
like number to assist Ld. Dunmore – about 7000 are left according to this
plan to be sent to Boston or wherever else they may be wanted [&c.]

B Greenleaf

Watertown April 30. 1776.

[Enclosure]

Extract of a Letter from a Master of a Vessell who lately arrived upon
this Continent from France, which he left about the middle of March –

Upon my Arrival here, I was extremely glad to hear of the
good Success of this Country against her unnatural Enemies, who
are collecting all the Force possible to make Head against us – The
Account at Bordeaux is that 20 thousand Hessians & Hanoverians
are at Embden ready to emark on board English Ships to join 12
thousand English & sail immediately for America – This however
you may depend upon, that about 40 sail of Transports sail'd from
Plymouth the 10th of March for America, with about five thousand
Soldiers on board (they had been some months before as far to the
Westward as Cape Finisterre, and all put back by Stress of Weath-
er, & dispersed in different ports – one run on Shore in Ireland and

the Capt & Almost all on board perished -) I suppose by this Time they are very near this Coast. -"

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

Watertown, April 30, 1776

The attention of the Court has been fixed on fortifying the harbour and town of Boston. We have in the beginning of the session chose a committee of both houses. All seem to be agreed in the importance of the measure, and to be very zealous in pursuing it. But if you was told how little is yet effected, you would certainly be astonished. The committee has from time to time represented to us that General [Artemas] Ward could spare no men to go on Noddle's Island, etc. We have therefore ordered one regiment of 728 men to be raised. This is not yet compleated, tho' we are about it, and some few have come in. We have some thoughts of another regiment to fortify below; but if you send us a spirited general to succeed General Ward upon his resignation, the troops here may do it without. I hope therefore you will send us one that is active, and will dare to go into his works when constructed, and fight upon occasion. I don't insist on his being a native of this Colony. Rhode Island or New Hampshire will suit me as well. Fort Hill is, however, at last got into a tolerable posture of defence, and the General has ordered some men to assist some we hire by the day at the Castle, and works are going on pretty well at Dorchester. No hulks as yet sunk: the people of Boston seem much against it; and whether it will be done or not I can't say.

. . . Some arrivals of powder and arms. A vessel belonging to Newbury is into Kennebeck with ten tons powder, ten tons sulphur, some cannon, etc. Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry's brigantine at Bilboa, was there five weeks ago, the powder landed and safe. Her business was betrayed by a villain who was second mate. She was stopped by the Consul, and the merchant intends shipping the powder on other bottoms. . . .

Since writing the inclosed I have received a confirmation of the vessels being in to Kennebeck, and inclose an extract of a letter from the Master to Mr. [Benjamin] Greenleaf, by which we may at least learn that they mean to exert all their power and malice this summer.² . . .

This minute we are advised that two ships have joined that one in Nantasket road; from them are re-landed a number of men on George's Island, who are fortifying it. From this I am convinced they have not taken their leave of Boston. We have not men enough left here, and we must have a good officer to command, or men will signify nothing.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 237-38.

2. Benjamin Greenleaf's letter of the same date to Adams.

LOSSES OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF SANDWICH ¹[Sandwich, April 30, 1776] ²

the Inhabitants of the Town of Sandwich have amongst Others Met with the following Losses Viz

the schooner <i>Elizebath</i> & Cargo	
Estimated at	600 . . 0 . . 0
Sloop <i>Sally</i> & Cargo	400 . . 0 . . 0
Several quantities of Oil taken coming from the West Indias	} 250 . . 0 . . 0

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 349b.

2. An arbitrary date based on the date of the Cape Ann return.

THOMAS COOKE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE FOR ABATING TAXES ¹[April 30, 1776] ²

Thomas Cooke Representative for the Town of Edgartown in the County of Dukes County on the Island, of Martha Vineyard, Humbly concedes that an abatement of Taxes ought to extendd to sd County for the Following reasons –

1st Because said County in the late Valuation was at a Considerable Sum in the rate for about One Thousand Tons of Shiping [Ten] employ'd in the Whale Fishery, and at this Time there is not one Vessell in any employ except one the Eastward for Lumber,

2. Because great Number of Pilots, that used to have Almost constant bu[s]iness in Piloting Vessells that frequented sd Island is abundance, is entirely lost,

3d Because diverse publick Houses in different Harbours of sd County purpose to entertain Ship Company &c, was profatable, in consequence [each] of their yearly income was set on sd County by the Assessor & enlarged their proportion of Taxes at the Valuation which at this time [is] useless

4thy The great expence the Inhabitants of sd County are at by reason of obtaining Supplies from the Main Land, which is Convey'd in small Cedar Boats, said Island being incapable to produce not more than one half of a Supply for it's inhabitants who are general [se]afairing Men, & poor. –

all which is Humbly Submitted

Tho^s Cooke

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 350.

2. An arbitrary date based on the date of the Cape Ann return.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND ¹

[Providence] Monday Evening 30th April 1776

Meeting in being According to Adjournment

Voted. That twelve Eighteen pounders be Made for the Large Ship and only Six Eighteen pounders for the Small Ship and the Quarter Deck

& forecassell Guns be six pounders and the Whole six, twelve & Eighteen pounders be all fifteen Diameters of the Ball

Voted. That Richard Marvin be appointed third Lieutenant of One of the Continental Ships Building here, he is assigned to the largest Ship –

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

CAPTAIN JOHN BOURROUGHS HOPKINS TO NATHANIEL SHAW JR.,
NEW LONDON ¹

Sir

Providence April 30th 1776

the Admiral has Gone to Newport on business Orderd me to Write you To put onboard the *Andrea Doria* Capt [Nicholas] Biddle Three months provisions and That you would hurry him In getting Ready as soon as possible

Mrs Hopkins and I Arrived Safe in three Days after Leaving New London our best Compliments on your Lady and you For the Kind Treatment which will Ever Lay me under the Greatest Obligations to you & Your's Should Be Extream Glad To wait on your lady and You at our Habitation –

my Hand is Some worse Than it was at New London, occationd by the Shaken it in the Chaise and horse Back[&c.]

J B Hopkins

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

CAPTAIN ABRAHAM WHIPPLE TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Honored Sir

Providence April 30th 1776

I have had the Honor to serve you in the last French War and to your satisfaction I thought, and since my Arrival at Philadelphia was appointed by the Congress to the Command of the Ship *Columbus*. I have strictly Obeyed your Commands and have done all in my Power for the Honor of the Fleet to the best of my Knowledge according to your Orders. The Night that we fell in with the *Glasgow* Man of War, two of my Lieutenants was on Board of the two Prizes and fourteen of the best Seamen, when we was running down on the Ship getting in order to Engage and Quartering the Men in the places of the others that was out, the *Glasgow* suddenly hauling to the Northward brought me to the Southward of her and brought her right into your and Capta [John B.] Hopkins Wake, I hauled up for her and made all Sail with my three Top Gallant Sails, then Captain Hopkins beginning the Fire and the *Glasgow* returning the same and my being in her Wake and as far to Leeward as she it Instantly kill'd all the Wind which put it out of my Power to get up with her I strove all in my Power but in vain, before that I had got close enough for a Close Engagement the *Glasgow* had made all Sail for the Harbour of Newport I continued Chace under all Sail that I had except Steering Sails and the Wind being before the Beam she firing her two Stern Chaces into me as fast as possible and my keeping up a Fire with my Bow Gune and now and then a Broadside put it out of

my Power to get near enough to have a close Engagement. I continued this Chace while you thought proper to hoist a Signal to return into the Fleet I accordingly Obeyed the Signal and at our Arrival at New London I found that the report was from the *Alfred* and the *Cabot* that I was a Coward and many other ill natured things which I say was a false report, if I did not do my Duty it was not out of Cowardice but for want of Judgment, I say all the People at New London look on me with Contempt, and here like a Man not serving the Country in my Station. Therefore I having a Family of Children to be rebraided with the mark of Cowardice and my own Character now Scandalized thro' the whole Thirteen United Colonies, It is a thing I cannot bear and if I am a Coward I have no Business in the service of this Country. Therefore I desire that there may be, by my own Request a Court Martial be called on me, and Tried by my Brother Officers of the Fleet and either acquitted with Honor or Broke for I want no favour, then if I am Broke the Publick will have a right to despise me and reflect on me and my Family, If I have no satisfaction that way I will return you my Commission and thank the Congress for the Service and Curse them that made the false Report, I have never opened my Mouth to any Body concerning the matter, If your Honor had let me come to Newport when the *Scarborough* Man of War lay there as I desired I would have convinced the World that I was not a Coward but now it is out of my Power.

Your Humble Servant at Command
Abraham Whipple

N.B. Sir, you must observe it was in the night when we bore down upon the *Glasgow* and could not see as if it had been day light when she altered her course.

A. Whipple²

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.
2. Edward Field, whose *Esek Hopkins* was published in 1898, visited the Rhode Island Historical Society on December 16, 1897, and added the "N.B." to the above letter, with the following comment: "This has been cut out by some disreputable person, who never should have been permitted to enter the Society's rooms, since I made a copy of this paper in the Spring of 1897."

ARRANGEMENT OF COMMISSIONED AND WARRANT OFFICERS
IN THE AMERICAN FLEET¹

[Providence, April 30, 1776]²

Officers onboard the <i>Alfred</i>		Officers onboard the <i>A. Doria</i>	
Benjn Seaburry	Lieutenant	James Josiah	1st Lieutt
Jonath. Pitcher	ditto	Elijah Warner	2nd ditto
Jonathn Maltbie	ditto	John McDougall	3rd ditto
John Earle	Master	Benjamin Dunn	Master
Thomas Vaughan	1st Mate	Willm Moran	1st Mate
Philip Alexander	3rd ditto	John Dent	2nd ditto
Walter Spooner	Midshipman	John Margeson	3rd ditto
Robert Saunders	ditto	Willm Reynolds	Midshipman



Lieutenant James Josiah, Continental Navy.

Charles Buckley	ditto	Wm Lamb	ditto
Rufus Jenckes	ditto	Dennis Leary	ditto
George House	ditto	Even Bevan	ditto
Esek Hopkins Jr	ditto	Alex. McKenzie	Gunner
Francis Varrel	Boatswain	Willm Darby	Boatswain
Joseph Harrison	Surgeon		<i>Providence</i>
James Thomas	Gunner	Willm Grinnel	Lieutenant
On board the <i>Cabot</i>		John Rathburn	ditto
Elisha Hinman	1st Lieutt	Wm Hopkins	Master
Thoms Weaver	2nd ditto	Sam. Brownel	actg ditto
John Welch	Capt. Marines	John Margeson	1st Mate
John Kerr	Lieut ditto	Joseph Brown	2nd ditto
John Sword	Midshipman	John McNeal	3rd ditto
Ephraim Goldsmith	do	Joseph Hardy	Midshipman
Abel Frisbie	ditto		<i>Columbus</i>
Peter Richards	ditto	Joseph Olney	2nd Lieutt
David Roberts	Gunner	Ezekiel Burroughs	3rd ditto
Richd Potter	Boatswn	Joshua Fanning	Master
Richd Fordham	Carpenter	Daniel Beears	Midshipman
		[John] Rogers	Mate

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. The date is estimated, based upon a comparison with existing muster rolls. For example, Benjamin Seabury is shown as Lieutenant on board the *Alfred*, but in that ship's muster roll he is entered as "Run May 1st, 1776." Similarly, William Grinnell is listed as a lieutenant in the sloop *Providence*, and the *Providence* muster roll shows he entered her from the *Columbus* on April 15, 1776. On that same muster roll, Henry Tillinghast is listed as surgeon, transferred from the *Alfred*, May 12, 1776, but Tillinghast is not on the above list for the *Providence*. Thus, it narrows down to a list prepared after April 15 and before May 1, 1776. It is a safe assumption that this arrangement of officers went to Congress, or rather the Marine Committee, with Hopkins' letter of May 1, 1776.

LETTER OF AGENCY OF THE OFFICERS AND CREW OF H.M.S. CERBERUS¹

No 26 Know all Men by these Presents, and we who have hereunto set our hand and Seals, being the Captain or Commander, Officers & Seamen, and others or Major Part of them, now or late belonging to his Majestys Ship *Cerberus*, have Constituted Authoriz'd & Appointed, and do Thereby authorize Constitute & appoint Mr Alexander Thompson of Halifax Nova Scotia, to be our lawfull Attorney and Agent for us & in our Names, & to our use and uses, to Sollicit Transact, & take care of all our Concern & Interest in all such Prize or Prizes, Capture or Captures, Recaptures & Seizures, whatsoever, which shall or may at any time, or times, hereafter be taken, re-taken, or made by his Majestys said Ship the *Cerberus*, or by any other of his Majestys Ships, Frigates or Vessels to which we shall be intituled by any means whatsoever, And in all head money, & other money, arising from such Capture, & Interest, Giving & hereby Granting, to our said Attorney & Agent our full Power, & Authority in the Premisses, for Inventorying, appraising, Condemning & Selling, the said Prize, or, Prizes Capture or Captures Recap-

tures, & Seizures, their every & each of their Cargo Tackle Apparell Guns & Furniture, and for Receiveing the Money ariseing thereon, and also the Head Money, Bounty money, Salvage Money or any other Money, to which we shall be intituled as aforesaid, And afterwards to make a Distribution of the Neat produce to us or to Persons having lawfull Authority from us, in the manner that now is, or which we hereafter shall be appointed, by proper authority, allowing the said Alexander Thompson first to deduct & retain to himself, for Care, pains & Trouble, at the rate of five Pounds Pr Centum out of the Neat produce of all such Moneys as he shall receive for and on Account of the said Prize or Prizes, Capture or Captures, Recaptures or Seizures, & on all head Money, Bounty money, or Bills made out for the same, or other Money whatsoever, And also allowing the said Alexander Thompson, to retain all the Costs Charges & Reasonable Expences, which he shall or may be at in Prosecuting & Compleating our said Interests, Concerns & Titles, & giving & hereby Granting, to our said Attorney & Agent our full Power & Authority for Recovering, Obtaining, Compounding, & discharging the same, & generally to do and Act for us, & for our use & Safety, as fully & Effectually to all intents & Purposes whatsoever, as we ourselves might or could do Collectively or Separately, being personally present, Acquittances, Releases & other Discharges to make & Grant & one Attorney or Agent or more, under them to make and Substitute & at Pleasure to revoke, Ratifying & Confirming all and whatsoever our said Attorney & Agent or his Substitutes shall lawfully do or cause to be done in and about the Premisses, by Virtue of these Presents, In Witness whereof We have hereunto set our hands and Seals on Board his Majestys Ship the *Cerberus* at Sea the thirtieth day of April in the Year of our Lord one Thousand seven hundred & seventy Six, & in the Sixteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France & Ireland, King Defender of the Faith and so forth –

Sign'd, Seal'd & deliver'd at	}	Jn ^o Symons
Sea ² where no Stamp paper		Tho ^s Forrest
is to be had in the Presence of		And ^w Christie

[and signed also by 114 warrant and petty officers, seamen, marines]
[Endorsed] 1st May 1777 Received and Registered –

1. Register of Letters of Agency, 1776–1781, Vice Admiralty Records, N.S. Arch.
2. On the day this document was executed, the *Cerberus*, according to the captain's journal, was six leagues southeast of Block Island, PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

Sir

New York April 30. 1776

I mean thro you Sir to do myself the Honor of laying before Congress, a Copy of an Address transmitted them some time agoe by the Assembly of Rhode Island, which Governor Cooke favoured me with in the month of January, at the same time requesting me to Interest myself in procuring a body of forces on the Continental establishment for the defence of that

Colony. I doubt not but the Address & Subject of It, have had the Attention and consideration of Congress before now, but If they have not decided upon the matter, I wou'd beg Leave to mention that I have made enquiry into the situation & condition of the Colony and find It to be, as Stated in the address, and with all deference to the opinion of Congress, conceive It highly necessary and expedient that they shou'd adopt some measures for relieving their distress and granting the aid prayed for. The importance of It in the Chain of union, Its extensive Sea Coast, affording Harbours for our Shipping & Vessels, at the same time exposing & subjecting the Inhabitants to the ravages & depredations of our Enemies, the zeal & attachment which It has shewn & which still actuates It toward the Common cause, the incapacity to pay a sufficient number of men for Its defence, shou'd they be able to furnish 'em after so many engaged in other Services, these and many other reasons, which are too obvious to be mentioned, plead powerfully for the notice and attention of Congress & seem to me to Claim their Support. Having thus stated the matter to Congress for their consideration agreeable to my promise to Governor Cooke when I had the honor of seeing him in my way here, I shall leave It with them, not doubting but they will duly weigh Its importance & give such assistance as they may think reasonable & Just; what they chiefly wish for is, that the Troops they have raised may [be] taken into Continental pay & Commanding Offi[cers] to be appointed by Congress. I have the honor to be [&c.]

G^o Washington

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 631-32, NA.

MALACHY TREES TO, PETER T. CURTENIUS ¹

Sir

New York. April 30th 1776

please let the Bearer [John James Boyd] Surgeon of the Privateer Sloop *Genl. Putnam*, have 1b 2. Lint. & 3 old Sheets and some tow if he wants it Yours's

Malachy Trees

[Endorsed] Reced of Mr Peter T. Curtenius 2 lb Lint and 3 Sheets
April 30 - 1776

Jno James Boyd Surgeon of the *Putnam*

1. Record Group 45, NA.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF MILES PENNINGTON, CAPTAIN OF
MARINES ON BOARD THE CONTINENTAL SHIP *Reprisal* ¹

I. Miles Pennington considering the uncertainty of this Transitory Life do make and declare these presents to contain my last Will & Testament - That is to Say I give and bequeath unto my loving Wife Catharine Pennington all my wages & prize money, which shall be due me from said Ship ² or any other Vessel and all the rest of my Estate real & personal wherewith at the time of my Decease I shall be possessed or Invested or which shall belong or of right Appertain unto me I do give devise & Be-

queath unto my Dear & loving wife Catharine Pennington Aforesaid And I do hereby nominate & appoint my loving wife Catharine Pennington to be Sole Executrix of this my last Will & Testament hereby revoking all former Wills & Testaments by me made and do declare this to be my last Will. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal this Thirtieth day of April One Thousand Seven hundred & Seventy Six

Miles Pennington Seal

Signed Sealed and delivered in the Presence of Wm Woodhouse, John Ord jun John Elliott –

1. Will No. 92 (recorded in 1778), Register of Wills Office, Philadelphia.
2. The Continental ship *Reprisal*, Lambert Wickes, commander.

CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE BRITISH TENDER *Edward*¹

Admiralty Case No. 1.

Port of Philadelphia }
 in the Province of }
 Pennsylvania, ss } On the thirteenth Day of April in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy six Before the honorable George Ross Esquire Judge of the Court of Admiralty lately instituted in the Province of Pennsylvania by the General Assembly thereof pursuant to the Recommendation of the honorable Continental Congress came George Campbell Esquire Proctor for the Libellants and exhibited to the said Judge the Bill of John Barry Esquire Commander of the Brigantine of War called the *Lexington* who as well for himself and for the Officers Marines and Seamen belonging to the said Brigantine as for the thirteen united Colonies of North America in this Behalf prosecuteth against the armed Vessel Sloop or Tender called the *Edward* with her Guns Tackle Furniture and Apparel and prayed that the same might be read and filed and it is read in the Words following that is to say –

To the honorable George Ross Esquire Judge of the Court erected by the honorable the House of Representatives of the Province of Pennsylvania to take Cognizance of and try the Justice of Captures of Vessels made in pursuance of the Resolves of the honorable Continental Congress and brought into the Port of Philadelphia – The Bill of John Barry Commander of the Brigantine of War called the *Lexington* in the Service of the thirteen united Colonies of North America fitted out for the Defence of American Liberty and for repelling every hostile Invasion thereof who as well for himself and for the Officers Marines and Seamen belonging to the said Brigantine as for the united Colonies aforesaid in this Behalf prosecuteth in all humble manner sheweth That the said Brigantine was equipped victualled fitted out and armed at the Continental Charge and the said John Barry duly commissioned authorized and licensed by the Delegates of the united Colonies aforesaid in Congress assembled to command the said Brigantine and set her forth as a Vessel of War in the Service aforesaid And being so commissioned authorized and licensed he the said John Barry with his Officers Marines and Seamen on board the said Brigantine sailing on the high Seas be-

tween the first Day of April in this present Year and the Day of exhibiting this Bill within the Jurisdiction of this Court did discover pursue apprehend and as lawful Prize take the armed Vessel Sloop or Tender called the *Edward* commanded by Richard Boger Esquire Burthen about fifty Tons mounting six carriage Guns together with her Tackle Apparel and Furniture the Property of his Majesty the King of Great Britain &c: and before and at the Time of the Capture thereof employed in the present cruel and unjust War against the united Colonies aforesaid Wherefore the said John Barry prays this honorable Court that the said armed Vessel Sloop or Tender with her Guns Tackle Apparel and Furniture may be adjudged and condemned as forfeited to the Use of the Captors thereof and the united Colonies aforesaid according to the Resolutions of the honorable the Continental Congress and the Votes and Resolves of the honorable the Representatives aforesaid in such Cases and for such purposes lately made and provided –

And Whereupon his honor the Judge on the Prayer of the said George Campbell Esqr. did issue his Warrant commanding the Marshall of the Court that he should summon twelve honest and lawful Men of the County of Philadelphia so that they should be and appear before the said Judge on the thirtieth Day of April aforesd. at the Court House in the City of Philadelphia at a Court then and there to be held upon their respective Oath or solemn Affirmation to try the Truth of the Facts alledged in the aforesaid Bill And did direct and order the Registrar of the said Court to give publick Notice of the Time Place and Cause of holding the said Court according to the Resolves of the honorable House of Representatives of this Province in such Cases made and provided which was accordingly done by inserting in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post* and *Pen[n]sylvania Packet* two of the publick News-papers printed at Philadelphia the following Advertizement Vizt.: –

Port of Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania ss. To all whom it may concern Notice is hereby given That the Court for taking Cognizance of and trying the Justice of the captures of Vessels made in pursuance of the Resolves of the honorable the Continental Congress and brought into this port of Philadelphia will be held at the Court House in the City of Philadelphia on Tuesday the thirtieth Day of April Instant at ten o'Clock in the Forenoon then and there to try the Truth of the Facts alledged in the Bill of John Barry Esquire Commander of the Brigantine of War called the *Lexington* (who as well &c:) against the armed Vessel Sloop or Tender called the *Edward* Burthen about fifty Tons and lately commanded by Richard Boger Esquire. – To the End and Intent that the Owner of the said Vessel called the *Edward* or any person concerned therein may appear and shew Cause if any they have why the said Vessel with her Appurtenances should not be condemned according to the Prayer of the said Bill – Signed, By Order of the Judge – Andrew Robeson Reqr. April 13, 1776. –

And now to wit the thirtieth Day of April aforesaid at a Court held at the Court House in the City of Philadelphia before his Honor the Judge

pursuant to the said publick Notification cometh the Marshall of the said Court namely Mathew Clarkson Esqr. and maketh Return to the Warrants aforesaid in manner following to wit I do hereby certify that by the Virtue of the within Writ to me directed I have summoned the Jury in the Pannel hereunto annexed named to appear at the Day and Place within specified as therein I am commanded so [to] answer – Mathew Clarkson Marshall – And the Jurors in the Pannel to the said Writ or Warrant annexed named being severally called William Rush Benjamin Candy Jacob Bright David Chambers Joseph Blewer John Purviance William Will John Williams Samuel Massey Edward Pole Samuel Cadwallader Morris and William Calleday being the first twelve appearing were severally and respectively sworn and affirmed to try the Truth of the Facts alleged in the Bill aforesaid and to give a true Verdict thereon according to their Evidence.

And thereupon Proclamation was publickly made by Order of his Honor the Judge that if any person had aught to say why the Sloop *Edward* with her Guns Tackle Furniture and Apparel should not be condemned according to the prayer of the said Bill that they should come forth and be heard And thereupon the Advocate for the Libellant with Leave of his Honor the Judge offered in Evidence to the Jurors aforesd. the following Exhibits Vizt. the Part of the said Libellant which were read and are in the Words and Figures following Vizt. –

I do hereby certify that John Barry was duly commissioned and appointed to command the Brigantine of War called the *Lexington* and that the said Brigantine was fitted out at the Continental Charge and is employed in the Service of the United Colonies of North America
Witness my Hand April 30th. 1776 – Signed – John Hancock Presidt. –

Inventory of the Sloop *Edward* with her Guns Tackle Furniture and Apparel and the Cargo of the said Sloop – Anno 1776 The Sloop *Edward* with standing and running Rigging, one bower Anchor about 700lb Weight, 1 Kadge Do. about 120lb Weight, 3 bower Cables and part of another, 1 Mainsail, 2 fore-Sails, 2 Jibbs, 1 flying Jibb, 2 Square Sails, 2 Top Sails 1 old Square Sail 1 old Topgallant Sail 1 Topgalln. Sail half wore, a Remnant of old Canvas, 6 Carriage Guns three Pounders, 2 Swivels, 1 Boat with four Oars, 1 broken Musket 69 three pound Shot, 8 double headed Do. 1 Box with partridge Shot, a few Swivel and Grape Shot 1 fire Grappling, about three barrels of Powder twelve Cartridge Boxes with Musket Shot, 10 Powder Horns, 2 Wood Cartridge Boxes, 2 Gunners Hand Spikes, 6 Ship Do. 2 Iron Crows, 24 Water Casks 15 Hammocks, 10 empty Hammocks 2 Water Funnels, 2 Water Pumps, 2 pump Bolts, 2 Iron Rings, 3 Ensigns, 2 Jacks and two Pendants, 2 wooden and 1 brass Compass, 1 Speaking Trumpet 1 Hour two half Hour and 1 quarter minute Glass 3 hour Lanthorns, one large scrubbing Brush, 6 Scrapers, 1 Straw of Gimblets, 3 corking Irons 1 caulking Mallet, 1 Grindstone, 6 Hammers, 1 Iron Do. 1 Larthing Do. 1 Iron Maul, 1 Carpenter's and 1 Cooper's Adzes, 6 Axes and 1 Hatchet, 1 large Augre and 1 Tap-Borer, 2 Handsaws and 1 Chizells, 2 Hand Leads & 4 Lines 2 pr. Cann Hooks 2 Serving Mallets & 2 Marline Spikes, 2 Harpoons &

2 pr. Grains, 1 pr. Bellows & 1 Center Bitt, a parcel of spare Blocks, spare Hooks and Thimbles 9 Iron Potts, frying Pans, 4 Iron Tea Kettles a Copper Do. a piece of Copper, 2 Iron Skillets 2 Dutch Ovens, 1 Iron Spade 2 Iron Hoes, 1 Copper Stove, 1 pr. Tongs, 2 Fire Shovels 1 pr. Cast Fire Irons 1 Barrl. Tallow 2 B.Bs. of Flour 5 half Barrs. of Do. part of a Barrel of Do. 3 Barrs. of Salt, 2 Casks of brown Sugar 1 Cask of Raisins, 3 Casks of Rum 2 empty Casks 2 Boxes of Candles 1 Do. of Soap not full, Part of a Box of Candles 1 Cask of sheathing Nails & half a Tub with Small Nails one Cask of Oat Meal 1 Do. of Pease 1 Oligo [?] Cask of Pork 1 Do. of Beef 1 Harness Tub with Beef & Pork 4 Bags of Bread 1 Do. Pease 1 Cask of Fish a few Cod Fish 1 Table 6 Rush bottomed Chairs 8 Doz. & 2 quart flask Bottles 14 half Gall: Do. 1 empty arm Chest 1 Arm chest with Books & other things therein 6 sorted Pewter Dishes 13 Pewter Dishes with assorted Cyphers 21 White delph Plates 11 Soup Do., 10 Pictures 1 Canvas Bag with Womens & Childrens Cloaths &c: 12 Reams of Paper 2 new & 2 old Saddles 1 Basket with Sundries 1 Bundle old canvas 1 Iron Cambouse with two potts a Saine Lines 2 draw Buckets, about 15lb of Match 1 Pocket Pistol –

Interrogatories to be administered to the Witness to be produced Sworn and examined on the part of John Barry Commander of the armed Brigantine called the *Lexington* on behalf of himself &c: against the Sloop called the *Edward* with her Guns Tackle and Apparel and the Cargo of the said Sloop

Interrs. 1st. Do you know the Sloop called the *Edward* now riding at anchor in the Port of Philadelphia? Did you ever sail in the said Sloop? Were you in any Office or Employment on board the said Sloop and what was that Office or Employment? Was the said Sloop at any time when you was on board her taken as prize by any Privateer Brigantine Ship or Vessel? About what time and where was such capture made? Who was then the Commander of the said Brigantine called the *Lexington*? And of what Kingdom State or Continent was he then an Inhabitant? Declare the Truth herein fully and at large.

Interrs. 2nd. What was the last port or place that the said Sloop called the *Edward* sailed from next before the Time of her Capture aforesaid and whither was she bound at the Time? Who were the Owners or Owner of the said Sloop called the *Edward* at the Time of her Capture? Was she equip'd for War? By whom was she equip'd and how? In what Service was she employed? Who commanded her and what were the Orders of the said Commander? Was the said Sloop at the Time of her Capture afsd. laden with any and what Goods Wares and Merchandizes? What person or persons was or were the Owner or Owners of the said Goods Wares and Merchandizes on board the said Sloop at the Time of her said Capture? Tell the Truth of your Knowledge and Belief herein fully and at large with the Reasons of your Belief. –

Interrs. 3rd. Were any papers or Writing thrown overboard or destroyed by the Captain or Commander of the said Sloop or by his Order or

Command at or after the Capture a/sd. or by any other person and what were the Contents or purport of such Papers or Writings?

Interr. 4th. Do you know any other Matter or Thing or have you heard or can you say any thing touching the Matter in Question that may tend to the Benefit and Advantage of the Libellants in this Cause besides what you have been particularly interrogated to? Declare the same fully and at large as if you had been thereunto particularly interrogated –

Richard Boger Esqr. produced and examined on the part of the Libellant in this Cause declareth confesseth and saith to the first Interrogatory That he doth know the said Sloop *Edward* and did sail in her as Commander thereof that the said Vessel was taken at Sea on the sixth or seventh Day of April inst: by the said John Barry Commander of the Brigantine *Lexington* which he is informed and believes belongeth to the port of Philadelphia and was fitted out by Congress –

To the second Interrogatory That the said Sloop sailed last from Norfolk in Virginia on a Cruise and doth belong to the King of Great Britain &c: That she was equip'd for War by the Orders of Lord Dunmore and the Captain of the *Liverpool* Frigate and employ'd in the Service of the Crown and commanded by him the said Richard Boger that his Orders were to intercept and carry into Virginia any Vessels going to and from the Continent of America That the several Stores and Articles mentioned in the Inventory exhibited by the Libellant in this Cause were on board the said Vessel at the Time of her Capture that a part of the said Stores and Articles were at the Time of the said Capture the property of the Crown a part belonged to himself and a part belonged to the Crew of the said Sloop That the Boat and Oars mentioned in the said Inventory were taken with a Sloop or Vessel called the *Philadelphia Packet* and at the Time of the Capture thereof was as he believes the property of one Wentz That there were four Negroes on board the said Sloop at the Time of her Capture that one of them called Pompey White he hath heard and believes is free That the other three he believes are Slaves and one of them named James he has been told belongeth to one Mr. Anderson of Hampton that as to the other two knoweth not to whom they belong – The above Declaration made April 29, 1776 – before me – signed – Geo: Ross –

John Draper being produced and examined on the Part of the Libellant in this Cause declareth confesseth and saith to the first Interrogatory That he doth know the Sloop called the *Edward* abovementioned and did Sail in her as an Assistant Officer That the said Sloop was taken at Sea by the Brigantine called the *Lexington* commanded by John Barry about the sixth Day of April Inst: The said Brigantine he has been informed was fitted out of the Port of Philadelphia by Order of the Congress and believeth the same to be true

To the second Interrogatory that the said Sloop sailed last from the port of Norfolk in Virginia on a Cruise and was at the Time of her Capture the property of the King of Great Britain &c: that she was equipped and fitted for War by the Orders of the Captain of the *Liverpool* Frigate as he has

been informed and Commanded by Richard Boger That he believes the Goods mentioned in the Inventory filed by the Libellant in this Cause were in the said Sloop at the Time of her Capture that a part of thereof was the property of the King a part the property of the Crew of the said Sloop and a part thereof was taken with Vessels taken by the said Sloop from Individuals to him unknown and farther saith not – Declared before me April 29, 1776 – (Signed) Geo: Ross –

Robert Hoskins being produced sworn and examined on the part of the Libellant to the first Interrogatory deposeth and saith That he doth know the Sloop *Edward* above mentioned and did sail in her as a Mariner thereof That the said Sloop was taken a prize by the Brigantine *Lexington* commanded by John Barry at Sea on the sixth Day of April Instant –

To the second Interrogatory That the said Sloop sailed last from Norfolk in Virginia and was bound to convoy a packet that she was commanded by Richard Boger fitted out for War as a Tender and mounted with six Carriage Guns and employed in his Majesty's Service by the *Liverpool* Frigate That there were no Goods on board to his Knowledge except Ammunition and Clothing –

To the third That he knows of no Writings having been thrown overboard –

To the fourth that the said Sloop had taken several Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants of this Continent which were sent to Norfolk in Virginia and some of them he hath heard have been condemned That their general Business was to look out for and take as prizes Vessels belonging to the Americans and send them to Norfolk aforesaid That the said Sloop gave Chace to the said Brigantine intending to make prize of her and as soon as they discovered her to be a Vessel of War they prepared for and engaged her –

Being examined on the part of Thomas Wirt a Claimant of some of the Articles mentioned in the Inventory filed in this Cause he deposeth and saith that the *Moses* Boat mentioned in the said Inventory was taken with the *Philadelphia Packet* commanded by the said Thomas Wirt and further saith not Sworn and examined in open Court April 30th. 1776 – signed –
Andrew Robeson Regr.

James Spence and Thomas Philips two of the Crew late of the said Sloop *Edward* being duly sworn in open Court did depose and say that the Facts set forth in the above Deposition are true according to the best of their knowledge and Belief – signed – A Robeson Regr. –

And now the aforesaid Thomas Wirts a Claimant of some of the Articles mentioned in the Inventory came and prayed his Honor the Judge that the Claim by him filed in this Cause might be read unto the Jury aforesaid and that he the said Thomas Wirts might be admitted to swear the Truth and Justness of the said Claim and read accordingly in the Words and Figures following Vizt. List of Sundries claim'd by Thomas Wirt they having

been taken on board his Sloop called the *Philadelphia Packet* when she was taken by the Sloop *Edward* Richard Boger Commander in Chesapeake Bay in Feby. last Vizt.

1 Moses Boat – Belongs to Thomas Wirt

5 Oars belonging to Ditto – Do.

2 large Oars or Sweeps – Belong to Do.

1 Jack 1 Ensign 1 Pendant – Do.

1 Copper Tea Kettle – Do.

1 Boat Hook – Do.

4 Reams of Wrapping Paper – Belongs to Charles Gath & Henry Sherpat of Baltimore

6 Reams Writing Paper & some lose Quires. Belong to John McKinnon in Baltimore

4 or 5 Dz of Green Glass Bottles – Belong to Baltzen Gull Hagar's Town Philada. 29th. April 1776 (signed) Thomas Wirt

And thereupon the said Thomas Wirts being duly sworn and examined in open Court did depose and say that the Paper and Glass Bottles in the said Claim mentioned were the property of and shipped on board the frieght Boat called the *Philadelphia Packet* whereof he was Master for the persons whose Names are written opposite to the said Articles in the said Claim and that the residue of the Articles in the said Claim were his own Property at the Time the said Packet was taken by the Sloop *Edward* aforesaid

And now the Jurors aforesaid having heard all Proofs and Exhibits aforesaid upon their Oaths and Affirmations aforesaid do say that they find the Facts set forth in the said Bill are true (except as to the Articles in the Claim of the said Thomas Wertz mentioned which several Articles were the property of the persons whose Names are mentioned in the said Claim at the Time they were taken as prize from the *Philadelphia Packet* aforesaid)

And thereupon His Honor the Judge did pronounce and publish his definitive Decree and Sentence in the Words following to wit It appearing to me by the Verdict of the Jury inpannelled sworn and affirmed in this cause upon the Evidence produced to them that the armed Sloop or Vessel called the *Edward* mentioned in the Bill with her Guns Tackle Furniture and Apparel being the property of his Majesty the King of Great Britain was before and at the Time of her Capture by John Barry Commander of the Brigantine of War called the *Lexington* employed in the present cruel and unjust War against the United Colonies of North America And that part of the Goods and Articles found on board the said Sloop to wit one Moses Boat five Oars two large Sweeps one Jack one Ensign one Pendant one Copper Tea Kettle one Boat Hook four Reams of Wrapping paper six Reams of Writing paper and some loose Quires and five dozen Glass Bottles in the claim of Thomas Wirts exhibited in this Cause mentioned were at the Time of the Capture thereof the property of the said Thomas Wirts and others Inhabitants of the said Colonies in the said Claims named and mentioned from who they had been unjustly taken and detained by Richard Bo-

ger Commander of the said Sloop or Vessel called the *Edward* with her Guns Tackle Furniture and Apparel together with the Goods Wares – Merchandizes and Articles found on board her as aforesaid (except only those in the Claim aforesaid mentioned) be condemned as lawful Prize And I do order the Marshall of this Court to sell the same at publick Vendue And after deducting a proportionable part of the Costs and Charges of this Tryal and Condemnation out of the Monies arising from the said Sale to pay the Residue thereof unto the said John Barry his Agent or Attorney One Moiety thereof for the Use of himself and his Officers and Crew of the said Brigantine *Lexington* the other Moiety thereof for the Use of the said United Colonies And as to the Goods and Articles mentioned in the said Claim I do hereby adjudge and decree the same to be delivered to the said claimant for the Use of himself and the respective Owners thereof he or they first paying their respective proportionable parts (according to the true Value of the said Articles) of the Costs and Charges of this Tryal and Condemnation And one half part of the Residue of the true Value thereof to the said Marshall which said half part of the Residue of the true Value of the said Goods and Articles mentioned in the said Claims I do order the said Marshall to pay to the said John Barry his Officers and Crew and the other Moiety for the Use of the united Colonies aforesaid But in Case of Non payment of the half of such Value Then I order the said Marshall to sell the same and after deducting proportionable Costs as aforesaid to pay one Moeity of the Residue of the Amount of Sales to the said Claimant and the other Moiety thereof to the Captors aforesaid for the Uses aforesaid

And I do hereby order the said Marshall to pay all the Costs and Charges of the Tryal Condemnation and Sale into the Hands of Michael Hillegas Treasurer of this Province according to the Resolves of the honorable the Continental Congress and of the honorable the House of Representatives of this Province –

April 30th. 1776 – (Signed) Geo: Ross –

1. Docket of the Court of Admiralty of Pennsylvania, U.S. Custom Office, Philadelphia. The docket is but fragmentary. It is bound in with other papers and covers only the first eight cases tried before the Court.

JOHN NIXON TO COMMODORE ANDREW CALDWELL ¹

[Philadelphia] In Committee of Safety, April 30, 1776.

Sir: The Committee of Safety, understanding that you have Returned with the armed Boats, have directed Mr. James Mease & Mr. Saml Morris, to Enquire into the Cause. Should those Gentlemen be satisfied that the Fleet should go down again, you are to proceed back untill you are *fully* convinced that the *Roebuck* has got off. If any thing of Consequence should turn up, give us the Earliest Notice of it. I am [&c.]

By order of Committee,

John Nixon, Chairman.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 738.

PERMITS FOR VESSELS SAILING FROM THE PORT OF PHILADELPHIA
ON ACCOUNT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

In Committee of Safety.
Philada 30th April 1776

Permit the Ship *Union* Capt [Sampson] Harvey, Loaded on account of Congress, to pass the Chevaux de Frize, and to go down the River & Bay of Delaware with a pilot.

By order of the Committee ²

To The Commander of the Fleet
Fort Island

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.
2. Identical permits were issued the same day for the ship *Hope*, Captain George Curwin; the ship *Sally*, Captain John Osman, and the sloop *Fanny*, Captain Briton.

"COPY OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED APRIL 30, 1776" ¹

Sir, Since my last we learn that the two privateers were chased by the *Roebuck*, who returned on Wednesday [April 24] with John Baldwin's pilot-boat and a brig without a head, black sides and white drifts, which brig is since sent to Virginia. On Saturday last Capt. [John] Hun[n], from St. Eustatia, in Mr. Dawson's pilot-boat, was pursued and taken by the *Roebuck's* boats. Captain Hun and people made their escape in the skiff, it being stark calm ² while the boats were chasing them in the Cape-May channel, the *Roebuck* stood up the ship channel, and luckily run on shore on the lower part of the Brandy Wine, about five or six o'clock, it being high-water, and from the best accounts we have she lay there on Sunday morning about 10 o'clock. Eight of our gallies set off to go down on Monday 12 o'clock, and the provincial ship, yesterday: The *Reprisal* of 14 11-pounders, and continental brig of 16 6 pounders, go this day, and we have hopes that some of them will lend a hand to get her off, and bring her here to be repaired.

P.S. We have just heard that the gallies have returned to the fort, so that I fear they have heard that the ship is got off.

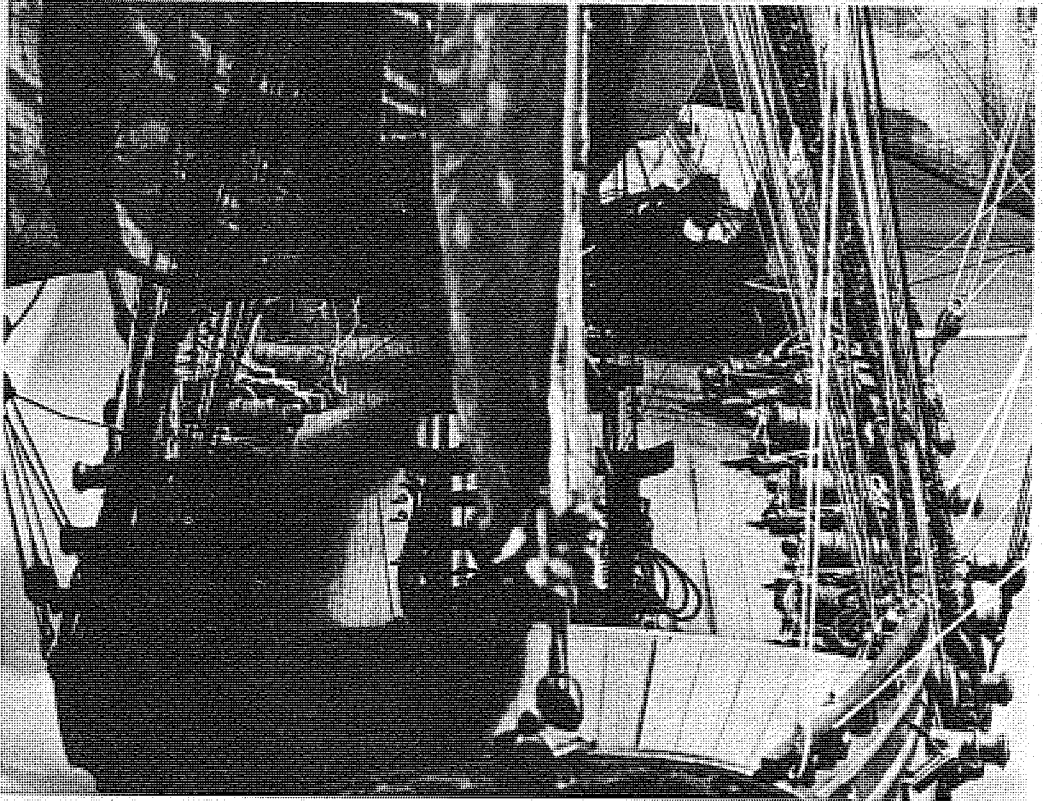
1. *Connecticut Courant*, May 6, 1776.
2. The brig without a head was probably the *Cazia*, from Cape François for Philadelphia with molasses and coffee. Captain Hunn's vessel was the *Ranger*, from St. Eustatius for Philadelphia with bale goods & arms. Both are reported on Howe's prize list, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

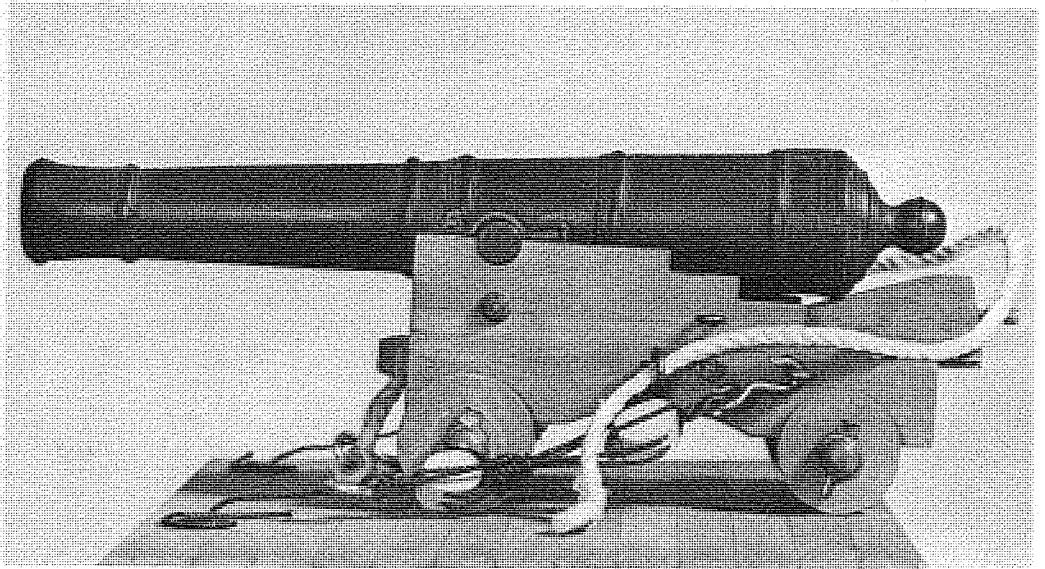
[*Roebuck*] off Delaware Bay 30th of Apl

Got under way in the Night, and at day break saw a Vessel which I chased & drove ashore, and the surf running very high she beat to pieces. I then stood after another Vessel, but the fogg clearing up about 10 o'clock I discovered a Ship to Leeward which I run down to, and found her to be the *Fowey* Capt G[eorge] Montagu with dispatches for me from the Admiral.

When I left off Chasing the Vessel I was pursuing at the time I saw the



(Top) Gun deck of the brig Fair American, 16, rigged model. (Bottom) Model of 24 pounder naval gun.



Fowey, she began to conclude that we were the Continental Squadron, and of course her Friends, and when I made a signal to speak with My Tender and call in all cruizers, she bore away and came to anchor with us in Henlopen road, where I sent a boat on board her & took possession of her. She was a Sloop from Bermuda, bound to Philadelphia, laden with salt Molasses & Rum.²

As she was well fitted and promised to be a fast Sailer; I put a Midshipman & 15 Men on board her, and armed her with 4 three pounders, and 4 Swivels, and sent her out on a Cruize with the *Ranger* Pilot boat.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

2. The sloop was the *Little John*, J. Darrel, master, Davenport & Co., owners, from Bermuda for Philadelphia with salt and limes, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487. In a journal which Hamond later submitted to Lord Howe, his account of the capture differs slightly. It reads: "saw a Vessel to Windward, which by not chacing and hoisting false Colours I decoyed down to me and took her . . . The Master told me he took us for the Philadelphia Fleet, as he had heard that Admiral Hopkins had lower Deck Ports." PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOHN DENT TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentn

Charles County April 30th 1776

In conformity to the appointment of George Plater Esqr and myself, by your Honors, to cooperate with the Commissioners from Virginia in erecting Beacons on the River Potomack; we have fixed the different Stations for the same, to the Number of twenty, whereof thirteen are in Maryland Viz: one in Prince Georges, Nine in Charles and three in St Mary's averaging about five Miles from each other. To accomplish which we have advanced the sum of thirteen pounds & four Pence half Penny, a Moiety of the Charge for a Boat and Hands, together with a [blurred] man exclusive of our own Expences which I flatter myself will be allowed. We have likewise agreed upon the Form of the Alarm-Post, which, is to be a kind of Iron Grate suspended by a Chain on the End of a Sweep fixed with a Swivel so as to be turned agreeable to the Wind. And as a further sum of Money will be wanting to have them erected (which with Submission to your Honors I think may be done with greater Convenience of Despatch by the Committees of Observation under our Direction) hope you'll order the same into their Hands or otherwise as you may think proper. I am Gentn [&c.]

Jn^o Dent

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

WILLIAM LUX AND DANIEL BOWLY TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen.

Baltimore 30 April 1776.

As Capt [William] Patterson does not chuse to proceed in the *Fortune*, we have engaged Capt Sund to proceed the Voyage, with your approbation and for that purpose he waits on you, the Brig is ready and we think it the fairest Opportunity to push out. We send you Inclosed some Letters we just received from Mr Vanbebber by which you will see his situation, and

that it is necessary to support him. We would recommend to order the Capt to St Martins as Capt Vanbebbber directs. You will please to give the Capt his Orders & dispatch him as soon as convenient.

A Gentleman from North Caro Yesterday brings us the Accot of their taking a Tender with Old Goodrich of Virga on board, he saw him put into Hallifax Goal. And we have an Accot today that the *Roebuck* is on shore on a Shoal called the Hen & Chickens just to the Southward of Cape Henlopen, and that the Province Ship and another with all the Gondola's were gone down to take her. We are most respectfully [&c.]

Lux & Bowly

Please to return Capt Vanbebbbers Letters.

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

WOOLSEY & SALMON TO JOHN PRINGLE ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 30 April

... we have this day Got Possession of the Brig, and if to morrow is Good weather shall begin to Load her & we hope to get pay for the time she is Detain'd,² we have Light flour & half Bbbs for to help Stowage...

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Pringle's brig was seized by the Baltimore Committee as one of the vessels to be sunk in the river as a protection against the expected attack by H.M.S. *Otter* in March, 1776. However, she was spared, although held and "not to be sunk till there is Real Danger," *ibid.*, March 22, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Tuesday, April 30th, 1776.

A warrant to Lieut. [William] Green for £23 for a month's pay and recruiting money in the marine service; also for use Capt. Richard Taylor for £26 for a month's half pay and recruiting money.

[A warrant] to Samuel Sim's for £2.5.0 for 9 days Pilotage of the vessel sent to seize the Brig *Hope*.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 160.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Halifax] Tuesday April 30th 1776

The Committee appointed to settle the Salvage of such Vessels as were lately taken and what the Captors may be intitled to, reported as follows, vizt

That it appears to your Committee that a certain Schooner called the *polly*, of which one Silas Henry is now Master was bound on a Voyage from Edenton in this province to the Island of Maderia, loaded with Indian Corn Staves and heading, and that the said Schooner had proceeded to the Swash near Occacock Island on her way to the said Island of Madeira; and that on Sunday the fourteenth of this Instant (April) about four o'Clock in the afternoon of the same day, an Armed Sloop called the *Lilly* commanded by a

certain John Goodrich, a Tender fitted out by Lord Dunmore for the purpose of taking all the Vessels at Occacock Bar; that the said John Goodrich hailed the schooner *polly*, and Ordered the Master to come on Board the said Tender and bring his papers, That Silas Henry the Master, and James Buchanan one half owner of the Schooner *Polly* and her Cargo, went on Board the Tender *Lilly*, and delivered the papers to Capt John Goodrich who received and examined the same, and who told the said James Buchanan that the Schooner was a prize, and kept the papers; and that Lieutenant John Wright master of the Armed Sloop *Fincastle* came over Occacock Bar the evening of the said fourteenth day of this Instant (April) and about eight of Clock the same Evening a Boat with Armed Men sent from the *Fincastle* Boarded the Schooner *Polly*, and plundered the said Schooner of all the live Stock, disarmed the Men, and left a prize Master and four Armed Men on Board the said Schooner *Polly*; who remained there for the Term of fifty eight or fifty nine hours; and that on the seventeenth of this Instant (April) a number of Armed Men in five whale Boats, Boarded the Tender commanded by John Goodrich, took her and retook the schooner *Polly* and carried the Tender and Schooner up to New Bern.

Your Committe therefore humbly Submit to the Consideration of the Congress the following as their Opinion: That the Captors are intitled by a Resolve of the Continental Congress of the twenty fifth of November last to one third part of the Schooner *polly* and her Cargo, in lieu of Salvage; and that the said Vessel and Cargo Consisting of Indian Corn, Staves and heading should be sold at public Auction first giving Thirty days public Notice; and that after the Sale thereof and all necessary charges deducted, the distribution thereof shall be made as followeth, vizt One third part to the Captors the other two thirds to Messrs James Buchanan and Archibald Campbell who appear to your Committee to have owned the said Schooner *Polly* and her Cargo

The house, taking the said Report into Consideration, concurred therewith

Resolved That Thomas Sitgreaves be appointed to sell at public Auction for ready Money, the Schooner *polly* and her Cargo, first giving thirty days notice in the *North Carolina Gazette*, and that the distribution of the Money arising from the Sale thereof, after deducting all necessary Charges be made in the following manner vizt One third part thereof to the Captors, in lieu of Salvage; and the other two thirds to Messrs James Buchanan and Archibald Campbell who appear to have owned the said Schooner *Polly* and her Cargo.

Resolved That Mr George Miller Mr Corrie, and Mr. [John] Campbell be a Committee to examine the property of John Hamilton and Company in a Vessel called the *William* and her Cargo, ordered to be seized at New Bern, and make report thereon.

Resolved, That Captain Dennison be allowed Ten pounds as a Gratuity for his Care, Vigilance, and the Hazard he run in performing a Voyage from

New Bern to the French West Indies and back again to procure Ammunition for this province; that the Treasurers or either of them pay him the same, and be allowed in their Accounts.

1. Secretary of State Papers (Provincial Conventions and Congresses/Councils 1774–1776), NCDAH.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES MOORE TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Wilmington] 30th [April]

This evening I examined John Pond who escaped from the *Falcon* Sloop of War last Sunday Night and inclose you his Affidavit I have in consequence of his intelligence which corresponds with the Observations our Scouts have made Wrote the Brigadr Genls of the several districts and supposing they may not be at home I have again wrote to the Colonels of the Counties to March their Men to this place immediately unless ordired otherwise by your Committee – I am sorry to inform you that the Militia are not so ready to turn out on this important occasion as I could wish – owing I am certain to their being at this Season engaged in the farming Business – should the Enemy attempt to Land at Little River I shall dispatch of expresses to the Western Troops to Order their March as directed by you – I shall be very much in want of good horses and Waggons for the Service the powder which came from Phila cannot arrive too soon. I am Gent [&c.]

Ja Moore
Brigr Genl

The Committee of Secrecy War and Intelligence

[Enclosure]

John Pond Master of the Sloop *Polly* from Statia with Gunpowder deposeth and saith that he was taken by the *Siren* [*Syren*] Frigate at Sea on the second day of February last and bro't into this river by Captain [John] Lindsay of the *Falcon* – That there are now laying at Fort Johnston eight Transport Vessels – one of them an old India Man which he heard Capt Lindsay say had 700 Troops on board, that they have upwards of 2000 Troops in the River and that they expect there force will be 7000 men when the rest of the Transport from Ireland comes in and Sr Peter Parker from England with about 3000 Troops who is expected every hour, that the *Siren* and *Mercury* are cruising and boats are out every day looking for him that as soon as he arrives they intend to lighten their Vessels and run up to the Flats where they are to Land their Men in flat bottomed Boats that will carry 50 Men besides 18 Rowers, that he saw the Boats on Board the Transports that they have still expectations of being joined by the regulators and have appointed Officers to command them when the forces below shall Land and further this deponent saith not.

John Pond

Sworn to before me this 30th day of April 1776 James Moore
a true copy Thos Craike secy

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XV, 33–34, NA. Continuation of April 29 letter.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Cruizer*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY¹

- April 1776 Moor'd off the Fort [Johnston, Cape Fear River]
- Friday 19th Fresh breezes and Cloudy wear Came in a Transport with part of the 57 Regiment,² heard some Guns fir'd in the offing, fir'd a gun and made the Signall for the Pilots
- Saturday 20th Mode and Cloudy wear heard 2 guns fir'd in the offing, fir'd a Gun to answer them. at Noon Saw 2 ships off
- Modr and Cloudy wear Came in a Transport with part of the 33d Regiment
- Sunday 21st A M Came in & Anchored here his Majst Sloop *Falcon*
- Monday 22d Fresh Gales and Cloudy with Thunder and rain, A M mode & fair loos'd sails to dry, Saild the *Terr[i]ble* Tender & *Committ Packett* Recd on board a Hogshhead of Mollasses.
- Modr and Clear wear at 5 P m saw a Ship off the New Inlet
- Tuesday 23d A M Came in one of the Transports with troops, fir'd one Gun
- Wedsy 24th Mode and Cloudy wear fir'd 2 guns to answer some Guns fir'd in the offing. saw 2 Ships in the offing, Sent the *delegate* out with Pilots to them
- Modr and Clear, Came in the *Earle of oxford* Transport
- Thursday 25th A M saw 2 Ships in the offing, Recd on board some provisions
- Friday 26 A M Came in the *Clyburn* Transport, Saluted with 5 guns, return'd three
- Saturday 27th Mode and hazey wear A M loos'd sails to dry
- Sunday 28 Fresh breezes with rain A M struck the top Gallt Masts
- Hard Gales and Squally wear Came in one of the Transports she Saluted with 5 guns return'd 3.
- Monday 29th Recd on board a Cask of rice lowered the Yards saw one of the Transports without the bar sent the tender out to her
- Modr and hazey weather P M Came in one of the Transports.
- Tuesday 30th at 7 saw 8 sail in the offing, Sent out all the Pilots to them
- Modr and hazey wear at 4 P M came in his Majesty's ship *Sphynx* and 3 Transports one Store ship, one hospitall Ship.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

2. This was the first transport of Sir Peter Parker's fleet to arrive off North Carolina.

DEPOSITION AND MEMORIAL IN TRIAL OF THE SHIP *America* IN THE
NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF VICE ADMIRALTY ¹

[Cape Fear, April 30, 1776]

Depositions in Support of the Libell

No Carolina Court } Francis Parry Esqr on behalf of himself and others—
of Vice Admiralty } against The Ship *America*—

William Mackenzie Marriner being Sworn & Examined before me
Thomas Macknight Esquire a Commissr appointed to take Depositions in
the said Court deposeth, That the Ship *America* whereof Robert Cunning-
ham is Master arrived in Cape Fear River on the Tenth day of February
last, That he this Deponent went on board the said Ship with Mr Wm Reid
Master of the *Cruizer* and on Searching found that she was loaded with Salt
and three Hogsheads of Rum that appeared to contain at least three hun-
dred Gallons, and further this Deponent saith not —

Taken this 30th of April 1776 }
before me — Tho^s Macknight } William Mackenzie

— The Defence —

No Carolina. ss. To his Honour James Elletson Bowen Esquire
Surrogate of the Court of Vice Admiralty in the said
Province

The humble Memorial of Robert Cunningham
Commander of the Ship *America* now Libelled in the
said Court —

Sheweth unto your Honour That the above mentd Ship *America* is
solely the proerty of Persons in the Town of Greenock in North Britain And
your Memorialist beleives the Owners as well as those Concerned to transact
the Business of James Gammell & Co Merchants in the above mentioned
Town of Greenock, the Owners of the above mentioned Ship *America*, to be
well affected to Government, the Principal agent for the said Company as
your Memorialist is Credibly informed now lyes in Custody at Halifax in
the abovementd province to take his Trial at the provincial Council held at
the Town of Halifax for Life — The Accusation is Supplying the Troops un-
der Major [Donald] McDonald raised for the purpose of suppressing the
present Rebellion in the said Province with Gun powder & other Warlike
Stores.

That on or about the first day of October last your Memorialist Sailed
from Cape Fear River in the aforementioned Province with a Cargo of
Lumber for the Island of Barbadoes, at which Time there was no restric-
tions by any Act of Parliament on the Trade of the said Province, nor was it
beleived there would be any, as at that Time a Ship loaded with Salt was
Admitted to Entry and Sale —

That in Consequence of Orders from a Gentleman concerned in the
Cargo your Memorialist proceeded from Barbadoes to the Island of Sal
Tortuga and there Loaded the sd Ship with Salt and from thence returned to

this River of Cape Fear where your Memorialist was to inquire into the then State of the Province and if your Memorialist found that restrictions were laid upon the Trade of the said Province your Memorialist was to procure what provisions was necessary and to proceed on his voyage to Cork in Ireland where he was to remain 'till further Orders from the aforementd Jas. Gammell & Co the owners of the Ship *America*

That your Memorialist arrived here the tenth day of February last and on his Arrival your Memorialist was boarded by Mr Reid the Master of the *Cruizer* commanded by Francis Parry Esqr under whose protection your Memorialist proposed putting the aforementioned Ship *America* until such time as your Memorialist shod receive the Necessary Information concerning the present state of affairs in this aforementioned Province –

That the Honble John Tollemache Esqr Captn of his Majestys Sloop *Scorpion* gave Orders for impressing the Seamen belonging to the aforementd Ship *America* which in Consequence of the above Orders from Captn Tollemache, was done –

That the said Mr Reid informed yr Memorialist that the aforementd Ship *America* was liable to be Seized on Accot of part of Three Hogsheads of Rum, tho' no way secreted or Concealed. Two of which Hogsheads were the property of the Chief & Second Mates of the said Ship *America* & the third Hogshead for the use of the Ships Company during the said Voyage from Barbadoes to Cape Fear River and from thence to Ireland –

That on the Evening of the same [day] Captn Parry went to Bald head in the sd sloop *Cruizer* and nothing more Occurred on the Subject until the thirteenth day of the said Month of February when Captn Parry returned from Bald Head – That your Memorialist then waited on Captn Parry with the Register of the above mentioned Ship *America* with the Instructions your Memorialist received from Mr Walter Ritchie one of the Owners of the abovementd Ship *America* lately in the Province of North Carolina Transacting the business of the sd James Gammell & Co That after perusing the Register and Instructions for the said Ship *America* Capt Parry informed yr Memorialist that the Register & Instructions shod be kept in the possession of the said Captn Parry until it should be Ascertained that the Owners of the said Ship *America* were friends of Government.

That on the Evening of the preceding day Mr Reid came on board the said Ship *America* and Guaged the three Hogsheads and found them deficient each Hogshead – That no more passed on this 'til about the 8th day of March last when the Mate of the said Ship *America* without permission from or knowledge of yr Memorialist disposed of one Gallon of the said Rum to the sailors of an Armed Sloop Commanded by Lieutenant Wright out of the Mate of the sd *America's* Case –

That this being represented in a disadvantageous light to Captn Parry he ordered your Memorialists's Mate to be impressed – That the Ship *America* and her Cargo and the three Hogsheads of Rum remained under the direction of your Memorialist until the fourteenth day of March last when the said Mr Reid came on board the said Ship *America* and made seizure of all

belonging to her and Carried away the Colours and long boat belonging to the said Ship *America* –

That this is a true state of the Case and as it cannot be made appear that James Gammell & Co or any of their Factors or Agents in North Carolina are otherwise than well affected to Government and have taken every Opportunity to Suppress the present Rebellion in the said Province to the detriment of their persons and property – That Trading with the people of the said province was [not] a breach of any known Act of the British Parliament – That the Rum was no more than is Customary allowed as Stores for such a Voyage – That no part of it has been disposed of in any way but to the Ships Company – That it is the Produce of Barbadoes and for which your Memorialist could have obtained a Bill of Stores from the Officers of his Majestys Customs in the sd Island of Barbadoes had your Memorialist imagined it was necessary –

That the very day your Memorialist arrived in this River a Vessel from the Island of Jamaica was allowed to pass unmolested the property of Men who have been Active in this Rebellion against Government –

Your Memorialist therefore prays your Honour that you will be pleased to Acquit the said Ship *America* and that your Honour will be pleased to Decree all Costs to be paid by the Prosecutors –

The Evidence in Support of this Memorial –

Robert Cunningham being Sworn and Examined by me in open Court and having read Attentively the said Memorial Deposed that the Contents of it were true –

Robert McLean the Chief Mate of the *America* deposed that the facts stated in the Libel so far as related to his own Conduct were Strictly true – Upon his Cross Examination he said he sold four Gallons and a half of Rum out of his own Case to a Mate of another Vessell besides that mentioned in the Memorial, but Swears he never sold any out [of] the said three Puncheons

Dougal McGregor & John McNeil. Two Masters of Ships Swore That to refit the Ship with new Masts &c or if the State of the Province had Admitted to unload and Load another Cargo it would take up Six Weeks time at least In which time the Ships Company with Carpenters Jobbers &c would expend one hundred and twenty Gallons of Rum – That as much more would be expended on a Voyage to Europe & in Unloading the Vessel there allowance being always made by the Officers of the Customs for unloading a Vessell –

Thomas Hepburn [swore] that he hath frequently known Vessels of the burthen of the *America* nearly. have Bills of Stores at the Island of Barbadoes for Six Hogsheads of Rum –

William Thompson swore that the Vessel is the Sole Property of Messrs Gammells & Ritchie Merchants at Greenock in North Britain – That Mr Ritchie hath ever been a very Staunch Friend to Government and hath fallen under the Censure of the Rebel Committee for Concealing a quantity of

Gun powder from the Rebels at the Time the Committees compelled all the Merchants to deliver up their powder – That Mr Ritchie's Agent (Mr Robert Gillies) since Mr Ritchie left this Province Supplied Major McDonald with the same powder for the use of an Army he had raised under the Authority of Governor [Josiah] Martin to oppose the Rebels and that Mr Gillies in Consequence of a discovery of such delivery of the Gun Powder was Committed by the Rebel Committees a Close Prisoner to the Common Goal of Halifax in this Province where he now remains to be tryed for his Life – That this Witness was himself for above two Months past a Prisoner at large in Wilmington and made his Escape a few days ago and came down to the Governor for Protection –

I. PRO, Admiralty 1/3680.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Syren*, CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX ¹

April 1776 Bald Head NNE $\frac{1}{2}$ Et 7 or 8 Miles
 Monday 29th A M at 2 hauled our Wind to the Swd at 6 saw 2 Sail to the So wd at 9 spoke the *Mercury*, saw 6 Sail to the SSWt Empd setting up the Main Rigging. –
 Mode & hazy Wear P M up Top Gallt Yards & made Sail at 2 brot too spoke the *Sphynx* & bore away, in Co the *Sphynx*, *Mercury* & 5 Sail of Transports,
 Tuesday 30th A M at 4 made the Signl & bro't too, at 5 saw the Land, made Sail Spoke the *Sphynx* & fired [2] Guns, sent the *Mercurys* Tender a head to make the Signal for Pilots, at 10 made Signal to the Ships in Cape Fear Harbr dble reeft the T/Sl's & struck Top Gallt Yards, at [illegible] hauled our Wind to the So wd having seen the *Sphynx* & her Con- voy safe off the bar with Pilots on board. –
 Variable Wear P M at 5 out 2 reef of the T/Sl's at 7 close reeft the Fore & dble reeft the Main T/Sl's.

I. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

NARRATIVE OF ETHAN ALLEN ¹

[On board H.M.S. *Solebay*, February 12–April 30, 1776]

We sailed . . . from the cove of Cork the 12th day of February. Just before we sailed, the prisoners with me were divided, and put on board three different ships of war. This gave me some uneasiness, for they were to a man zealous in the cause of liberty, and behaved with a becoming fortitude in the various scenes of their captivity; but those, who were distributed on board other ships of war, were much better used than those who tarried with me, as appeared afterwards. When the fleet, consisting of about forty-five sail, including five men of war, sailed from the cove with a fresh breeze, the appearance was beautiful, abstracted from the unjust and bloody designs they had in view. We had not sailed many days, before a mighty storm arose, which lasted near twenty-four hours without intermission. The wind blew with relentless fury, and no man could remain on deck, except he was

lashed fast, for the waves rolled over the deck by turns, with a forcible rapidity and every soul on board was anxious for the preservation of the ship, alias ther lives. In this storm the *Thunder*-bomb man of war sprang a leak, and was afterwards floated to some part of the coast of England, and the crew saved. We were then said to be in the Bay of Biscay. After the storm abated, I could plainly discern the prisoners were better used for some considerable time.

Nothing of consequence happened after this, till we had sailed to the island of Madeira, except a certain favor which I received of capt. [Thomas] Symonds, in consequence of an application I made to him, for the privilege of his tailor to make me a suit of clothes of the cloth bestowed on me in Ireland, which he generously granted. I could then walk the deck with a seeming better grace. When we had reached Madeira, and anchored, sundry gentlemen with the capt. went on shore, who I conclude, gave the rumor that I was in the frigate; upon which I soon after found Irish generosity was again excited; for a gentleman of the nation sent his clerk on board, to know of me if I would accept a sea-store from him, particularly of wine. This matter I made known to the generous lieutenant Douglass, who readily granted me the favor, provided the articles could be brought on board, during the time of his command; adding that it would be a pleasure to him to serve me, notwithstanding the opposition he met with before: So I directed the gentleman's clerk to inform him, that I was greatly in need of so signal a charity, and desired the young gentleman to make the utmost despatch, which he did; but, in the mean time, capt. Symonds and his officers came on board, and immediately made ready for sailing; the wind at the same time being fair, set sail when the young gentleman was in fair sight with the aforesaid store.

The reader will doubtless recollect the seven guineas I received at the cove of Cork: These enabled me to purchase of the purser what I wanted, had not the captain strictly forbidden it, though I made sundry applications to him for that purpose; but his answer to me, when I was sick, was, that it was no matter how soon I was dead, and that he was no ways anxious to preserve the lives of rebels, but wished them all dead; and indeed that was the language of most of the ship's crew, I expostulated, not only with the captain, but with other gentlemen on board, on the unreasonableness of such usage; inferring that, inasmuch as the government in England did not proceed against me as a capital offender, they should not; for that they were by no means empowered by any authority, either civil or military, to do so; for the English government had acquitted me, by sending me back a prisoner of war to America, and that they should treat me as such. I further drew an inference of impolicy on them, provided they should, by hard usage, destroy my life; inasmuch as I might, if living, redeem one of their officers; but the captain replied, that he needed no directions of mine how to treat a rebel; that the British would conquer the American rebels, hang the Congress, and such as promoted the rebellion, me in particular, and retake their own prisoners; so that my life was of no consequence in the scale of their policy. I

gave him for answer, that if they stayed till they conquered America, before they hanged me, *I should die of old age*, and desired that till such an event took place, he would at least allow me to purchase of the purser, for my own money, such articles as I greatly needed; but he would not permit it, and when I reminded him of the generous and civil usage that their prisoners in captivity in America met with, he said that it was not owing to their goodness, but to their timidity; for, said he, they expect to be conquered, and therefore dare not misuse our prisoners: . . . The surgeon of the *Solebay*, whose name is North, was a very humane obliging man, and took the best care of the prisoners who were sick.

1. *A Narrative of the Captivity of Col. Ethan Allen . . .* (Albany, 1814), 54-58.

1 May

COMMISSIONERS IN CANADA TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Copy

Montreal May 1st 1776

Sir After some difficulty and delay in getting thro the ice of Lake George, we arrived here on monday last, and were very politely received by Genl Arnold, who at present commands in this post.

It is impossible to give you a just idea, of the lowness of the Continental credit here, from the want of hard money and the prejudice it is to our affairs. Not the most trifling service can be procured without an assurance of instant pay in silver or gold. The Express we sent from S. John's to inform the General of our arrival there, and to request carriages for La Prairie, was stopt at the Ferry till a friend passing changed a Dollar Bill for him into silver; and we are obliged to that friend (Mr. [William] M'Cartney) for his engagement to pay the caleches, or they would not have come for us. The general apprehension that we shall be driven out of the Province, as soon as the King's troops can arrive, concurs with the frequent breaches of promise the Inhabitants have experienced in deterring them to trust our people no further. Therefore the utmost dispatch should be used in forwarding a large sum hither (we believe £20000 will be necessary); otherwise it will be impossible to continue the war in this country, or to expect the continuance of our interest with the people here, who begin to consider the Congress as Bankrupt and their cause as desperate. Therefore till the arrival of money, it seems improper to propose the federal union of this province with the others, as the few friends we have here, will scarce venture to exert themselves in promoting it, till they see our Credit recoverd, and a sufficient army arrived to secure the possession of the Country.

Yesterday we attended a Council of War, the minutes of which we inclose. The places proposed are proper to prevent the farther progress of the Enemy, in case they should oblige us to raise the seige of Qubek: The plank and timber for the Gondolas is all prepared and ready at Fort Chamblee, & some of the Carpenters are arrived from New York; others are to be engaged here: and as hard money is necessary for them we have agreed to ad-

vance some out of what the Congress put into our hands for our own subsistence, to be replaced when Cash shall arrive.

We understand that the Troops before Quebeck have not now ten days provision, but hope, as the Lakes are now open, supplies will soon reach them.

We have directed the opening of the Indian trade, & granting passports to all, who shall enter into certain engagements to do nothing in the Upper Country prejudicial to the Continental interests.

We hope to morrow to obtain an account of our Debts, that ought instantly to be paid. If besides what is necessary for that purpose, we had a sum to manage by opening a bank for exchanging Continental bills, it is supposed that we might thereby give a circulation to those bills. The twenty thousand Pounds above mentioned will, we think, answer both these purposes.

We are told that not less than the eight thousand orderd by Congress will be a sufficient army for this Quarter. As yet there are but about three thousand including those now passing down to Quebeck, who are just come over the Lakes. The small pox is in the army, & Genl [John] Thomas has unfortunately never had it. With great respect to Yourself & the Congress we have the honor to be, Sir [&c.]

1. Papers CC (Letters and Papers relating to Canadian Affairs . . .), 166, 17-19, NA.

RIGGING FOR THE CONTINENTAL FRIGATE *Raleigh*¹

Memorandum of Rigging for a 32 Gun Frigate Vizt —

quality	length	demand	The underwritten is already Procured —
1 Cable 15 Inch	102	15. Inchs	
1 Stream do —	120.	8 do	
1 Hawser —	120.	6 do	
1 do —	120.	4½ do	
Lower Shrowds.	310	9 do	
do Stays —	28	13 do	2 Stays —
Mizen Shrowds	} 660	6 do	
Topmast Stay s[l] &			
Back Stays			
2 Coils 5 Inch each	120	5 do	
2 do —	do	4½ do	
6 do —	do	4 do	
4 do —	do	3½ do	
6 do —	do	3 do	
6 do —	do	2¾	
10 do —	do	2½	
10 do —	do	2¼	
10 do —	do	2	

10	do -	do	1¾	do	
10	do -	do	1½	do	
20	do -	Ratline of different Sizes -			c qr lb
12	do -	Spun yarn			2. .3. .4
6	do -	Worming			

[Portsmouth, May 1, 1776] ²

1. John Langdon Papers, Bills & Invoices, 1773-1785, NHHS.
2. The date is approximated. It must have been prior to the naming of the frigate by Congress on June 6, 1776, otherwise Langdon would have specified *Raleigh*, instead of "32 Gun Frigate."

ISAAC SMITH TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

Mr Adams

Salem May 1st 1776 -

since last past has Arr[ive]d a Vessel from Bilbao. I have letters to the Middle of March but have nothing New - Mr Gearey [Elbridge Gerry] Powder brige, which was thought to be taken is still there being in the law - which is better than was Apprehended - Another brige, belonging to Newbury which saild the begining of January is likewise Arrd from Bourdaux, in 34 days has Eleven Tons powder six of Brimstone, 12 Cannon 9 pounders, German Steel & 20,000 flints & sundry Other Articles. I dont hear of the last difculty in procureing them -

Itt is said that the five thousand raisd last fall had saild the 10th March - & that Russians &c were to come - the latter no Certainty - We have had so many rumors with regard to Powder that has turnd Out false which makes me mention this I am [&c.]

Isaac Smith

Ps As letter[s] I Understand go free for any of the Congress. Otherwise should not trouble you with such trifeling Matters -

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

TIMOTHY PICKERING'S RECEIPT FOR CHARGES INCURRED IN THE TRIALS OF SEVEN VESSELS TAKEN IN 1775 ¹

Court fees as within.			£29. .8. .31½
Copies of Condemnation viz	s	d	
Ship <i>Jenny</i>	1.	3	
Sloop <i>Sally</i>	1.	3	
Brig. <i>Little Hannah</i>	.	9	
Sloop <i>Betsey</i>	.	8	
Ship <i>Concord</i>	.	9	
Sloop [<i>Polly</i>], Smith master	.	8	
Brig <i>Nancy</i>	.	9	6. .1
7 Warrants for the sale of the above vessels at 5/.			1. 15.
			£ 31. .9. .41½

Salem May 1. 1776 Recd of Col. Jonathan Glover the above sum of thirty

one pounds 9/ 4½ being the charges of trial &c on the vessels above named.

Tim. Pickering junr

[Verso]

Jona Glover is Dr for Court Fees (exclusive of Jury fees) and in the Bills on

Ship *Jenny* - [William] Foster.

Sloop *Betsy*.

Brig *little Hannah* [Robert] Adams

[John] Atkinson
Ship *Concord*.

Sloop *Sally* [Robert] Bosden

[James] Lawrea
Brig *Nancy*.
[Robert] Hunter ²

} 7 Cases each 4.4.0½
equal in the whole
to £29.8.3½

1. William Bartlett Papers, No. 5659, BHS.

2. All of the above vessels were taken by Captain John Manley, in Washington's schooner *Lee*, except the brig *Sally*, which was taken by Captain Winborn Adams, in the schooner *Warren*.

WILLIAM GORDON TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Jamaica Plain May 1, 1776

My Dear Sir It is almost too late to congratulate you upon our regaining Boston, but I may give you joy of our not having yet relost it. We ought by this time to have had the harbour fortified so strongly that a fleet could not have ventured in to have insulted the town, without paying dear for it: but there has been strange not-doings. You will ask me who is to blame? Should I answer without reserve, I would say the Assembly in not exerting themselves more vigorously for the defence of the capital (Inter nos their capitals want to be informed & act right) I would add Gen. [Artemas] Ward for suffering matters of importance to be so disregarded & in sleeping so over them; I would further mention, the inhabitants in complaining, being uneasy, & yet not calling a town meeting & agreeing to turn out & work. In truth we have been for too longtime past amazingly disordered; however as in other cases, every culprit pleads not guilty, & like old Adam shift the blame from himself to another. We are however at last doing better. Was up on Dorchester hills yesterday, & met with two twelve pounders on each, carried there the latter end of last week, besides an howitzer on that next to the neck, which has been there for some considerable time. Fort hill goes on sure, & begins to make a respectable figure. Went from the hills to Dorchester point where the Committee have been directing the erection of a fort. Was much pleased with it. The work is as neat & good as any of the regulars. Yesterday they were carting on the timber for the platforms which will be soon laid; & in a few days I apprehend the fort will be as far perfected as to be capable of defending the entrance of the harbour. Shirley's battery is to undergo an immediate repair. I flatter myself that by the latter end of the next week, if the enemy do not pop in upon us before, we shall be capable of setting them at defiance. . . .

By the by before I forget it, there are many fine noble large masts in Kennebec river designed for the British navy, would the French King buy them tho at a low price & fetch them away, it might assist a very good pur-

pose by proving a bone of contention. Your time is too precious to be needlessly spent in reading long letters of little consequence, I shall therefore not interrupt you longer, than to assure you of my best wishes for your prosperity both temporal & spiritual, to request a kind remembrance to those honoure gentlemen of the Congress with whom I have the happiness of being acquainted (our own delegates especially) & to declare myself an independent Whig as was my namesake.

William Gordon

Boston. A number of the inhabitants have engaged to work two days in the week for six weeks in fortifying. I propose signing the paper to encourage by example.

Tracy's ² vessel is arrived at Kennebec immediately from Bourdeaux with 21,000 lbs of powder, 12,000 lb of sulphur & 16 pieces of large cannon.

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

2. John and Nathaniel Tracy, merchants of Newburyport.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GEORGE WASHINGTON, NEW YORK ¹

Sir

Providence, May 1st 1776 -

Your favour of the 25th April p Express have receiv'd—I am very much obliged to you for the Use of your Men and shall dispatch them to New York immediately in the Sloop *Providence* Capt [John] Hazard - although we still continue to be Sickly onboard all the Fleet so that it will be impossible to go to Sea with the Fleet before we get recruited with hands which will not easily be done - I am, with great Respect Sir [&c.]

E.H

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Gentlemen

Providence, May 1 1776

Yours I received [pr] Express this day dated in April, and observe the Contents. - Shall endeavour to give you a State of the Navy under my Coma[nd] and shall begin with the time we arrived in New London River where we landed Sick people not fit for duty in the Hospital which I provided with difficulty 72 from the *Alfred* 34 from the *Columbus*, 58 from the *Andrew Doria*, 17 from the *Cabot*, 16 from the *Providence* & 5 from the *Fly*, in all 202 people which weakend our fleet so much that I applied to General Washington, and got an Order for two hundred Men, about one hundd. & seventy of whom I got onboard the Fleet - when I came to Sail with our Fleet in Order to Speak with the Fleet at or near Newport - but the *Alfred* got ashore near Fisher's Island, and was oblig'd to be lighten'd to get her off which we did without much damage - In the mean time Wallace and his whole Fleet left Newport.

We Sailed from New London the 24th April and met nothing - the next day the Weather proved rough we put in here, where we have landed upwards of one hundred Sick Men, and there is daily more taken down with some New Malignant Fever -

I was making all the dispatch possible to procure Provisions & Stores in Order for a three or four Months Cruise when I received by the same Express General Washington's Orders to Send his Men immediately to New York which I must Comply with.

I had brought round here 26 heavy Cannon for the defence of the Town of Newport & by that Service expected to obtain Liberty to enlist Men out of the Government Troops to have made up my Compliment – but if the Cannon must be taken away I cant ask it with modesty, and if I do I am in doubt whether it would be granted –

I am ready to follow any Instructions that you give at all times but am very much in doubt whether it will be in my power to keep the Fleet together with any Credit to my Self or the Officers that belong to it – Neither do I believe it can be done without power to dismiss such Officers as I find Slack in their duty – I left the Sloop and the *Andrew Doria* at New London unloading stores – when I get a return of what they land Shall transmit it immediately to you – I ordered the *Andrew Doria* to Caren there which I hear is done. Should be glad you would give Orders what should be done with the New Providence Sloop which I wrote my brother about –

Inclosed you have a Copy of Captn [Abraham] Whipple's Request to me which Suppose I shall grant, and expect that may bring on some more Enquiries – but do not expect any thing which may now be done will mend what is past – I am with great Respect [&c.]

E H

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

CREW OF THE CONTINENTAL SLOOP *Providence* TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

[Providence, May 1, 1776] ²

Cannot bear with it we like all our officers but Two Capt Hazzard [John Hazard] and mr [Walter] Spooner they carry stick with bullets and Ropes ends to beat us with and are kept from morning till night upon deck and have scarce time to eat we hope that you will take it into consideration we mean to be true subjects to the country [torn] we mean to do all that lys in our power for the country but wee are used like dogs on Board the *providence* we hope that you will find a new Captain or a new Vessel We are your humble Servants

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS. First part of letter is missing.

2. The date is approximated. Hazard was court martialed May 8, 1776, and Hopkins, in his letter of May 1 to Hancock, intimated that some inquiries as to the conduct of officers of the fleet might soon be made.

SAMUEL LYON TO LIEUTENANT JOHN PAUL JONES ¹

Sir

Providence May 1st 1776.

You are desired to attend at a Court Martial to be held onboard the Ship *Alfred* on Monday the 6th Instt at 10 oclock to enquire into the Conduct of Abraham Whipple Esqr on the 7th April.

By Order of the Commander in Chief

Sam^l Lyon Secy

1. John Paul Jones Papers, 6482, LC.

"A LIST AND WEIGHT OF CANNON, SHOTT & C RECD OF
ADML HOPKINS NEWPORT"¹

Guns

8 - 18 lb vitz	C	qr	lb	12 - 12 lb Guns Vitz.	C	qr	lb
No 1	42	3	25	No 1	33	3	16
2	54	"	25	2	34	3	6
3	39	"	26	3	34	0	16
4	39	3	26	4	34	2	11
5	40	0	13	5	33	3	16
6	50	2	23	6	34	0	18
7	40	2	1	7	35	2	12
8	40	1	27	8	34	"	"
	348	"	26	9	33	3	4
				10	34	"	12
				11	34	1	24
				12	34	0	16
					411	2	11
					348	"	26

746	18 lb Shott			759	3	9
594	12 lb Shott		the Carriage Trucks Wt	83	3	3
245	Howit Shells		the Shot Wt	183	2	4
21	Ladles & Worms					
100	Iron Carriage Trucks					
5	C.wt. Powder					

Newport May [1] 1776²

Errors Excepted

By Order of Adml Hopkins

Saml Lyon

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. Date set by Hopkins' letter of May 1, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Cerberus*, CAPTAIN JOHN SYMONS¹

May 1776 Block Island No 30.28 W 16 2/3 Leagues
 Wednesday 1 at 6 A M sett Fore Topsl at 7 saw a Sail to the So Wtrd
 gave Chace 1/2 past 9 brot to & spoke the Chace a Schooner
 from Cape Francois laden with Salt and Military Stores for
 Dartmouth² sent a Mid & 6 Men onbd. *Diligent* & Prize
 in Co
 Modr & Clear at 5 P M brot too & sent the Long boat onbd
 the *Diligent* at 6 hoisted in the Boat & md Sail

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

2. The schooner *Lyon*, Moses Barlow, master, sent to Halifax, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

CAPTAIN RICHARD VARICK TO JOHN MCKESSON¹

Sir—

Albany, May 1, 1776.

I am directed by General Schuyler to write to you, desiring you to send up one hundred spades, with all possible despatch to Mr. Philip Van Rensselaer, store-keeper at this place.

I am also directed by the General to send up to Ticonderoga a suit of sails, of certain dimensions, for a pettiauger, and as much rope as will rig two Albany sloops, (cables, shrouds and hawsers excepted) and also enough for two large pettiaugers; blocks for all.

On inquiry, I am informed that no sail-cloth is to be had in this town, and that the Provincial Congress have purchased all that was to be had at New-York, for the use of the Colonies. I, therefore, request you, in the name of the General, to send up to Mr. Van Rensselaer, five bolts of good sail-cloth, without the least delay.

I enclose you an estimate of the rope which will be wanted for the purposes above mentioned, of which none is to be had here, and which I also request you, in the General's name, to send immediately to this place.

Captain Ivers, who is now here, informs me that his son can supply this article.

It may be proper to show the estimate to some rope maker or rigger, at New-York, to know whether there will be sufficient. If there is not, you will be pleased to send as much as may be thought necessary.

I beg you to procure an account of what blocks will be necessary for two sloops and two pettiaugers, from some rigger or block maker in New-York, and to send them up with the rope, as none of these articles are to be had here.

All the articles above mentioned are so much wanted at the lakes, and not to be had any where but at New-York, that I must earnestly entreat you that no delay may be made in sending them up to this place.

I am, sir [&c.]

Richd. Varick, Secy.
to M. Genl. Schuyler.

To John McKesson, Esqr. Secy. to the
New-York Provincial Congress, or in his
absence to Robt. Benson, Esqr.

[Enclosure]

An Indenture for making running rigging and stays for 2 sloops, the size of Albany sloops. 2 coils, 2½ inches, 100 fathoms each, for haliards, tackle falls, jib sheets; 2 jib stays, 16 fathoms each; 2 down hauls, 1½ inches, 16 fathoms each; 100 fathoms ratline. 2 schooners rigging, viz: 100 fathoms 3 inch; 2 stays, 28 fathoms, 3½-inches; 2 coils, 2 inches, 120 fathoms; 1 coil of thread ratline spun yarn, in proportion for the whole; house line; marline; 1 doz. hamberline, white.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 433.

Constitutional Gazette, WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1776

New-York, May 1.

We are just informed by a gentleman from Philadelphia, that an express arrived in that city on Sunday afternoon with an account that the *Roe-buck* man of war of 44 guns, being in chase of two brigs, run aground on the East Bank of Brandywine, in Delaware Bay, at high water; on the arrival of the express the committee of safety met, and sent down eight armed Gondolas, and two ships, one of them the Province ship, mounting 14 eighteen pounders, and the other 16 six pounders; the Gondolas went off in a few hours after the express arrived, and the ships at 10 at night. Great numbers of Volunteers went, and more offered themselves than the vessels could contain.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Ship Dutchess of Gordon

Sandy Hook 1st May 1776.

Sir,

Tho personally unknown to you I cannot deny myself the satisfaction of acquainting you of the Spirited behaviour of Captain [Hugh] Bromedge in the attack at the Watering place on the 7th Instant² when the Enemy treacherously fired upon the Seamen on Shore. Notwithstanding they have secreted their loss it appears by the Affidavit of a Countryman who was on the spot a few Hours after the Action that the Rebels had Twenty four Men killed and Sixteen Wounded. The particulars of this affair I presume you will receive from Captain [Hyde] Parker [Jr.]. This circumstance so honourable to Captain Bromedge, and happening within my own view induces me to wish, and I would even beg leave to solicit, that his merits and long Services may be rewarded by you with a better ship. I am with respect Sir [&c.]

W^m Tryon.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. This engagement was 7th April, not "Instant." See Captain Parker's letter of April 29, 1776.

ROBERT MORRIS TO NICHOLAS & JOHN BROWN ¹

Gentn

Philada May 1st 1776

We wrote you the 3d Inst [*sic ultimo*] to which referr, the present being to request that you will immediately send forward, One hundred pieces of Russia Duck (part of that imported by you in the Sloop Commanded by Capt B. Comstock) to John Langdon Esqr at Portsmouth New Hampshire for the use of the Continental Frigate building there, and you'l obtain his receipt for the same to serve as a Voucher of the delivery when your accounts are adjusted with this Committee. We are Sir [&c.]

By order of the Secret Committee.

Rob^t Morris, ChairMan

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

PETITION OF PETER SIMON TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

To the Honourable Continental Congress

Now sitting. the Humble Petition of Peter Simon & Israel Ambrose sheweth, that on the 10th of January Last they Sailed from the Island of Saltatuda on board of the Sloop *Sally* Loaded with Salt, Molasses, Rum, Paper, Wine &c., Bound for North Carolina, on the 14th of February was taken near Cape Hatteras, by the Armd Sloop *General Gage* George Sibble Commander, who for want of a prize master putt James McKnight (the mate of Capt Raddan who was taken the Day before) on board the afore Sd Sloop *Sally* as prize master, as the Sd McKnight had agreed to Enter in their Service. the Sd Sloop *General Gage* took your Petitioners on board and orderd the Sd McKnight to Proceed to Cape Fear with the Sloop *Sally* but that night a hard gale came on which drove the Sloop *Sally* to the Northward, after which the Sd McKnight Ran the vessell on shore in order to convert her to his own use,² to accomplish which he has misrepresented every circumstance to the Honourable Congress to obtain their order to dispose of the Sd Sloop & Cargo, Contrary to the orders & instructions given to the Sd McKnight & the Committee of Burlington, the Sd McKnight has broken open our Desks, Trunks and Secreted one hundred half Johannes wearing Apparel arms &c. also has not given any Acct of one half the goods that was savd out of the sd Sloop *Sally* to the Prejudice of your Petitioners three thousand Pounds³ therefore we pray you may take it in your great wisdom to restore our Sufferings and prevent our being Robd by Such imposters on our Country, and your Petitioners will ever pray
Philadelphia 1 May 1776

Peter Simon

1. Papers CC (Petitions addressed to Congress), 42, VII, 3, NA.

2. See Journal of the Continental Congress, April 1 and 4, 1776.

3. Israel Ambrose's inventory of the sloop *Sally's* cargo in next entry.

"INVENTORY OF THE SLOOP *Sally* & CARGO JAMES MCKNIGHT PRIZE MASTER"¹

Thirteen hundred Bushels Salt
 Fourteen hds. Molasses
 One hundred and twenty Gls Rum
 Sixty five Reams Rightg Paper
 One hd & twenty seven Demijohns Claret Wine
 twenty seven dozen Bottles french Cordials
 Five Cases oile ollives and Anchoves
 Four Anchors Brandy
 One hundred fifty thousand pins
 twenty four pr of wool Cards
 ten ps. linnen & Checks
 Five hundred pounds Shot
 One Cask powder
 One hundred and fifty pounds Coffee
 Four Ambrellas

One hundred Yards of Osnaburgs
 Four beaver hats One Negro man
 One Sute Velvet
 One Sute Black Cloath
 One do. light Collard
 One do. Purpel
 two doz & half Shirts
 two do. neck cloaths
 three do. Handkerchiefs
 Four do. Silk & thread stockings
 three doz Linnen Wescots & Breches
 four pr Silk Breches
 Several pr of Wollen and Leather Breches
 two Chince Night Gownds
 Several Short Coats
 Grate Coat & Cloack
 half ps Cambrick
 Eight yards Crimson Silk
 One doz ps French Laced Ruffels
 Bedding table Linnen
 Musquet Sword Pistols
 two Blunder Buses
 Quadrant & Other Instruments
 Small Library Books.

Memorandum of Sundrs in my Chest when taken by the
 Sloop *Genrl Gage* Febry 14. 1776 viz—

1 chest
 88 Joanes & 27 Dollars which were found in the hands of MKnite
 6 white Shirts & Some Chack one 2 or 3
 3 Cravats
 2 Coats one Never worn
 4 wes cotes —
 4 pr. Britches & 1 pr Droyer[s]
 12 do Stockins 1 do Shoe Buckls
 1 do. Nee do.
 1 do. Shoes not worn
 3½ piess. Linning 2 do. Checks 2 Beaver hats. 1 Str[aw] do 1 quadren
 & all my Books
 1 Pocket Book with sundry papers
 6 plates Bed & Beding
 3 pocket hanchfs. 1 parcel of Fine Thread.

Israel Ambrose

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety,

Philad'a, 1st May, 1776.

Resolved, That Mr. [Samuel] Howell & Mr. [James] Mease be a Committee to enquire if two of the armed Boats can be fitted out, in order to go down to the Bay of Delaware, to be there station'd for the protection of the commerce of this Province, and if they find that it is practicable to fit or alter two for that purpose, that they employ proper persons to carry the same into execution.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 553.

“AMOUNT OF MEN IN ACTUAL PAY, OFFICERS INCLUDED, IN THE NAVAL SERVICE OF THE PROVINCE OF PENN'A, 1776.” ¹

With the Company of Artillery at the Fort, Vizt.

The <i>Washington</i> ,	50 Men
<i>Franklin</i> ,	38
<i>Congress</i> ,	37
<i>Effingham</i> ,	22
<i>Burke</i> ,	24
<i>Carbden</i> ,	39
<i>Chatham</i> ,	24
<i>Experiment</i> ,	31
<i>Bull Dog</i> ,	39
<i>Ranger</i> ,	37
<i>Warren</i> ,	22
<i>Dickenson</i> ,	35
<i>Hancock</i> ,	48
	<hr/>
	446
Floating Battery,	116
Ship <i>Montgomery</i>	117
	<hr/>
	679
Train of Artillery at the Fort,	119
	<hr/>
Total,	789

Muster'd to the first of May, 1776, by

Lod'k Sprogel, M.M.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 739.ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE OF THE PRIZE SLOOP *Edward* ¹

The Sloop *Edward*, condemned at the Court of Admiralty, with all her Ammunition, Furniture Tackle and Apparel, will be sold at the Coffee-house, To-morrow, at 12 o'Clock, agreeable to Inventory.

I. W.

[Philadelphia] May 1, 1776

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, May 1, 1776.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1776

Philadelphia [May 1].

We hear from Lewes-Town, that the *Roebuck* man of war returned from a cruize on Wednesday last, having taken John Baldwin's pilot boat, bound from this port for the West Indies, and a brig, with black sides, no head, and white drifts, unknown; and on Saturday last her boats took a pilot boat, from St. Eustatia for this port. We also learn, that the *Roebuck*, in chasing some vessels up the bay, on Saturday afternoon, ran ashore on the Brandywine, where she lay till next morning, when she got off and returned to her old station.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen,

Lewistown, May the 1st, 1776.

When I wrote you last on Sunday the 28 of April, the *Roebuck* lay in our Road, on Monday Morning she hove up and stood out to sea, and in the Evening she Returned, into our Road, on Tuesday she went out again with Bawldurns boat and gave Chase to a Schooner that was standing in, which proves to be the property of King & Harper of your Place, from Hispaniola she was chased from the southard by another British Pirate of twenty guns, so that being between two Fires he was oblig'd to run his Vessel on shore near the false Cape, the Inhabitants went down, the Pirates on seeing that Hall'd off, and stood into our Road they brought in with them two sloops, one a Bermuda built, the other is a Clump Deep Loaded, the other I believe is a tender. Mr. King has saved all his Cargo save some Molasses which they will git out to day. Just after Mr. King run on shore there came in a Brest of him a Virginia Pilot Boat, The Capt. came on shore for a Pilot, I advised him to go back to Indian River, but the surf being so high he could not get off[f], we made a signal to the boat to anchor, which she did, the above boat is from St. Astatia, and has five or six tons of Powder on board, the wind is now at N.W., therefore I make no Doubt of her Giting safe into the River. I beg gentlemen, that you would apply to the Congress to have twenty-five or thirty men of the Delaware Battallion to be Stationed at the false Cape to cover the Landing of any Cargo that may arive, as that is a Place where any of your Vessels may run there Jib Boom for the Sand and save there Cargos if they should be Chased, at the same time let the Congress know that there is three Companys of the above Battallion here, and that they have arms only for one, and that they have no Powder nor lead save a little that we have in our Magazeen, which is but Trifling. So that Gentlemen, I beg that you may use your Interest with the Congress to have the Companys Equipt, as they are a parcel of fine fellows, I believe would fight if they had ye Needfull. The *Roebuck* and the other Pirate with the two Sloops & Bauldwins boat Lyes in our Road, as this time the winds at N.W., fresh Breeze. I shall not send off[f] the Express by water till I see that they are making up the bay, without that you send me orders, for tiss uncertain how long they may Remain here. It

has Not been in my Power to get off my Boat without a risk of being taken, which I shall take great Care of, Haveing no more to add save that I shall give you the Earliest acct's of the transactions of the British Pirats. I am, [&c.]

Henry Fisher

P.S. I have stationed John Adams at the False Cape on purpose to give signals to any of our ships standing in for the Land, if you disapprove of this send me word by the first opportunity. I am yours,

Henry Fisher.

[Endorsed]

The Express left Lewis at 12 o'Clock this day.

Henry Fisher.

Came to Cedar Creek 20 Minits after two & went off[f] at 3 o'clock.

Thomas Evans.

Rec'd at Dover at six of the Clock, dispatched 15 minutes after six.

F. Battell

Rec'd 50 after ten, Dispatched at Elaven.

Mat. Delany.

Rec'd at Wilmington at Four o'clock, dispatcht 10 min. after four.

Thos. Kean.

Rec'd at Chester 20 m. after 6, and Disspached 20 after 7.

Wm. Kerlin

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 740-41.

WILLIAM NEIL TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER ¹

Sir

Baltimore 1st May 1776

when I apply'd to the Council of Safety for payment of my schooner and Cargo you beg'd me to waite the meeting of the Convention which is now Soon - I will be Obliged to you if you will write me by the Bearer and let me Know if it will be needfull for me to Attend the Convention or not - and what time you would Recommend for me to go Down I have had no letters from Either the Capt or Supercargo Since those I laid before you - one of the Sailors that went out in the Schooner is come to Town and Sundry Gentlemen of this place who were at St Eustatia and can give a full Accot of that Seizure of her being Condemed and Sold - I am going tomorrow to the Country and cannot be home before the 15th of this Month. I am Sir [&c.]

William Neill

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

LIEUTENANT JAMES CAMPBELL TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER¹

Sir Baltimore 1st May 1776

Several Gentlemen here are desirous to send me out in a privateer from this place, my own inclination also, leads me to go having been Accustomed to the sea service, we have taken great pains to get a vessel fit for the purpose, and think we have Succeeded, you'l receive enclosed the commission with which I was honour'd; Retaining the utmost gratitude and respect for the public from whom I, had it, I hope to have the Testimony of my Brother officers that I served with Vigilance and attention, since my appointment and beg leave to assure you that no consideration would induce me to leave the Service but the hopes of being more usefull in another Department I entered into the service a Volunteer and now quit it with Regret I looked on the commission I held as a testimony of the public confidence and esteem, and shall endeavour in my new capacity to merrit the Attention that was paid me, – I shall go to Philadelphia to morrow to purchase Such Necessaries, as cannot be got here and make application for a Commission for the Vessel,² could I obtain a few lines from your honourable Council signifying that I was in the land service of this province, it would no doubt facilitate my business and be of service to me, we are much distressed for Canvas, I know of none, private property, to be had, could your Honble Council spare us any, would forward our Enterprize, and enable us to fit out with more expedition than will be otherwise in our power. I am Sir [&c.]

James Campbell

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

2. Campbell was commissioned June 14, 1776, as master of the schooner *Enterprize*. The commission was secured in Philadelphia, and the bonders were Mease & Caldwell, merchants of that city. The owners, however, seem to have been William Smith & Co., of Baltimore. See Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal), 196, IV, 77, 82, NA.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL SMITH TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Extract] Baltimore Town 1st May 1776
Gentlemen Mr [James] Campbell – by this Conveyance resigns his Commission of first Lieut in my Company in Order to be of more Essential Service to his Country by distressing the Trade of our Enemies in a Privateer fitted out by a Gentleman of this Town: . . .

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

Maryland Journal, WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1776

Baltimore [May 1].

By a Gentleman arrived here yesterday from Philadelphia, by the Way of Hamburg, we are informed, That the *Roebuck* Man of War, of 44 Guns, in chasing two inward bound Vessels from the West Indies, up Delaware Bay, ran ashore on the Shoales called the Hen and Chickens, where she soon fell on her Beam Ends, when an Express was immediately dispatched to

Philadelphia, with Information thereof, on which a Brig of Sixteen 18 pounders; one Ditto of fourteen 12 Pounders; the *Hornet* Sloop of 10 Guns, and 13 Row Gallies, well arm'd and manned, were immediately sent down the River to take proper Care of her, and we hope in our next, to congratulate our Readers on her being safe moor'd at Philadelphia.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO HUGH YOUNG ¹

No 137.

Sir We send you inclosed a Letter to the Committee of Baltimore County, and request you would present it to them, and get the Schooner 92 ready as soon as possible & let the Capt'n call on us for Instructions.

P.S. We have not yet received the Letter from Capt'n Beatty [Annapolis] May 1st 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO WILLIAM LUX

No 136.

Sir The Council of Safety upon Consideration some Days age on the Impracticability of Square-rigged Vessels escaping the Enemy in their Way to their several Ports of Destination did conceive that small sharp rigged Vessels would more probably meet with success – We have therefore thought it most advisable to send the Cargo of the Brig *Fortune* to the West Indies in such Vessels, and for that Purpose, have wrote to Persons who, we are informed, can furnish us with them – in the mean Time we would direct that the Cargo of the Brig should not be unloaded but kept on Board until you have further Instructions from us – Capt'n [Abraham] Van bebber can't be much, if any in Advance after the Arrival of the *Hannah*, and the Bill he has drawn.

[Annapolis] May 1st 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday, May 1st, 1776.

On consideration of a letter from Benjamin Harrison, jun'r, Esq'r, of April 29th – the comm'ee are of the opinion that they cannot with propriety engage in the ransome of the Ship *Grace*, even if the *other* [*sic Otter*] sloop of war was in this colony which however they are informed she is not.

A warrant to Capt. George Muter for £60 upon acc't for furnishing arms and material for the *Hero* Galley. Bond ackn'd and ord. record.

Same to Capt. Wm. Mitchell for £100 upon acc't for purchasing arms and recruiting his company of Marines. Bond ackn'd and o.r.

On examining George Friar, who says he was employed as master of arms on board the *other* sloop-of-war and was taken at Norfolk, it is ordered he be detained as a prisoner of war, but that he be permitted to walk any-

where within the Capitol Square, and in the Main street from the Capitol as far as to include the house of Mr. James Southall, upon his parole not to depart these limits or correspond with or give intelligence to Lord Dunmore or any of the officers of the navy or their adherents.

On the examination of Joseph White, a pilot, who was taken by Capt. [Richard] Barron, it is ordered that he be discharged on his parole not to bear arms or give intelligence or assistance to Lord Dunmore, the officers of the navy, or their adherents, upon this condition: that if he do not within ten days give security, to be approved of by one of the Judges appointed by the Comm'ee of Gloster county, in the penalty of £100.0.0 for keeping the s'd parole, he shall be liable to be taken up and confined. The s'd White engaged his parole in Comm'ee.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 162-63.

MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Northampton County Virginia 1st May 1776

In Committee

Capt Duncan Hill Commander of the schooner late loaded with flower formerly Commanded by Capt Kell, laid his instructions from the Honbl The Council of Safety of Maryland before the Committee, and desired their advice therein. The Committee accordingly took his case under Consideration and are of opinion that agreeable to his instructions he may make a trial to get out of the Capes the Committee being of opinion there is a possibility (tho' very little probability) of his escaping the Tenders.

Extract from the minutes
Drury Stith, C. Com

1. Red Book, XXVI, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW ¹

April 1776 In Hampton Road, Virginia
 Tuesday 30 at 4 AM weigh'd and came to sail ² at 8 Cape Henry S S W
 2 miles at 11 AM gave Chase to 2 sail to windward; at noon
 spoke the Chace which proved to be His Majesty's Sloop
 Nautilus and a small Schooner
 PM fresh gales and hazey – parted Compy with the *Nautilus* –
 at 5 shortned sail
 May 1776 Cape Henlopen No 56 Wt. Dist. 38 miles
 Wednesday 1st 7 AM handd mn Topsl Strong gales and Cloudy Recd a
 Pilot from the *Nautilus* who Took charge of the Ship –
 First part fresh gales and cloudy midle and latter modr and
 clear found one of the main shrouds broke Spliced an eye
 and fixt Do at 6 made sail at 7 Tak'd Ship, set staysls

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

2. Bound for Delaware Bay in response to the *Roebuck's* request for assistance.

South-Carolina and American General Gazette, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 TO
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1776

Charlestown, May 1.

The Report of General Clinton's having left North-Carolina is void of Foundation, he being still in that Province. It is said that two Transports lately arrived there from England with Troops, supposed to be Part of those under Lord [Charles] Cornwallis's Command. The North-Carolinians, by the last Accounts, were not in the least dismayed at these hostile Appearances in their own Country, but were making every Preparation for a vigorous Resistance, should they be attacked. General [Charles] Lee was arrived there.

A Brig. having on board about eighty Recruits for our Provincial Artillery, from Philadelphia, was unfortunately taken about six Weeks ago, by the *Syren*, and carried into North-Carolina. We hear that several of them made their Escape.¹

On Sunday se'nnight two large Ships, and a Sloop appeared off our Bar. They have been seen several Times since, and are thought to be two English Frigates and a Tender.

Last Sunday a Spanish Sloop put in here in Distress. She was bound from the Havana to Porto Rico, and got her Mast broke in a violent Squall, the Day after she left the Havana.

1. Captain Francis Proctor's company of Artillery which sailed from Philadelphia on February 15 and was taken March 15, 1776.

DEPOSITION OF THOMAS TALLEMACH AND JAMES JONES ¹

Georgia in

North America

} Before me Archibald Bullock, Esquire, — President and Commander in Chief of the Province aforesaid, personally came and appeared Thomas Tallemach and James Jones, of the Parish of Christ Church in the Province of Georgia aforesaid Gentlemen, who being severally sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God do declare and say jointly and severally that they these deponents have and each of them hath for a long time past acted as Clerks to the before named Edward Telfair & Co, and that they were present when the Inventory herein before particularly taken was had and made and assisted in the doing thereof; and these Deponents know and in their Conscience believe the same to be a true Inventory of the Goods, Wares and Merchandize remaining in the Stores of the said Edward Telfair & Co in Savannah on the first day of January last past (the same Inventory being made out and taken in the manner and form accustomed amongst Merchants in the province aforesaid) And these deponents further say that they ever since continued and still are Clerks to the said House and being always present in conducting the Business thereof they are well acquainted with every transaction respecting the same and regular Books being at all times kept, these Deponents can form a very good Judgment of every thing continuing on hand in the said Store at any time, And these De-

ponents further jointly and [severally depose and say] that on or about the 23d day of February last past several Reports prevailing in the province aforesaid and amongst the Inhabitants thereof, particularly in the Town of Savannah aforesaid that several of his Majesty's Ships had arrived in the Port of Cockspur in the Province aforesaid, having on board Soldiers and Marines whose destination was supposed to be for the Town of Savannah aforesaid, in order as it was said to take and keep possession of the same from the Inhabitants thereof and in consequence of which several Resolutions had been made and other matters talked of in the said Town as induced the said Edward Telfair & Co. as the Deponents conceive it would any other persons in their Situation to look out and secure as far as lay in their power the Goods Wares and Merchandize continuing in their Stores at that time and accordingly these Deponents did with the Assistance of some of the Copartners in the said House pack up a great Quantity of the Goods Wares and Merchandize mentioned in the Inventory aforesaid in several Trunks Barrels and Boxes, and it being publickly talk'd of that in case his Majesty's Troops should Land or endeavour to do so in the Town of Savannah, the same was to be set on fire and destroyed, the said Goods Wares and Merchandize so packed up as aforesaid were put on board Two Schooners the property of and belonging to the said Edward Telfair & Co for the purpose only and in order to secure the said Goods Wares & Merchandize from Fire or any other accident that might happen in the Confusion that would almost unavoidably ensue should any attempt be made upon the said Town of an hostile nature and for no other purpose or occasion whatsoever, that the Vessels, having on board the said Goods Wares and Merchandize were Schooners using the Inland Coasting business only, and not either of them Vessels trading coming from, trading or going to trade in any part, port, or place, on the Continent of America; that the Masters of the said Schooners in order to secure the property placed on board them aforesaid, agreeable to their orders dropped and went a small distance from the Wharves of Savannah aforesaid, where they continued for some [blotted] about Saturday the second day of March last past several armed Vessels appeared under Sail to be proceeding round an Island lying opposite the Town of Savannah called Hutchinson's Island for what purpose these Deponents knew not, but the Deponent James Jones says that he being on board one of the said Schooners in Sunday Morning the third day of March following one Captain Craik came along side and acquainted the Master of the said Schooner that it was Commodore Barclay's Orders that they should proceed up the River whenever the Tide of Flood made, they moved and soon after grounded, that in the Evening the Ship *Inverness* with some other Vessels appeared to be on Fire and in Flames, and such of the Vessels lying in the harbour as could conveniently get out of their way did so to be secure from the flames, that the said Schooners afterwards got on float, and one of the Masters of them went on board the ship *Marlborough* to enquire of Captain Barclay Commander of his Majesty's Ship *Scarborough*, who this Deponent and the said Master understood to be, and was then, Commanding in chief, as Commodore, what

was the Occasion of his Orders, and the said Master when he returned acquainted this deponent the said James Jones that Captain Barclay had ordered him to proceed down to Cockspur by the way of the back river, that on the Tuesday morning following the said Schooners with several other Vessels proceeded round to the Back River and continued down to Cockspur, near the Mouth of the River Savannah where the Deponent James Jones expected they with the Schooners as also the other Vessels that had gone down in the same manner and the Effects on board the same would have been discharged and placed at liberty to go, which way was agreeable, expecting that Captain Barclay's only inducement was to get them into a place of Security, and then permit them to depart, as the proprietors pleased; but the Deponent James Jones says, that after he was down at Cockspur a Message came for the Master of the said Schooner to wait on Captain Barclay on board the *Scarborough* ship of War, who going agreeable to such Message at his return acquainted the Deponent James Jones that Captain Barclay had desired him to give in as near as possible an Estimate of what was on board; that some time afterwards the said Schooner *Esther* having on board the Goods Wares and Merchandize aforesaid were by the [blotted] the said Captain Barclay brought alongside of the Prize Ship called the *Rittenhouse*, and all the Packages of the [said] Goods were taken out of the said Schooner and put on board of the Prize Ship aforesaid, That these Deponents Thomas Tollemach & James Jones have severally carefully examined the Books and Accounts of the Goods Wares & Merchandize sold and disposed of out of the Store of the said Edward Telfair & Co and on consideration of what was placed and put on board the Schooners aforesaid, as a Security from the Accidents before mentioned [one line obliterated] these deponents jointly say, declare and swear and in their consciences believe that the said Goods Wares and Merchandize taken and detained by Captain Barclay, being on board the Schooners aforesaid, and since by his orders carried away amount in the whole to fourteen Hundred and fifty Pounds, thirteen Shillings and seven pence Sterling Money of Great Britain, the Prime Cost thereof; and these Deponents are well assured the same would upon a reasonable advance, agreeable to the Prices Goods are now sold in the province aforesaid sell for and be reasonably worth an Advance of one hundred Pounds on every hundred Pounds prime Costs, so that the Advance upon the whole would be equal to another Sum of fourteen Hundred and fifty Pounds thirteen shillings and seven pence, lawful Money of Georgia, exclusive of the prime Cost aforesaid; and these Deponents further say that the said two Schooners they are well acquainted with, and verily in their consciences believe the same are worth with their rigging and apparel Three hundred and fifty Pounds lawful Money of Georgia, so that upon the whole These Deponents jointly and severally in their Consciences believe the said Edward Telfair & Co by the detention and loss of the Goods Wares and Merchandize and the two Schooners will sustain at least a damage of three thousand Two hundred and fifty one pounds $7/2$, lawful Money of Georgia, which they conceive may be wholly attributed to the unjustifiable unlawful

and unwarrantable proceedings of the said Captain Barclay, which they think, considering his Conduct in Justice and [illegible] could be made liable to the same, lastly the Deponent James Jones says, that no Application was ever made to his Knowledge for the said Captain Barclay to take the Schooners, or the Merchandize aforesaid, under his protection or Care.

Sworn this 1st day of May 1776 before me Archd Bullock	}	Thomas Tallemach. James Jones.
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1. Edward Telfair Papers, DUL.

JOHN TAYLOR TO ST. GEORGE TUCKER ¹

[Extract]

Antigua 1st. May 1776

. . . I am sorry to inform you, that the present unhappy War has so taken up every person's Attention, endeavouring to guard against the inevitable Consequences (the Want of almost every Necessary of Life) that the Lawyers find very little Employment – This may perhaps prevent my having the Happiness of seeing you settled in this Island. with which I once flattered myself – The Present Appearance of Things in this Island is truly alarming, We have at this Time only a very scant Pittance of a Months provisions and no prospect of a proper Supply from England & Ireland. Three days ago a Vessel arrivd from Dublin with about 2000 bushels of Beans, which were immediately bought up at 15/ p bushel and if it had not been for the prizes brought in here by the Men of War. We shou'd long ere this have been without a Bbl of Flour or Bread or a Tierce of Rice and that Resource is I imagen now stopp'd as only one provision Vessel has been brought in these three Weeks, added to all this an extreme dry Season has destroy'd most of what has been planted, We are even scarce of Water to drink, as We have no Springs in the Island. Possibly my Fears are rather too great but be that as it may I am so much alarmd at it that I am determend to go to England early in July with my Family and remain there till the present dreadful Contest is over. I may probably call at your Island ² in my Way thither, when I hope to have the pleasure of again seeing you. . . .

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, CWM.

2. Bermuda.

PRIZES TAKEN BY BRITISH SHIPS IN THE WINDWARD ISLANDS ¹

Antigua, May 1, 1776

A list of Prizes taken by his Majesty's ships on this station under the honourable Admiral Young, sent into Antigua, and there condemned at several courts of Vice Admiralty since the commencement of the Prohibitory Act.

Ship *Peggy*, Charles Kerby, from Philadelphia, taken by his Majesty's ship *Viper*, Samuel Greaves.

Ship *Two Brothers*, James Johnson, from ditto, taken by the *Experiment*, Robert Keeler.

Sloop *Two Brothers*, Jared Star, from New-London, taken by the *Viper*, Samuel Greaves.

Brig *Greyhound*, Walter Stephens, from Philadelphia, taken by the *Argo*, William Garnier.

Sloop *Betsy and Molly*, Hezekiah Perkins, from ditto, taken by the ship *Pomona*, William Young.

Schooner *Two Brothers*, Smith Milliner, from Virginia, seized by Bertie Entwisle, Esq; Searcher.

Sloop *Sally*, Wilkey Dodge, from ditto, taken by the *Portland*, Thomas Demaresq.

Brig *Dolphin*, Hugh Smith from Philadelphia, seized by Bertie Entwisle, Esq; Searcher.

Sloop *Diamond*, Peter Wilney, from ditto, taken by the *Pomona*, William Young.

Schooner *Polly*, Mathew Van Alstyn, from ditto, taken by ditto

Ship *Chester*, David Ridley, from Cadiz, taken by the *Viper*, Samuel Greaves.

Sloop *America*, Robert Campbell, from St. Croix to New-York, taken by ditto.

Brig *America*, Jonathan Lambert, taken by the *Lynx*, Alexander Scot.

Sloop *Martin and John*, Martin Mahar, from North-Carolina, seized by Bertie Entwisle, Esq; Searcher.

Schooner *Thomas*, John M'Cabe, from Virginia, seized by Mr. John Fletcher.

Sloop *Maryland*, Samuel Sweet, from ditto, taken by the *Portland*, Thomas Demaresq.

Schooner *Elizabeth*, Benjamin Davis, from ditto, taken by the *Viper*, Samuel Greaves.

Schooner *Fanny*, James Mahony, from ditto, seized by Mr. John Fletcher.

Schooner *Sally and Betsey*, James Green, from North-Carolina, taken by the *Lynx*, Alexander Scot.

Brig *Dove*, Wilkinson Timmons, from ditto, taken by the *Hind*, Henry Bryne.

Brig *Tartar*, Benjamin Dean, from Georgia, taken by the *Viper*, Samuel Greaves.

Brig *Hancolt*, and 8 negroes, John Southcomb, from Virginia, seized by Mr. John Fletcher.

Brig *Betsey*, and one negroe, Thomas Wood, from ditto, taken by the *Argo*, William Garnier.

Sloop *Sally*, Nathaniel Packard, from ditto, taken by the *Pomona*, William Young.

Brig *Sawney*, Robert Woodhouse, from Georgia, taken by the *Viper*, Samuel Greaves.

Schooner, name unknown, and 56 negroes, from —, taken by the *Portland*, Thomas Demaresq.

Brig *Falmouth*, John Martin, from —, taken by the *Argo*, William Garnier

Schooner *Bumper*, Hillery Mosely, from —, taken by the *Pomona*, William Young.

Sloop *Elizabeth*, John Chace, from —, taken by ditto.

Schooner *Nancy*, Samuel Hinkley, from Nantucket, taken by the *Portland*, Thomas Demaresq.

Brig *Neptune*, Hugh Russel, from Georgia, taken by the *Pomona*, William Young.

Sloop *Speedwell*, Thomas Davis, from New-Castle on Delaware, taken by the *Experiment*, Robert Keeler.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 24, 1776.

2 May

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE ¹

May 1776	Remarks &c in Quebec
Thursdy 2nd	A M sent a Captn & 40 Men to reconnoitre who return'd with some scaling ladders they had taken
	Light Breezs & fair empd raising Tents at Cape Diamond for Encamping
	P M the Rebels sent a fire Ship up the river to burn the Shipping without doing any damage ² the Garrison under Arms till 11 OClock —

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

2. "About this time a plot was formed to burn the shipping in the harbour. A fire ship was completed in charge of Adjutant Anderson, a very brave officer, but proved abortive, by reason of the tide ebbing before he could get up to the shipping. The combustibles took fire before he intended, by which accident he was much burnt. He was, however, got on shore, and no lives lost," *The Journal of Isaac Senter* . . . (Philadelphia, 1846), 37.

JOHN LANGDON TO NICHOLAS BROWN ¹

Sr. Boston 2d. May. 1776

I am informed you have Some Canvas which can Spare, for the Ship I am buildg for the United Colonies at Portsmouth New Hampshire, shall take it kind if you'll be good enough to forward immediately, in waggons one hundred and fifty Bolts of all Sorts, or of Such as you have — as the Sendg it by land is the only way you'll please order. The Carts to bring it from your place, thr'o Cambridge, down Thro Danvers as far as Ipswich, and Deliver it to Mr John Winthrop of the last mentioned place, who will forward it me by water from thence — I shall much Depend on your kindness in giveg every Dispatch, as our Ship is almost ready for Launchg. — am very sorry I had not the pleasure of Seeg you, last week here As I understand you were in Town — I shall Thank you to let me hear from you by Return of post, by

all means pray don't fail me in this matter, as it will much oblige me – I am
[&c.]

John Langdon

please to Direct to me at Portsmouth N.H. p post

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

JOURNAL OF H.M. BRIG *Diligent*, LIEUTENANT EDMUND DOD ¹

May 1776 Block Island dist: 81 $\frac{1}{3}$ Leagues
 Wednesday 1st AM at 6 Joined Compy the *Cerberus*, at 9 Saw a Sail to the
 SE, Chaced with the *Cerberus* & brought her too, An Amer-
 ican Schooner from Cape Francois, with Arms, Gun Powder,
 Flints, Brimstone, Steel, Salt & Molasses for the Rebels at
 Wareham New England.²
 Thursday 2d Fresh breezes & fair Wr AM Supply'd the *Cerberus* with
 a Cask of Beef & a cask of Pork; Recd from the Prize, Gun
 powder 16 Bls & $\frac{1}{2}$, Steel 20 faggots, Brimstone, 11 Casks
 & 2 Boxes, Flints 2 Casks & 175 Stand of Arms –

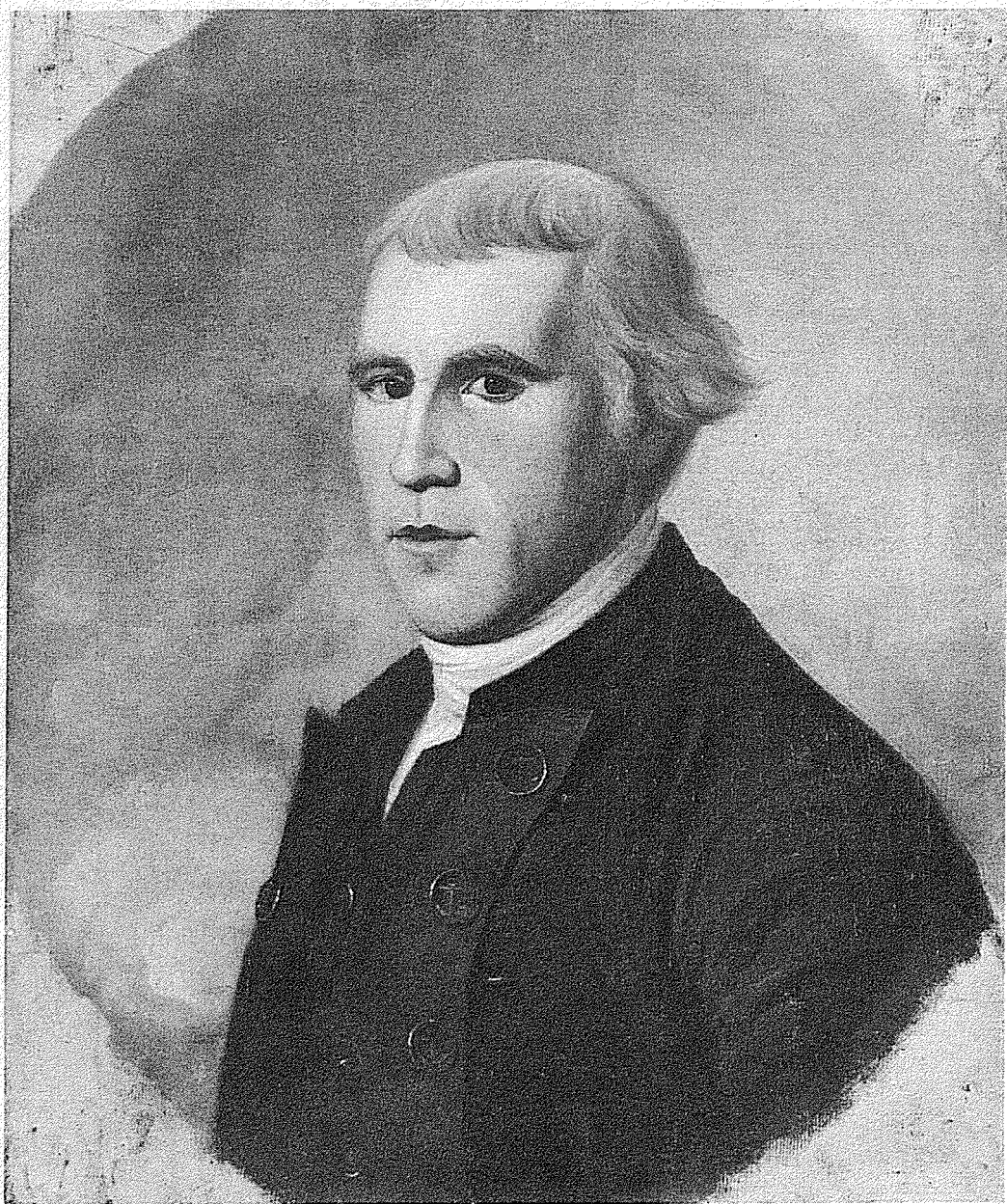
1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4109.

2. *Lyon*, M. Barlow, belonging to the Congress, bound from Cape François for Dartmouth, with powder, arms, salt and molasses, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE TO CHARLES BIDDLE, PHILADELPHIA ¹

[*Andrew Doria*, New London, May 2, 1776] ²

I with great pleasure Receivd your Note but did not see Capt Allen.³ As I Lay a League below the town While he was here – What is it that now Ails our Dear Brother, Why was you not more particular on that head, Why do you tell me only just enough to keep me in doubt and suspence about What is of much more concern to me than any thing that can happen Myself. Does the Dam'd Rhumatism still hang on him.⁴ How does our Dear Betty keep up her Spirits.⁵ I would write to her and to all the Family, but must first forget in some measure the Shamefull Loss of the *Glascow*. A More imprudent ill conducted Affair never happend. We were just off a port in which we know a fleet of Superior force to ours Lay. We had five prizes in Company and all the Stores taken at [New] Providence on Board our Armd Vessels. It was in the night, the *Glascow* was Standing off from the Land, And we were to windward of Her. We ought, in my opinion to have jogged on with her till daylight for had the Ships been with her then, that were in Company with her the day before, We should every dam'd Soul of us been either taken or sunk. She had all the appearance of a War-like Vessel. And no one in the fleet doubted her being an English Man of War And therefore there was no room to think She would fly from us till She felt our force. And as there was a tender just to Leeward of her it was more than Probable the Rest of the fleet were out for they seldom separated. If we were a match for the fleet Why did we not Chase her in. tis possible they might have afforded us some Assistance from the



Captain Nicholas Biddle, Continental Navy.

Shore. I had Rather have dawsons Pilot Boat to Cruise where I please than be even in the *A. Doria* and follow the fleet. I never but once wishd to have the Command of the *Columbus*. – And Yet I do not see how the Admiral can be Blamd for whether it was against his judgment or not he could not help the Action being brought on. For there was no signal from the time (about two oclock) I made the one for seeing a Strange sail and the one (about six) for giving over Chace. The *Cabot* and *Columbus* run on without Orders but the *Cabot* got off[f] again as quick as possible and came no more up. In fact She and the *Alfred* Received their Dose in about a Quarter of an Hour. I know the papers say three Glasses. they must mean half Minute Glasses. –

I have just Careend and expect to sail tomorrow or next day to join the fleet who have got safe into Providence. There is a Frigate and twelve Gun Brig off here.⁶ And I expect to be forced to run the Ga[u]ntlet. The Ships must have passd them in the Night as they see nothing of them –

Give my Love to our Dear Mother and all the Family and believe me to be Dear Charles Your [&c.]

Nicholas Biddle

1. Nicholas Biddle Letters, HSP.

2. Dating of the letter is based upon (a) the careening was completed on May 1, and (b) the *Andrew Doria* sailed on a cruise at 6 P.M. May 3, 1776; *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

3. Captain Thomas Allen, an old friend of Charles Biddle. Biddle, ed., *Charles Biddle Autobiography*, 62–63.

4. Edward Biddle, the eldest son in the family was an invalid from 1775 until his death in 1779.

5. Elizabeth (Ross) Biddle.

6. H.M.S. *Cerberus* and H.M. Brig *Diligent*.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS¹

Dear Sir

New London May 2 1776

I Recd a line from Capt [John Burroughs] Hopkins to putt as much Provision on Board the *Andrew Doria*, as will serve them for three Months – wich I shall Comply with, and Imagine she will be Ready to Sail by Satturday Next – I Reed a line from Bedford, and my Friend writes me that he has deliverd the Five hundd wt of Powder to Governour Cooks order, so I shall take that Qty out of the powder you landed hear – we have two Deserters hear that came from the Brigg,² that is att Block Island, they say, the Ship *Cerberus* has 32 Eighteen pounder and Two hundd Men,³ and that the People att Block Island, tell them all they know, the Ship Sails very fast – I am Sir [&c.]

Nath^l Shaw Jun^r

To Esek Hopkins Esqr Commander in Cheif of the American Fleet att Providence

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. H.M. Brig *Diligent*.

3. *Cerberus* had 28 guns and 160 men.

PETER L. CURTENIUS TO PHILIP VAN RENSSELAER, ALBANY ¹

Sr

Inclosed is Capn Johnsons Rect. for 30 fathom Chain which Genl Lee ordered to be made for to be sent to Canada, It will be necessary that you acquaint the Genl ² of it that he may get it forwarded assoon as possible, & it would also be proper that Genl [John] Thomas should know that it is aComming in order to have the Logs made to b[u]oy it up – It is to be fixt at some narrow part of the river St Lawrence a little above Quebec – If Mr [James] Price is still in Albany [he] can tell you where it is, for Genl. Lee consulted with him about the Matter. I expect every Minute thirty fathom (which complets them) more from the Jerseys which I thought proper to let you know that you might engage waggons to carry it up – I am Sr [&c.]

Peter L Curtenius

[New York] May 2, 1776

1. Schuyler Papers, vol. 15, NYPL.

2. Major General Philip Schuyler.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, May 2, 1776

Resolved, That a letter be written to General Schuyler, desiring him, in case Major [William] Douglass declines to take the command of the vessels on the lakes, that he appoint Captain [Jacobus] Wyncoop to that command, and inform Congress thereof by the first opportunity.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 322, 323.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a 2nd May, 1776.

Resolved, That Colo. [John] Nixon & Capt. [Robert] Whyte, be a Committee to direct the fitting out, to Cruize in the Cape May Channel for the protection of the Trade of this Province, four of the Guard Boats now built and under the Command of the Captains [Charles] Lawrence, [William] Gamble, [William] Greenway, & [Jacob] Hans.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 554.

ARCHIBALD MC CALL TO HENRY FISHER, LEWES ¹

Mr Henry Fisher

Phila May 2nd 1776

I wrote to you Yesterday. I am much Oblidged to you for your care & attention to Capt: Mullet I now send 4 Good waggons to bring Capt: Mullets whole Cargo to Phila as by carrying it to Muspilion, it might be some time before it got here, any Charges that might have acrued, I must beg the favor of you to pay, as the greatest danger in the Voyage is in our Bay, I have ordered Capt: Mullet to Ballast his Boat with Corn & make an another push provided his People will go, or he can get a crew with you, If he succeeds I must request the favor of you, to Supply him with what he may

want if he cant Succeed I have given him, Liberty to come up with the Waggons & leave the Boat in Care of the Pilot, who are to run her up here if a favorable Oppertunity Should Offer, of which I beg you be the judge & give Orders, – I am [&c.]

Arch^d M^cCall

1. Emmet Autograph Collection, NYPL.

JOHN HANCOCK TO COMMANDER OF CONTINENTAL BATTALION.
IN DELAWARE ¹

Sir,

[Philadelphia] May 2d 1776.

Your are hereby directed to station thirty five Men with a proper officer of your Battalion at the false Cape to protect the Navigation & do Duty there until further Orders. I am Sir [&c.]

J H. Prest

1. Papers CC (Letter Books of the President of Congress), 12A, I, 121, NA.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED MAY 2.” ¹

The *Roebuck* Man of War after being ashore a few Hours, got off again, without Damage. This Morning came up an Express from Lewis Town, informing that the *Roebuck* last Monday went out to Sea, and was joined by a Ship of 20 Guns: They chased a Schooner inward bound from Hispaniola ashore a little to the Southward of our Capes, where her Cargo is saved. A Schooner from St. Eustatia is got safe into Indian River, and another Schooner was off the Capes from St. Eustatia with 5 Tons of Powder, sent ashore for a Pilot, but was desired to go into Indian-River, where I hope she is safe. The *Roebuck* and the other Man of War came into our Road on Tuesday with two Sloops, one looks like a Bermudian Vessel, the other a Clump.

1. *New-York Gazette*, May 6, 1776.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR DESERTERS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA GONDOLA
Bull Dog ¹

DESERTED from the *Bull Dog* armed boat, Alexander Henderson, Esq; commander, six men,² viz. John Parker, mariner, about five feet six inches high, well made, light coloured short hair, and about twenty-two years of age; had on, when he went away, a white cloth jacket and breeches of the same, and is a native of New England. John Sayer; trade unknown, about five feet three inches high, a little stooped shouldered, about twenty years of age, wears generally a blue body coat and red waistcoat, short brown hair, and is a native of England. John Stewart, labourer, near five feet six inches high, about twenty-four years of age, has short light coloured hair, and very swarthy complexion; had on, when he deserted, a ragged white coat, and canvas trousers, walks a little lame, and is a native of Pennsylvania. James Welsh, about five feet six inches high, swarthy complexion, about twenty-two years of age, a little marked with the smallpox;

had on, when he deserted, a coarse grey jacket, and breeches of the same, and was born in Pennsylvania. Samuel M'Cormack, a broadset man, about five feet five inches high, swarthy complexion, short black hair, about forty five years of age. Had on, when he deserted, a brown cloth jacket and leather breeches, and is a native of Ireland.

Whoever takes up and secures any of them, so that they may be brought to the said boat, shall have Four Dollars for each.

Alexander Henderson

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, May 2, 1776.
2. While stating six men deserted, but five are described.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

April 1776 The Lighthouse West distant 3 Leagues

Tuesday 30th at 8 in the morning weighed and made Sail with the prize in Co² at 9 Saw a Sail and chased her, Armed the *Ranger* and sent her after the chace, as she was Steering between the Hen and Chickens, who run her ashore near the Lighthouse; at 10 gave chace to a Sloop in the SE quarter, and at 1/2 after Saw a ship and chased her, at 11 came up with the chace, which proved his Majestys Ship *Fowey*; Began to attempt to decoy the Sloop down to us.

Fresh gales and cloudy weather, In the afternoon, at 1 Anchd in Old Hoar Kill Road in 7 fms the Lighthouse SbE1/2Et, the *Fowey* and 2 prizes in Company. at 2 the Sloop came down accordingly having taken us for the Rebel Ships, and proved to be from Bermuda bound to Philadelphia Laden with Salt and fruit.³ employed variously

May 1776

Wednesday 1st Fresh gales and cloudy weather, In the Afternoon Armed and Manned the Prize and named her the *Pembroke*, for the more effectual annoying the Enemy . . . Sent the Tenders on a Cruize

Thursday 2d at 8 in the morning they returned with a Schooner from Philadelphia to St Eustatia laden with flower:⁴ At 9 Anchd here His Ms Ship the *Liverpool*: Read the Articles of War &ca to the Ships company: And Gave Captain [George] Montagu⁵ an order to put himself under my command.

Moderate and fair weather employed taking on board from the *Fowey* Several Species of Provisions:

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.
2. The sloop *Ranger*, taken April 27.
3. *Little John*, J. Darrel, master, Davenport & Co., owners, from Bermuda for Philadelphia, with salt and limes. Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.
4. *Ibid.*, *Dolphin*, T. Woodhouse, master, Henry Cowper, owner, from Philadelphia for St. Croix, with flour, bread and staves.
5. Commander of H.M.S. *Fowey*. Hamond's journal explains further, "As the *Fowey* wanted much refitting I sent her to supply the place of the former [*Liverpool*] at Virginia," PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE¹

Gentn We understand from Captn [James] Nicholson that you have now bot your Boom down at Whetstone Point – We desire therefore the Schooner *Ninety two* may no longer be detained, and have ordered Mr [Hugh] Young to dispatch her immediately.

[Annapolis] 2nd May 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. Lawrence*, LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES¹

May 1776

In Cape Fear River No Carolina

Wednesday 1 at 2 A M Came on Bd 4 Refugees who Escaped from the Rebbels

Thursday 2 Fresh Gales and Clear at 4 P M fired 4 four pounders & 6 swivels at the Rebbels.

Sent the Cutter mann'd and arm'd after a small Schooner Boat which [we] brought alongside with 3 Reffugees.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

RESPONSE TO MEMORIAL IN THE TRIAL OF THE SHIP *America* IN THE NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF VICE ADMIRALTY¹

[Cape Fear, May 2, 1776]

No Carolina ss.

The Reply

To his Honour James Elletson Bowen Esqr

Surrogate of the Court of Vice Admiralty in the sd Province

Francis Parry Esqr Commander of his Majestys Sloop *Cruiser* who Libells the Ship *America* in behalf of himself and others begs leave to shew in Answer to the Memorial of Robert Cunningham who claims the sd Ship –

That it is unnecessary to enter into a discussion of the Characters or general Conduct of the owners of the Ship *America* or that of their Agents which are not at present in question before this Honble Court –

The Prosecutor will therefore only Observe that the facts Charged in the Libell against the Ship *America* are fully Proved by the Evidence of William McKenzie and Robert McLean and that they are Confessed by the Claimant in his Memorial – From these it appears that the Ship *America* came into the Province of North Carolina on the Tenth day of February last with a Load of Salt and three Hogsheads of Rum two of which were the property of the Mates of the said Ship and for which Rum it is not so much as pretended that there ever was a Certificate Clearance Bond or Bill of Stores –

That the Salt was brought to be disposed of in this Province if possible but the same was prevented by the prosecutor, who in discharge of his Duty & to distress the Rebels detained the said Ship and Salt –

That part of the said Rum was Actually disposed of after its Arrival here to different People and at different Times –

That the Prosecutor in discharge of his Duty as an Officer of the Customs seized the said Ship *America* together with the Rum by Mr Willm Reid who is also an Officer of the Customs on the fourteenth day of March last and not having it in his power to Libell sooner, did on the first day of April Libel the said Ship *America* in the first Court of Vice Admiralty held in this province after the said Seizure and Charges that the said Ship having been detected importing into this Province three Hogsheads of Rum contrary to Acts of Parliament is therefore become forfeited to his Majesty against this Charge the Claimant Alledges that the said Rum is the produce of Barbadoes – That it was no more than Necessary for Ships Stores And that he could have had a Bill of Stores for it, but he at the same time Acknowledges that it was not intended as Ship Stores being the Property of Robert McLean and the other Mate which is also proved by the Oath of the said Robert McLean who sold and disposed of it as his Property since his Arrival in this Province – Wherefore it is Evident by the Claimants own Shewing That his Majesty hath been Unjustly defrauded of his Dutys on two Hogsheads of the said Rum in the Island of Barbadoes and that it was intended farther to Defraud his Majesty of the Duties that should further Arise on the said Rum on its being imported into any part of his Majesty's Dominions but the said Rum being without Certificate Clerance or Bond must by Act of Parliament be deemed and Adjudged foreign and Subjects the Ship *America* in which it is Imported into this Province to forfeiture together with itself.

The Prosecutor also Charges in the Libel against the Ship *America* that she Contrary to an Act of Parliament prohibiting all Trade &c with the Colonies therein mentd came into the Province of North Carolina on the Tenth day of February last with a load of Salt and Rum and that part of the said Rum was actually sold and disposed of And that it was intended to have sold and delivered the said Salt in this Province contrary to Act of Parliament whereby both the Ship and Cargo is become forfeited to his Majesty –

This second Charge is also fully Supported by the Oath of William McKenzie and Robert McLean and the Claimant in his Memorial and therefore the Prosecutor having supported both Charges by the fullest and Clear-est Evidence prays the Judgment of this Honourable Court.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/3680.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. ARMED VESSEL *Cherokee* ¹

May 1776 Moored in Savannah river Georgia
 Thursday 2 at 6 AM sent three Seamen Armed on board the *Raven's*
 Tender. Do sailed hence the Tender in Chace of a Brig in
 the Offing.
 Mode and fair Wear at 4 pm the Tender returned having

seized the Brig she proved to be the *Sally* Peter Ridge Master
Laden with [blank] she is detained on Suspicion of Smuggling

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

JOHN BROWN TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

[Extract]

Bahamas New Providence 2d May 1776

My Lord I take this first opportunity of informing Your Lordship that His Majesty's rebellious Subjects of North America, knowing that the Company of the fourteenth Regiment was removed from hence, and the *Savage* Sloop of War recalled from this Station, and that thereby these Islands were left in a defenceless State, fitted out an armed Force from Philadelphia, consisting of one Ship of thirty two Guns, one of thirty, two Brigantines of sixteen Guns, each, a Sloop of fourteen, and a Schooner of six Guns,—having on Board, besides Seamen, about three hundred Marines and Riffle Men, in order to attack this place, and to possess themselves of His Majesty's Powder, Artillery, and other Stores in his Forts in New Providence. On the third of March last this Fleet came off the Bar of the Harbour of Nassau, on which the Country was, by order of his Excellency the Governor alarmed, and the greatest part of the Militia assembled in Fort Nassau, to prevent its coming into the Harbour, but, when it was expected these Vessels would come in, they suddenly tacked, and made to the Eastward, and the Ships and Brigantines being anchored at a place called Hanover Sound, about three Leagues distant from this Harbour, the Sloop and Schooner, with two Sloops belonging to these Islands, which they had taken in their passage hither, proceeded to the east end of this Island; on which the greatest part of the Militia were sent off from Fort Nassau to join a small party lodged at Fort Montague, in order to prevent the landing of any Troops; but, before the Militia could reach the place where the Sloop and Schooner were anchored, the Rebels had disembarked their Marines and Riffle Men, and the Militia, finding themselves unable to oppose such a force, were obliged to return to Fort Montagu, where the Governor then was, and from thence to Fort Nassau, where the Powder and Stores were lodged: The Rebels soon after took possession of Fort Montague, where they remained till next Morning; in the meantime the Governor, finding that many of the Inhabitants had left the Fort, and that part of those remaining were unwilling to stay longer, called together the Council, Militia Officers and some of the principal Inhabitants, to consider whether the Fort in its then present Condition, with the few People then in it, could be effectually defended, the majority of whom were of opinion that as most of the Gun carriages were defective, and as different kinds of Shot and other material Stores were wanting, it was not defensible, on which His Excellency consulted with the Council what should be done with the Powder (in all about one hundred and sixty Barrels) when it was determined to ship the same to St. Augustine to prevent its falling into the Hands of the Rebels, and it was accordingly shipped, and ordered to be delivered to His Excellency Governor Tonym, and the Fort was soon after

evacuated. On the fourth the Rebels marched to the Town of Nassau, and took possession of the Fort, and also took the Governor Prisoner, and having taken on board their Vessels, which were brought into the Harbour for that purpose, His Majesty's Cannon, Mortars and Stores, from both the Forts, except a few Shott and Shells, they sailed from hence on the sixteenth of the same Month, and carried with them Governor [Montfort] Browne.

As soon as possible after the departure of the Rebels I dispatched an Express to His Majesty's Admiral at Jamaica, acquainting him with what had happened, and representing to him the unhappy situation His Majesty's Servants here would be in, in case the Americans should return; as at their departure they had threatened to do, and requesting that he would afford what assistance he could for the defence and protection of this Government. I also requested that he would embrace the very first opportunity he should have of acquainting His Majesty's Ministers of this Rebellious Transacton, and of the present defenceless conditon of these Islands, as I had then no other way of communicating them to your Lordships.

On considering, My Lord, the precarious condition of the Trade of this Place, and of the property of its Inhabitants, and thinking it incumbent on the People of this Government to do all in their power for the future security and protection of both, I thought fit, by the advice of his Majesty's Council, to convene the General Assembly, who passed a Law for Appointing Commissioners to put the Forts Nassau and Montague in a defensible State; but as no new Fund was provided for defraying the Expense, I am doubtful whether anything can be done to them; especially, as the present Revenue is so small as not to be sufficient to defray the usual contingencies of the Colony, and during the present unhappy disturbances it cannot be increased, as the Trade of these Islands is almost entirely ruined: so that His Majesty's Servants and Subjects, relying on his known Goodness, hope he will be graciously pleased to grant them such Support and Protection as their present Situation requires.

When His Excellency Governor Browne was carried from hence, My Lord, he carried with him, His Majesty's Commission appointing him Captain General, etc., and also that constituting him Vice Admiral of the Bahama Islands, but left His Majesty's Instructions to His Governor, the Great Seal, and the Commission for the Trial of Piracies; so that when I took the Command of the Colony, I found no other Authority for so doing but the said Instructions and the Record in the Secretary's Office of the Governor's Commission, and by which I shall continue to act, until His Majesty's Royal Will shall be known.

I have the Satisfaction to inform Your Lordship that William Chambers in the Sloop called the *Mississippi Packet*, who voluntarily took the Powder on board his Vessel, was so fortunate as to escape the Enemy, and carried the same safe to St. Augustine, where it was delivered by him to Governor Todyn.

[Endorsed] R. 20th June.

LETTER FROM JAMAICA, MAY 2, 1776 ¹

The attention which Admiral Gayton pays to the interception of the American vessels, demands the warmest praises. Seven vessels have been fitted out from this island by the Admiral, for the service of government, mounting from eight to twelve carriage guns, and from 40 to 80 men, commanded each of them by a Lieutenant. The French islands have been all along magazines for the Americans, and it was to put a stop, if possible, thereto, that these vessels were fitted out, as the number of frigates and sloops on this station were not sufficient for that purpose. Lieut. Brown, who commanded a brig of eight guns, and 40 men, brought in here a very stout vessel last week; she is 300 tons burthen, had ten guns, besides a number of swivels, and 29 men. She was bound to Cape Francois with flour and lumber.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 29 to July 2, 1776.

3 MayCONDEMNATION IN VICE ADMIRALTY COURT OF PART OF CARGO OF BRIG
Juno ¹

Nova Scotia Court of Vice Admiralty	}	Court open'd by making Proclamation as usual Proclamation made for all claimers to appear and assert their Claims
Friday 3d March [<i>sic</i> May] 1776	}	James Monk Esqr his Majestys Sollicitor General mov'd for a decree in this Cause The Judge then Order'd the decree to be Pronounced as follows –

In the Name of God Amen We Richard Bulkeley Esqr Judge and Commissary of his Majestys Court of Vice Admiralty for the Province of Nova Scotia & the Maritime parts thereunto belonging

Haveing maturely consider'd the Circumstances of the Brigantine called the *Juno* one William Keith Master Seiz'd and detain'd by Alexander Grame Esqr Commander of his Majestys Sloop of War the *King Fisher* and Libell'd in this Court by James Monk Esqr his Majestys Sollicitor General as well for and on behalf of his Majesty as for and on behalf of the said Alexander Grame wherein the said Sollicitor Alledges that the said William Keith in the said Brigantine was taken by the said Alexander Grame on the Twenty eighth day of February last near the Mouth of the River Delaware laden with Twenty four Hogsheads of Salt Petre twelve Barrels of Sulphur and twenty Barrels of Gun Powder Contrary to an Act of Parliament made in the sixteenth year of his present Majestys reign, and it appearing to us by Papers produced in open Court and provd to have been found on Board said Brigantine and by other Evidence sworn and examin'd in open Court that the said William Keith was carrying on in said Brigantine a most illegal and Treasonable Commerce by which his Majestys Rebellious Subjects in America may be enabled to carry on the war already commenc'd against his Crown and Government and repugnant to the Honour and well being of his

Dominions and all Persons claiming any Right and Title to Twenty four Hogsheads Salt Petre and Twelve Barrels of Sulphur part of the Cargo of the said Brigantine (now within the Jurisdiction of this Court) having been duly notified to attend and assert their Claims if any they had but no Person appearing so to do tho thrice called upon for that purpose and all matters and things requisite for a fair and Impartial tryal of the Premises haveing been duly attended to –

We do adjudge and decree the said Twenty Hogsheads of Salt Petre and twelve Barrels of Sulphur to be lawfull Prize to the Captors thereof & do Condemn the same accordingly and order them to be deliver'd to the agent or Agents for the said Alexander Grame his Officers and Crew to be divided in such Proportions & after such manner as his Majesty shall think fit to Order* and direct by his Royal Proclamation or Proclamations hereafter to be Issued for that purpose. Given under our hand and the Seal of the said Court this 3d day of May Anno Domini 1776 and in the sixteenth year of his Majestys reign

Rich. Bulkeley Jud Admty

Court adjourn'd without day in this Cause –

1. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769–1777, N.S. Arch.

JOSEPH WILLIAMS TO WILLIAM COIT, NORWICH MERCHANT¹

[Extract]

Cambridge May 3rd 1776

I have Some thoughts of being Concernd in 2 Private[e]rs thats now fixing out of Boston, to Cruize after the Jama Ships, bound for London – One is Abt 80 Tons & the Other About fourty, to be well fixd & to go in Comps as One – Colo Sergants is 1/8th Concernd in the whole, & their is 1/16th not taken up yet, & the Concernd have a mind I Should take it, Our Leiut Colo [(J)ackson()]² has a mind to be 1/3d Part – Please to write me whether you have A mind to be Concer[n]d or not, I Shall Conclude before I Can hear from you [but] if I Should be Concernd you may be Equally Concd w[ith] me, or I will take it all to myself. I Should Like to have had your Advice in the Affair if it was So that I Could – the two vessels whole Outsets will be About Two thousand Pounds Lw Money – we have Nothing New this way, trade grows dull, but I believe Shall get rid of Our goods with a good Profit – I am Sir [&c.]

Jos Williams

1. Trumbull Papers, YUL.

2. Paul Dudley Sargent, colonel, and Michael Jackson, lieutenant colonel of the 16th Continental Infantry. One of the privateers was the *Yankee* Sloop, commissioned May 23, 1776, Henry Johnson, commander, 9 guns and 60 men, Mass. Arch., vol. 7, 342; vol. 164, 339.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT¹

[Watertown] Friday May 3d 1776

Resolved That the Committee of Inspection for Deer Island be, and they hereby are directed to deliver unto Jonathan Rich of Marblehead, the Schooner *Nightingale* with her Cargo and Appurtenances that was taken

into Custody some time in August last past by said Committee – it not appearing upon Examination that the said Rich has Acted any thing against this or the United Colonies, whereby his property should be forfeited – he giving the said Committee a discharge for any demands he may have against them for detaining said Vessel and Cargo –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 838, 844.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ORDER TO JAIL KEEPER AT BOSTON ¹

Colony of the } The major part of the Council
Massachusetts Bay } of said Colony

To the Keeper of the Goal in Boston, in the County of Suffolk –
Greeting

You are hereby commanded to deliver into the Custody of Commodore Jno Manly Peter Ramsen,² now a Prisoner in Your keeping, in order that he may be examined before his Honor, Gen[eral] Ward, touching the Cause of his imprisonment and be by him disposed of as he shall think fit –

In the name of & by Order of the
major part of the Council
James Otis President

Council Chamber [Watertown] May 3d 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 343.

2. Master of the Tory brigantine *Elizabeth*.

THOMAS CUSHING TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir

[Watertown] May 3, 1776

The General Court of this Colony has appointed a Committee whereof I have the honour to be Chairman to give you the following Interesting Intelligence

Capt John Lee (a Gentleman who may be depended on) arrived at Newbury on the 2d Inst in 29 Days from Bilboa and gives information that on the fifteenth of April he fell in with a brig from Plymouth bound to Newfoundland the master of which informed him that three days before he parted with a fleet of 60 Sail of Transports under the Command of Lord [Richard] How[e] having on Board 12000 Hessians bound to Boston together with 27 Commissioners, that Genl Burgoyne with 4000 Hannoverians sailed or was to Sail about the same time for Quebec. Lee says he read the English papers on Board the Brig by which it appeared that the parliament had Voted to pay foreign Troops & that the King of Prussia's Demand on Britain was complied with that the people of England were very desirous of a settlement and that the Commissioners were to use their utmost Endeavours to Effect it which if they failed in the forces were to Lay waste the whole Country if they could. Mr Gourdroqui [Joseph Gardoqui] of Bilboa writes by his Letter dated the 27th of March last to Isaac Smith Esqr by Capt Lee in these words "No other News from England but that 17300 German Troops were going to Boston & Canada some of which were Embarking about three weeks ago" –²

This intelligence appears to the Genl Assembly of this Colony too important to the whole Continent not to be forwarded to you by express – where these Troops will Endeavour to begin their Ravages is uncertain but as the british arms were brought into disgrace by General [William] Howes being compelled to abandon this Colony it is reasonable to suppose that they will endeavour to regain their honour in the place where they lost it – and we should be guilty of injustice as well to the other united Colonies as to this if we should not inform your Honr that this Colony is by no means in a good State of Defence a great number of our arms being carried away in the Continental Army & to Canada and our powder which we Supplied the Army with being Eight Tons at the least not being replaced wherefore we cannot have that dependence on our Militia which we otherwise should have and the detachment of the continental Forces under General [Artemas] Wards Command being as we apprehend insufficient to repel an heavy attack there being but five regiments & they not half full – We are by no means Solicitous about the particular Interest of this Colony – nor do we wish ourselves to be excused from being the more immediate object of their relentless rage but for the Sake of the public Cause we wish ourselves in a Situation fit to receive them with that Spirit which they have been taught to expect in men fighting for the freedom of America – the attention which the Congress has Shewn to the Safety of this Colony as well as the whole of the united Colonies gives us reason to hope that they will Neglect nothing that can tend to our Releif and Protection.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 368–70, NA Photocopy.

2. To this point the text is verbatim from Timothy Pickering's letter of May 2, to the General Court. Cushing also passed the information to General Washington suggesting reinforcing General Ward's troops since the British might return to attack Boston to "retrieve their character." *Ibid.*, 371–73.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Boston 3 May 1776.

. . . Commodore Manley declines going on another Cruise until he has a larger Ship, and he says he cannot recommend his first Lieut² for the Command of the Vessel he last sailed in. Frequent applications are made to me to appoint Commanders of the Privateers, and for other matters which no Person here is authorised to transact.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Lieutenant Richard Stiles.

PHILIP SHEARMAN TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS¹

Comadore Hopkins Sr

We Received yours of the Eighteenth march pr Capt Jenne together with The Guns & Shot permit us to return you our Sincere thanks for your publick Services and in a perticular maner for Those nessecary Ingines of Defence Sent us by Capt Jenne, Those Shot which will not Answer for us we Shall Convey By the first oppertunity Either to Providence or Howlands

Feary we are yours & the Countrys [&c.] Signed in & on behalf of the Committee of Inspection for the town of Dartmouth by –

Philip Shearman {Clark :

Dartmouth, may the 3rd 1776.

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

BILL OF DAVID ATWATER, JR., FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR CAPTAIN
SETH HARDING ¹

Colony of Connecticut Dr	To David Atwater junr	
To Pocket Instruments 1 Case		2..0..0
1 Qt Elix Salutis		0..4..0
lb 2 fs Flor Sulph		3..9
lb 1 Allum		0..7
3 Doz Vial Corks		0..6
Bottle & Pot		1..2
Box		1..0
		<hr/> 2.11..0

Seth Harding

New Haven

May 3d 1776 Receivd of James Rice the Contents in full

David Atwater Junr

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX (*Defence*), 69, ConnSL.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE ¹

[New London Harbor]

Friday 3 Fresh Breezes & heazy Employ'd stowing the Water & taken in
Balace

Moderate Breezes & Cloudy At 6 P M left New London in
Company with several merchantmen, Bound out.

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Fort George May 3d 1776

The Commission arrived at St Johns on the 27th and on the 28th ult. twenty four Batteaus with troops &c &c had Already [arrived] and the others were momentarily expected. I believe the whole are now before Quebec

I have found myself under the necessity of building a number of Batteaus far Exceeding what Congress ordered One hundred and thirty are now built and I propose to Compleat them to two hundred; but If more troops should be sent Even that number will be Insufficient

Commodore [William] Douglass is not arrived nor is a single Sailor come up so that I shall be Obliged to send on the provisions in Batteaus

from hence to St Johns and for this arduous service I have only Seventy men of the troops raised for the defence of this Colony, the others being not yet come up If raised, which I much doubt

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 129-32, NA.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

[Extract]

New York, May 3, 1776.

In Respect of Sailors to cruize and pass in the Lakes; on the 24th. Ulto., I gave a Warrant to a Captain Jacobus Wynkoop for 276 2/3 Dollars for a Month's advance Pay for himself, Officers and Men, who are engaged in that Service; Of this, I there advised you, of their different Pay that you might take an Account of it, and know what they are to receive in future.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, V, 7-9.

EBENEZER HAZARD TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ¹

Sir,

New York May 3d 1776

We have no News here, except that the last Phila Post brought Advice that the *Roebuck* of 44 Guns was on Shore on the East Bank of Brandywine, & that eight Row Gallies, the Province Ship & *Reprisal* were gone down to take her. The Phila Post is not arrived today, & we are not yet informed whether they have been successful. -

Mr [George] Measum writes me that the Genl has ordered him to frank Soldiers Letters. - Yesterday a Detachment of Troops sailed for Albany. -

I enclose Holt's Paper ² & am [&c.]

Eben Hazard

P.S. Should any Thing remarkable happen in Canada I beg to be favd with a Line

[Addressed] Doctor Franklin Montreal

If not there, to be forwarded.

1. Franklin Papers, IV, 84, APS.

2. *New-York Journal*, printed by John Holt.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix*, CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR.¹

May 1776 Moor'd off Sandy Hook The Light House EBN Distance
1 Mile

Friday 3d AM Sail'd his Majestys Sloop *Savage* & three of our Prizes under
Convoy & *Swallow* Packet.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 3rd May, 1776.

Resolved, That the Pilot to be employed on Board the Provincial Ship, be allowed sixteen Dollars p month & two Rations of Provisions per day.

Robert Towers Reports . . . That he has deliver'd
To Capt. [Robert] Whyte, 5 pieces of Sail Cloth.
[To] Matthew Strong, for his look-out Boat,

5 Firelocks. 15 Flints.
48 Cartridges. 8 Swivel Balls.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 555-56.

PETITION OF A SLAVE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

To the Honble Committee of Safety

Sheweth that your poor Petitioner was Bought By Capt John Barry and taken to Sea in the Brig *Lexington* belonging to the Honorable the Congress and has since Sold him for the Same Money that he Paid for Him Besides Having Received Your poor Petitioners wages and Prize Money—

Therefore your Humble Poor Petitioner Requests that you Would take his case unto Your Serious Consideration and order Him Such Part of the Prize money as you shall Deem fit and In so doing Your Humble Petitioner will be for ever bound To pray &c —

[Philadelphia, May 3, 1776] ²

[Endorsed] Servant to Capt Barry

1. Pa. Arch.

2. The date is approximated. During the life of the Committee of Safety, Barry had sent in only one prize, the sloop tender *Edward*. Her condemnation in Admiralty Court was completed April 30, 1776, and distribution of prize money ordered that day. Admiralty Court Docket, Case No. 1, U.S. Custom Office, Philadelphia. Presumably the unnamed slave heard of it reasonably soon thereafter, and petitioned accordingly.

COMMITTEE TO OUTFIT THE SCHOONER *Resolution* TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Baltimore May 3d 1776

Inclosed you have a List of the Different Bills of Disbursements in the Outfit of the Schooner *Resolution*. The Original Bills for these Accots shall be furnish'd you by one of us in person as soon as we know when it may be convenient to wait on you with them. In the mean time as we have been oblinded to Advance a great part of the Money and the Remainder is wanted we wou'd request you to send us by Capt Nathl Smith a Thousand Pounds towards the discharge of what is yet due, untill we have the whole Accots examin'd We are Gentlemen [&c.]

Robert Purviance David Stewart Geo: Woolsey

1. Executive Papers, Box 2, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Friday, May 3rd, 1776.

It being represented to the Comm'ee that the wife of John Goodrich, jun'r, had lately gone on board the Fleet at Norfolk with her child, upon fir-

ing the house in Portsmouth: ordered, that her Father, Mr. Wm. Harwood, be allowed to employ a boat to send from Hampton on board the Fleet for their removal, and the commanding officer at Hampton is requested to furnish him with a flag of truce for that purpose.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 166.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1776

Williamsburg, May 3.

Last Sunday se'nnight a tender came up Rappahannock, and chased a New England schooner, outward bound, into Hobb's Hole, from whence she carried her off, as low down the river as Bowler's warehouse, where she got aground on an oyster bank, and stuck there till the Tuesday following; by which time some spirited gentlemen in the neighbourhood got together four sailing boats, and manned them, with a view to retake the prize, and, if possible, to board the tender, which was commanded by one of old [John] Goodrich's sons, and had on board a large quantity of sail canvas, &c.&c. As soon as the tender's people saw our vessels bearing down upon them, they set fire to the prize, and quitted her; upon which some small boats from the shore put off, and arrived time enough to extinguish the fire, without its materially damaging the vessel, having only one or two of her sails burned. Mr. Hugh Walker, and Mr. Richard Banks, who commanded two of the vessels, got quickly up with the tender, and engaged her at close quarters for at least 15 or 20 minutes, with small-arms, during which a valuable negro man, a pilot on board Mr. Walker's vessel, was shot through the head, attempting to board, and three or four of the tender's people were seen to fall; when, a breeze springing up, Mr. Goodrich took the advantage of it, and ran off, leaving his prize behind, which is now safely secured. During the action, Mr. Charles M'Carty of Richmond, Mr. John Edmondson, and Mr. Nathaniel Crow, of Essex, Mr. James Montague, of Middlesex, with Mr. Walker and Mr. Banks, greatly distinguished themselves, by their intrepid and gallant behaviour; and Capt. Thomas Strathley, and Mr. Thomas Bowler, of Essex, who commanded the two other vessels, although they did not get up in time to engage, yet shewed much zeal and alacrity, and no doubt, had they been present, would have signalized themselves.

Yesterday evening, his Excellency the General¹ attended by his aids-de-camp and secretary, with adjutant-general [Thomas] Bullitt, arrived at headquarters in this city, from Suffolk, having visited Portsmouth, the Great Bridge, and Kemp's Landing; and we hear, that several effective regulations for crushing the Tory interest in that quarter have taken place. The town of Portsmouth has suffered in no other respect than that of *demolishing the lodgings, entirely*, of three noted and disaffected persons, and seizing a quantity of stores, the property of Tories. Old Capt. Goodrich, and Mr. George Blair, late of Smithfield, are now in Suffolk jail; sent by the Council of Safety in North Carolina for trial, having been taken on that coast in a piratical vessel.

1. Major General Charles Lee.

"INFORMATION OF A SPY, GIVEN TO LORD DUNMORE THE 3D DAY OF
MAY 1776." ¹

Saturday in the evening [April 27] as I was laying on the floor of Veals House as if a Sleep, I heard Majr Thomas Parker, Josiah Parker, and [Blank] Lawson, Speak freely, that, that Night or before Morning, that Dunmore and the Fleet would be destroyed, and that on Majr Parkers being ordered out with a Company to join Hoffer,² at the Mouth of the Western Branch, he asked Josiah Parker what should be done with the Tories he found on Board the Vessels, he answered damn them, Tomahawk them all and throw them over Board, and give yourself no further trouble about them, that on firing two Signal Guns at 4 O'Clock on Sunday Morning the Ship *Dunmore* if possible, (if not her) that any other Vessel Should be Boarded and Set on fire; At the same time they should Attack the lines on the Mill point, and Burn Portsmouth; that on Sunday Morning about 7 O'Clock the Party returned to Neals, when Parker reported to the other Officers that just before day light they were under the Stern of the *Dunmore*, heard a Noise in the Cabine, went close by the Accomodation Ladder, and thought to have Boarded her, but day light Approaching too fast prevented the Attempt, that they Shot a Negro going a Shore in a Canoe with a Bottle of Rum, which they Drank to his health as he was expiring.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353, 781, enclosed in Dunmore to Germain, June 26, 1776.

2. Josiah Parker is listed as Major of the 5th; Thomas Parker as Lieutenant of the 9th; William Hoffer Captain of the 1st—all of the Virginia State Regiment. Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution, April, 1775 to December, 1783* (Washington, 1914). Lawson was probably Major Robert Lawson of the 4th Virginia.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Halifax] Friday May 3rd 1776.

Ordered, That the parole of Robert Atcheson Midshipman of the *Syr-en*, now within the Limits of the Town of Halifax be extended five Miles without the Limits of the same

1. Secretary of State Papers (Provincial Conventions and Congresses/Councils 1774-1776), NCDAH.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

No 39

Cape Fear River

Lord George Germain

the 3d May 1776

My Lord! I am this day honored with Your Lordships letter of the 6th Decr signifying to me His Majestys pleasure on the subject of the expedition to the Southern Colonies under my Command.

And I am now to inform Your Lordship that in consequence of Orders from Major Genl Howe I arrived in this River on the 12th of March last, having been previously informed of the Object of the intended expedition and the Grounds upon which it was adopted by the Earl of Dartmouths Letter to Genl Howe of the 22d October.

By this Letter it appears that the 15th 37th 53d, 54th & 57 Regts of Foot had received orders to hold themselves in readiness to embark at Corke on or before the 1st Decr and that they were to be joined by two Companies of Artillery who were to take with them 10 Batallion Guns, and as many Howitzers or light three pounders (a piece of Ordnance which would have been of infinite use in this Country) as the number of Artillery Men could serve. together with 10,000 Stand of Arms.

Had the embarkation then taken place and arrived at Cape Fear at the time we might naturally have expected them – there is every reason to believe that the intentions of Government pointed out by that dispatch might have had the fairest Tryal in this Province – But Mr [John] Pownall will no doubt have made Your Lordship acquainted with the Contents of my Letter by the *Duke of Cumberland* Packet, informing him of the check the well affected inhabitants from the back Settlements had met with in the neighbourhood of Moore's Creek, and the consequences which had ensued – And I beg leave now to add that by all the Accounts we have since been able to collect their Chiefs have been imprisoned, those who had taken up Arms on that occasion, and all others who have been even suspected, have been disarmed and watched with a most jealous eye.

At this advanced Season of the Year for military operations in this Climate, I receive Your Lordships dispatches by which I am directed with the Assistance of the well affected inhabitants to endeavor to re-establish legal Government in the Southern Colonies and when these operations are finished, to join Genl Howe with the Forces under my Command as early in the Spring as possible.

In this Situation of Affairs in the Province of North Carolina when no immediate Success can I apprehend be expected, when so little time will probably be allowed to carry the intentions of Government into execution, without Horses to convey our Cannon &ca, or that species of Cannon which could possibly be conveyed without them, without Water Carriage that we can call our own, we shall be obliged to penetrate at least 150 miles through a Country of chicane, every inch of which would probably be defended – and the uncertainty after all of being joined by those on whom Government chiefly depends, I beg leave to say My Lord that under all these circumstances in my humble opinion an attempt will be scarcely adviseable –

The present State of the Province of So Carolina differs little from that of No Carolina – the well affected have sometime since assembled in Arms, and are now totally dispersed – The reduction of Charles Town a place now garrisoned wholly by Rebels, could that be effected (which from the best accounts received we have reason to believe would be exceedingly difficult) – in my humble opinion would contribute but little to the re-establishment of order in that province at this advanced Season of the Year – The well affected to Government in that as well as the other Provinces reside principally in the back Country. – To attempt a junction with the Kings Troops, unarmed peasants must force their way through a Prov-

ince in Arms to oppose them, or His Majestys Troops must effect it under the difficulties, and through the Country I have been describing.

With respect to the province of Georgia the Climate alone at this Season of the Year must render every attempt of this kind abortive.

My Views therefore will probably be directed to the Provinces bordering upon the Chesapeak Bay during such time as may be left me to dispose of, recollecting that part of Your Lordships Letter which leaves me at the immediate Call of Mr Howe and from whom I expect to hear before the close of my Letter, having seen by some public papers taken in a Vessel lately from Providence in the Colony of Rhode Island that he had evacuated the Town of Boston on the 17th March tho as yet I have received no Letters from him.

I have taken pains My Lord since I left Boston to procure the best information of the State of the different provinces by touching at New York and at Virginia in may [*sic* my way] hither – I have seen most of the Governors, many of the back Country people, have intercepted many Letters, obtained intelligence through a variety of Channels, and am convinced from fatal examples of experience in many Provinces, that an attempt to assemble the Friends of Government in any of them without giving it a full tryal, so far from producing any Salutary purposes, serves only to inflame mens minds, and to sacrifice those Friends you abandon to the rage and fury of an incensed multitude – Upon this principle My Lord I shall proceed warily during the Short time it may fall to my Lot to command in the Southern provinces. I have the Honor to be with great Respect &c

[Endorsed]

H Clinton. –

By the *Mercury* to the Northward to be dispatched from Head Quarters by the earliest opportunity for England –

[Second endorsement]

Sailed from Cape Fear the 19th May

1. Clinton Papers, Misc. Letter Books, CL.

VERDICT OF CONDEMNATION OF THE SHIP *America* AND CARGO IN THE
NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF VICE ADMIRALTY ¹

[Cape Fear, May 2–3]

No Carolina Vice
Admiralty Court

Decree

Parry Esquire and others against
The Ship *America*

Having heard all the Depositions filed in this Cause Read and also Examined the Several Witnesses Produced to this Court it Appears that the said Ship *America* is become forfeited under an Act made and passed in the Second Session of the fourteenth Parliament of Great Britain Entituled “An Act to Prohibit all Trade and Intercourse with the Colonies of New Hampshire Massachussets Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, the three lower Countys on Deleware, Maryland Virginia North Carolina South Carolina and Georgia during the Continuation of the

present Rebellion within the said Colonies respectively: for Repealing an Act made in the fourteenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty to discontinue the landing and discharging, Lading and Shipping of all Goods Wares & Merchandize at the Town and within the Harbour of Boston in the province of Massachusetts Bay, And also two Acts made in the last Session of Parliament for restraining the Trade and Commerce of the Colonies in the said Acts respectively mentioned and to enable any person or persons appointed and Authorized by his Majesty, to grant Pardons, to Issue Proclamations in the Cases and for the purposes therein mentioned” The said Ship *America* having been found Trading within the said Province of North Carolina after the Twenty fifth day of March last wherefore I do adjudge the said Ship *America* a lawful Prize and she is hereby accordingly Condemned as such and I do further Order and Decree that the said Vessel & her Cargo together with all her Tackle Apparel and furniture shall be put up to Publick Sale on Monday the Twentieth day of this present month of May and to be absolutely and bonafide sold to the highest bidder without any reserve And I do also hereby further Order that after Paying the Wages due to the said Ships Company at the time of her Capture The Remainder of the neat proceeds arising from such Sale shall be divided among the Captors in proportion to their respective Shares Except such share as shall appear to be due Francis Parry Esquire Commander of his Majestys Sloop *Cruizer*, which I do hereby Order to be retained in the Hands of the Agent until the Court can be informed whether the Agent for the Royal Hospital of Greenwich intends to demand such Share as a forfeiture to the said Hospital under the Act of the twenty Second Year of his late Majestys Reign Chapter the thirty third, Section the Seventh, Dated at Cape Fear this Second Day of May in the Year One Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Six –

Notice being given by the Claimant in this Cause of his intentions to appeal from the D[e]cision of this Court – Let this Decree (except such part of it as relates to the Publick Sale of the said Ship) be Suspended from Execution untill Such Security given by the Appellees as the Law requires

(Sign'd) Ja^s E. Bowen

May 3d 1776 –

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/3680.

SILAS DEANE TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

Dear sir

Bermuda May 3d 1776 –

My Lettr of yesterday I closed without the final Determination of the Custom House, Capt H Tucker being yet at Town on his Return he told Me that Comptr[oller] continued obstinate as to Entry or Register, coming to this Resolution that we would not Seize any Vessel coming with provision, nor would he enter them – indeed to Seize her he dare Not – This is the more abusive As our Cargo was landed, & disposed of, & I had provided the other Sloop on the honor of the Collectr that the *Betsey* should be en-

tered & a Register obtained otherways I might have disposed of her Cargo to better advantage than here, – To send her to Hambourgh as You proposed seems attended with expence, & great risque, and on the best advice I could obtain, finally determined To send her, with her Hhds filld with Water for Ballast To Turks Island directg the Captn to call at one of the Keys, & go & inquire in his Boat how the Situation of Affairs are & if he can obtain an Entry there to make out a New Register in Name of Captn H. Tucker of this Island & himself and proceed for Jamaica – he will have Lettrs and papers prepar'd for his purpose to give the Appearance of his having been at St Eustatia & returning for Salt – But should any Difficulty arise he is To Take a Trifle of Salt for Ballast & return To This Island & enter in Ballast which the Comptroller has promised he will have no Objectiion To – This is the best I have been able to do with the Sloop and wish She may meet with no Accident on her Voyage – inclosed you have the Charter party, of the Sloop I go in, and Acct of provisions, Stores & disbursements, also of the Terms I have recd of Mr Tucker, whom I have ordered on Closing the Sales to Invest the Balle in good Bills & remit them to me, by way of St Eustatia unless he should receive other Directions from you, The Quantity of Light Money passing prevented my obtaining a larger Sum & the pork is principally on hand, but I feel sure will go off at Six pounds p Barrel in a few Days – I have agreed with Capt Tucker on proper Signals, in Case of my sending any thing this Way, and in your Lettrs to him direct to Henry Tucker Esqr of Somerset in Bermuda, there being four of the Name in The Island some Mistake may otherways happen, & one of Them so I understand Connected with the Governor – The Charter of the Sloop is I think high but it is the best I could do & She suited my Business well, & wish She may answer so well as She appears – I shall sail this Day & am in haste – my Compts To all Friends – I am Dear sir [&c.]

Silas Deane

1. Papers of Robert Morris, LC.

DEPOSITION OF RICHARD BURRELL ¹

Black River }
Mosketo Shore } ss

Personally appeared before me His Majesty's Chief Justice of the Peace for the said Shore, Richard Burrell Mariner who made oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that he this Deponent was a Passenger on board the Sloop *Nancy* John Coffell Master, on a Voyage from Prena Creek to Cape Gracias a Dios on the said Shore, and on Monday the Twenty Ninth day of April last, about Nine OClock in the evening of that day, the Moon shining very bright, the aforesaid Sloop *Nancy* being then about eight Leagues to the Northward of Patock River, they fell in with two Spanish Guarda Costas, the smallest of which fired a Gun, and brought the said Sloop *Nancy* to, at same time hoisted Spanish Colours, and then hailed in Spanish first, and in English afterwards to know where the said Sloop *Nancy* had come from, and where she was bound to; John Coffell Master of said

Sloop answered, from Prena Creek, and bound to Cape Gracias a Dios, on which the smallest Guarda Costa went a head, and then the largest came along side of said Sloop *Nancy*, and hailed her in the same manner, that the small Guarda Costa did, and asked her what she was loaded with, to which they were answered, that she was only in ballast, on which the Guarda Costa ordered the said Sloop *Nancy* to heave to, and kept up in that manner until three O'Clock on Tuesday morning when the Guarda Costa hailed, and asked what Provisions were on board, to which Captain Coffell answered, he had none, but would be glad that the Spaniards would spare him a Barrell of Bread or Barrell of Flour; at same time asking, why they detained him so long, the Spaniards then asked the bearings and distance of the Island of Bonaca, and what Vessels were at Black River, to which this Deponent answered, that Bonaca bore West and by North, and Captain Coffell answered that there was a Brig and Schooner at Black River; they the Spaniards then told the People on board the Sloop *Nancy*, that they may go about their business; on which the Sloop *Nancy* bore away for Black River her Sails being bad, and about seven o'Clock the same morning, they saw the two Spanish Sloops under Dutch Colours, and standing in for Black River, where he this Deponent saw them at an anchor, about twelve o'Clock at noon; and the sd Sloop *Nancy* run down by the said Spanish Sloops, not suspecting that any hostility was intended; the largest Spanish Sloop hailed the said Sloop *Nancy*, and ordered her to come along side, to which one of the *Nancy's* people answered, that as soon as she got a little further in, they would heave to for them, by this time the Deponent saw a Launch or Boat coming towards said Sloop *Nancy*, full of Men, and he verily believes, there were twenty men in her at least, all armed with Cutlasses and small Arms; they soon came along side said Sloop *Nancy*, and called for a Rope, but none was handed; on which the Bowman hooked the Quarter Rail with his boat hook; the foresail being by this time hoisted, gave the Sloop *Nancy* such way on her, that the Bowman in the Boat or Launch, was obliged to let the Boat Hook go; and instantly the people in the Boat or Launch fired four Muskets, two of which hit the said Sloop, and the smallest Guarda Costa fired three Cannon; as soon as the Launch or Boat left the said Sloop *Nancy*, this Deponent saw her or another, go on board a large Sloop that was then at Anchor, which Sloop had an English Pendant and Ensign hoisted, and presently after the Boat or Launch got on board said Sloop he observed the Colours were struck, which Sloop this Deponent has been since informed, is the Sloop *Morning Star*, David Miller Master, and this Deponent saith that in about an hour, after said Launch or boat got on board said Sloop *Morning Star*, he saw her and the other Sloops, under way, and standing to the Northward; and this Deponent saith, that the Middle Cloath in the Main Sails of the above two Sloops were black; and this Deponent saith, that the largest Sloop, he believes, had fourteen Cannon mounted, and the

smallest Sloop had twelve Cannon mounted, and that both Sloops were full of Men, and further this Deponent saith not.

Rich^d Burrell

Sworn before me at Black River }
 aforesaid this 3d day of May 1776 }
 John Bourly² }

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 137/71, Part III, LC Photocopy.

2. *Ibid.*, Burrell's deposition and that of one Thomas Archdeacon were sent to Sir Basil Keith, accompanied by a plea "that a Ship of War should be sent down to cruize on this Coast over part of the Seacoast in order to prevent any more depredations being committed, and also to quiet the minds of the Inhabitants. . . ."

4 May

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Triton*, CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE¹

May 1776

Isle Bic NE Dist abt 1 League

Saturday 4th

At 9 A M, weigh'd & came to sail – I sent the Cutter on Shore on the So Side with Captn Carleton of 31st Regt who got Intelligence that Quebec was besieged by the Provincials who were encamped on [St.] Charles River & had erected a Battery on Point Levi opposite the Town, & also (they believ'd) on the Wt End of Orleans – that 4 or 5 Ships had gone up the River in the Course of the Last Week & that Genl [Guy] Carleton had receiv'd some reinforcement – AM heard many Guns fir'd in the NW, which I supposed to be from the *Lord Howe* Transport –

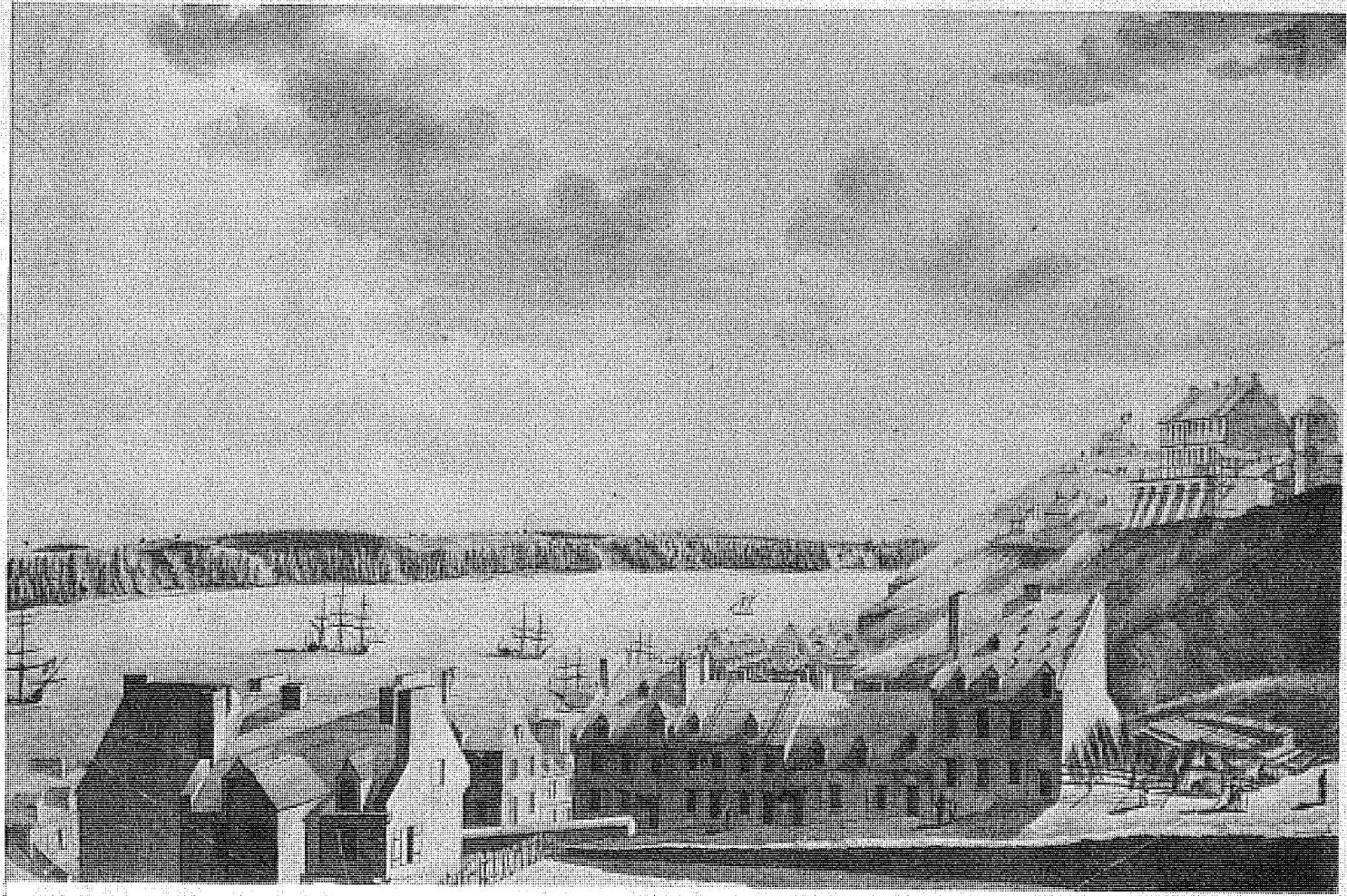
Fresh Gales & Cloudy Wr P M, I recd an Order from Captn [George] Talbot of the *Niger* to remain at Isle Coudre, on my Arrival there with my Convoy for farther Intelligence – at 6 P M, anchor'd on the So Shore with the B.Br in 8 fms and veer'd to ½ a Cable – Cape L'original ESE abt 4 Leagues Isle Bic ENE 4 Leags – at 8 lower'd the lower yards –

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1013.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN HENRY DEARBORN¹

[Seminary, Quebec] May 4 [1776]

As I was laying down my book this evening about Ten of the Clock, preparing for bed, I heard a Centinel hale a ship, which very much surprized me, as I expected some relief had arrived, But I soon was undeceived by a brisk fire of Cannon, and Small arms, & the ringing of the alarm Bell, as also hearing a great confusion in all parts of the Town, we now Concluded, that our people made an attack upon the Town, we soon discover'd a fire ship in the River, near the Lower town, which was sent as we since heard, in order to set fire to the shi'ping in the Lower Town, & which must Consequently set fire to the Lower Town, & at the same time he heard Genl Worster [Wooster] with his Troops had drawn up near the Town, with their



"A Bird's Eye View of the Lower town of Quebec."

Ladders ready to Scale the walls, when ever the Lower Town was on fire, but as the fireship fail'd the attack was not made.

1. *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 2nd series, II, 298. Dearborn was among the prisoners taken on the night of December 31 in the unsuccessful attack upon Quebec and, along with other officers, was confined in a fourth floor room in the Seminary.

H. HUTTON TO NATHANIEL COFFIN ¹

Sir,

Halifax May 4th 1776

The Receivers of the Duties arising to the Royal Hospital at Greenwich in the several Ports in America, being instructed to make returns to me of their Hospital Accounts, and to remit the Ball[ance]s. thereof before they apply for payments of their Salaries, and the correspondence with most parts of America being for some time past interrupted, so that the Accounts and ballances cannot have been remitted; and as it may be supposed, that little or no Duties have been received, since the Period that the Commerce with the other Ports of the British Dominions have been suspended, I have endeavoured to draw an Average of the Annual Sums that may be supposed to have been received in the several Ports, and from thence to make an Estimate of what may be supposed to have been received by the several Collectors from the time their Accounts are due to Michaelmas last, and inclosed is a Copy of a State of what may be supposed to be due on such Calculation. ²

If those Officers, or their Agents apply to you for payment of their Salaries, you will please to acquaint them, that by the Established Rules of Office, you are desired not to pay the Salaries of those Persons, 'til I have received their Accounts, but that as all communication is now interrupted, upon their payment to me of the respective Sums as hereto annexed, I shall pass the same to their Credit, take off the restraint on their Salaries, and wait the settlement, till they can make returns of the Accounts &c And if you as Agent to any of those Receivers, will pay me the Sums here set down, I will give you a Receipt for so much received for Account of such respective Receivers for their Receipt of Duties arising to the Royal Hospital at Greenwich Yours &c.

H. H.

1. English Accounts, NCDAH.

2. The appended table is not printed herein as it deals with payments not applicable to this volume.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ORDER TO JAIL KEEPER AT CAMBRIDGE ¹

Colony of the } The major part of the Council of
Massachusetts Bay } said County

To the Keeper of the Goal at Cambridge in the County of Middlesex –
Greeting

You are hereby commanded, to take into Your Custody Richard Fisher & Jeremiah Colman Mariners, and John Jones & James Neal, Marines lately taken Prisoners in the Sloop *Hannah* & brought into a Place called Mount

Desert, bound on a Voyage to Hallifax – and them and each of them safely keep, till the further Order of the major part of the Council, or they be otherwise discharged by due course of Law –

In the name & by Order of the major part of the Council

James Otis President

Council Chamber [Watertown] May 4th 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 344.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] Saturday May 4th 1776

Resolved That the Vessell now Building at Salisbury, by the Com[m]ittee for Building and fixing out armed Vessells be rigged a Brigantine instead of a Sloop, and that Capt Souter [Daniel Souther] who has been chosen one of the Com[m]anders of said Vessells have the Command of said Vessell Building at Salisbury, as soon as she can be compleated – And the said Committee are hereby impower'd to Arm and Mount said Vessells with Canon of such size as they upon consulting said Commander shall judge most expedient, provided the number on board each be not less then twelve or more than Sixteen, any Resolve to the contrary notwithstanding –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 845, 849.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1776

Providence, May 4.

The Sloop *Haley*,¹ Capt. Treadwell, of this Port, which was taken a short Time since by one of the piratical Fleet then on this Station, and ordered from Newport to Halifax, was last Week retaken at the Eastward by some Whaleboats, and carried into Mount Des[e]rt

A Person who was retaken in the above Sloop has since arrived here, and advises, that on the *Glasgow's* Arrival at Newport, after the late Engagement, an Officer on board the Sloop hailed her, and enquired what loss she had met with, when he was informed that between 30 and 40 of her Hands were killed and wounded.

1. *Hannah*; see Massachusetts Council order, May 4.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract] Fort George May 4th 1776 ten O'Clock A.M:
Dear Sir Your Excellencys favours of the 24th and 29th april are this moment come to hand.

Tomorrow Evening I shall finish batteaux Sufficient to Carry the remainder of Genl [William] Thompsons Brigade to Canada But as we can build only four a day the troops must necessarily be detained some time unless part of the Batteaux should return from Canada which I ordered to be done when the first left this – To Supply so large an army with provisions will require the Greatest Attention and Alertness nothing shall be Wanting on my part

I shall procure more Carpenters that the troops may be dispatched the Soonest possible And hope four days hence to build Six batteaus a day, one regiment will be able to Cross lake Champlain in Vessels and I shall find means to get It to Tyonderoga without waiting for Batteaus to pass lake George I am [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, May 4, 1776

Resolved, That the marine committee be directed to lay on the table, on Monday next, the instructions given by the naval committee to Commodore Hopkins, upon his leaving this port.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report on the letter of General Washington of the 24 of March: Whereupon,

Resolved, That all the cannon and other stores, in Boston, which were originally purchased and provided by and at the expence of the colonies of Massachusetts bay and New Hampshire, be considered as belonging to the colony that so purchased and provided them; and that all the other cannon left in the colony of Massachusetts bay, by the British forces, be presented to the said colony.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 326, 327.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. ¹

Sir

Philadelphia 4th May 1776

I am favoured with yours of the 20th April, note the contents, but before it came to hand, I had the pleasure of procuring you to be appointed Agent, being the most suitable person I could think of, the Resolution of Congress appointing you will doubtless come to hand before this reaches you: ² we have obtained an order of Congress for exchange your powder in this City for continental powder in New London, the Committee will soon give you particular directions on that subject, hope the harbour of New London will soon be sufficiently fortified as I make no doubt Ships of force will soon be in there if it be not made secure. I am Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Huntington

1. Ernest E. Rogers, *Connecticut's Naval Office at New London . . .* (New London, 1933), 20.

2. As late as June 19, Shaw had received neither the resolve of Congress, nor the instructions from the Marine Committee.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, H.M.S. *Fowey* ¹

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esqr &ca

You are hereby required and directed to proceed without loss of time with his Majesty's Ship under your command to Virginia, where you are to take the *Otter* Sloop under your command, and consulting with his Excel-

lency the Earl of Dunmore (to whom you are to give every sort of Protection and assistance that may be in your power) to station the Ships so as best to frustrate the designs of the enemy, and at the same time so as to give the surest protection to the Lines at Tuckers Mills, and to the Friends of Government who have taken Shelter on board Vessels in Elizabeth River.

You are to deliver the inclosed dispatches to Lord Dunmore; and to send the *Nautilus* or *Otters* Tender to Cape Fear with those Stores you have on board for the *Cruizer* Sloop as soon as possible.

The Victuallers sent out to His Majesty's Fleet in America not having yet arrived at Halifax renders it necessary that you should make the provisions you have remaining on board last as long as possible. You are therefore to victual your Ships Company at two thirds allowance untill a further Supply can be had.

You are most earnestly required to keep a strict watch over the motions of the Enemy, and by a constant Guard to prevent any designs they may put in execution against you, by sending down fire rafts &ca and to exert the force under your direction to the utmost for the advantage of His Maj's Service. You are to remain on this duty untill further order, or untill another Ship Shall arrive that may be left to perform that Service, when you are immediately to join me in the River Delaware.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* in Whoorkill Road Delaware bay the 4th May 1776 -

A.S.Hamond

I. Hamond, Orders issued, UVL.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON ¹

My Dear Sir

Roebuck River Delaware 4th May 1776

I have had no opportunity of writing to you before this, or you Sooner would have had my acknowledgements for the favour of your letter by the *Fincastle*, which was forwarded to me hither. You know how positive my Orders were about the River Delaware, in consequence of which I came here as early as the 25th March, having first sent to Admiral Shuldham for more force and further instructions: It was only yesterday that I had an answer from him, which amounts to no more than that he has sent me another Ship, allows the propriety of all my other requests, but has it not in his power to comply with any one Article of them at present. Without a Body of Troops to act in conjunction with me, I confess, I see no great advantage that would arise in clearing the Passage of the River; It would only afford an opportunity of cannonading the Town for a short time, and the Navigation can be Stopped without it. I conclude and hope Sir Peter Parker is arrived. I would give the world to have an hours conversation with him and you together. The Admiral has left me quite at liberty. I have seen nothing to alter my first Idea of Virginia: Yet I think a Stroke at Philadelphia might come within the plan; D'ont be Surprized if you should See me, I have not yet had time since the Arrival of the *Fowey* from Halifax to turn

this matter sufficiently in my thoughts, and I cannot delay a moment to send her to Lord Dunmore, as I find [Charles] Lee is getting into his Neighbourhood. Our situation there is not much Altered from when you left us, it is certainly no worse; We want Pork it is true, but we have a plenty of flour, and more can always be had. The little Tenders have had great success in taking small Vessels, which has distressed the enemy much, but we have had the misfortune to lose one of the best of our cruizers, the *Liverpool's* Tender. You will no doubt have heard that [Esek] Hopkins's fleet has been well thrashed by the *Glasgow*, and they are now blocked up at New London by our Rhode Island Squadron. The people of Maryland and this Government are fitting out a Number of Privateers, and unless we get more Small Vessels will do mischief among our Scattered Transports &ca I have the honor to be sir &ca

A S Hamond

General Clinton No Carolina

1. Hamond, Letters and Orders, 1775-1778, UVL.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU ¹

- April 1776 Cape Henlopen Wt 4 Leagues.
 Tuesday 30. at 2 AM 17 fm at 5, 15 at 6, 13 at 7, 12fm & out reefs at 10 saw a sail to the Westward [And] got ready for engaging at 1/2 past 11 spoke her and proved his Majts ship the *Roebuck*. First and Middle parts Moderate latter fresh gales and squally. P M sailing into Cape Henlopen Bay in Company with his Majesty's ship *Roebuck* And the Prize sloop at 2 Anchored with the best Bower in 6 fathom muddy ground, veered to 1/2 a Cable.
- May 1776 At Anchor off Cape Henlopen
 Wednesday 1. at 7 AM veered to a whole Cable. First and Middle parts moderate and Clear latter light Winds hove in to 1/2 a Cable
- Thursday 2. at 7 AM Anchored here his Majesty's ship *Liverpool*, And sent her stores on board her, And the *Roebuck*. Light Winds and fair The *Liverpoole* sent for provisions
- Friday 3. A M exercised great Guns & small Arms, And read the Articles of War and Abstract to the ships Company. First part fresh gales Middle and latter Moderate P M rattled the lower shrouds, found the ship drive and let go the Small Bower, veered to 1/3 of a Cable.
- Saturday 4. at 10 AM hove up the small Bower, And on the Ebb Tide the best Bower let go the small do and veered to 1/3 of a Cable, at 1/2 past 11 weighed & made sail for Virginia. Light Winds at 1/2 past 5 PM came to with the Stream Anchor in 9 fm to stop Tide Cape Henlopen NW 1/2 N distance 4 Leagues, at 6 fired 3, 9 Pdrs to bring to a Brigg, hoisted out and Armed the Barge to send on board her at 1/2 past 7 she

returned & found her to be from Virginia to assist the *Roebuck* at 10 weighed and made sail the Brig & Sloop & schooner in Company.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW ¹

May 1776 Delaware Bay
 Thursday 2 1 AM 20 fm fine sand at 5 saw the land bore away and made sail Cape May N.N.W 4 Leags, distance – came too with the Best Bower in Delaware Bay – Light House 2 miles found here H.M. Ships *Fowey* & *Roebuck*
 PM modr and cloudy recd Stores and Provisions from the *Fowey*.
 Friday 3 AM sighted the anchor and let it go again Exercis'd Great Guns, and small Arms
 Saturday 4 at 6 a m the *Roebuck* made the Signal to weigh Do weighed and made Sail at 7 anchored again with the small Bower, sailed the *Fowey*

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

WOOLSEY & SALMON TO JOHN PRINGLE ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 4 May [1776]

Your Brig has 700 bbls in & will have 900 in by night in all, and next week will be Ready for sea but God knows when she will saill however we will do our best for you, Capt Ridley Brought a 11 little Swords do they belong to You, are the[y] to sell, and what is the Value of them we hope You have the *Roebuck* with You Ere this she would be a good Prize . . . Please Inform us when You think there will be any Opportunity to write to England or Ireland –

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GEORGE WOOLSEY, BALTIMORE ¹

No. 146.

Sir We contracted with you on the 9th of Feby last for the Brig *Rogers* to proceed on a Voyage to the foreign West Indies on Acct of this Province, and advanced you £ 1800. . . towards purchasing a Cargo of Flour for her, we have not since then heard from you on that Subject, nor doth it appear to us that you have done any Thing therein, we therefore request you would acquaint us by the Return of Captn Fulford what you have done in this Matter

[Annapolis], May 4th 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Annapolis] Saturday 4th May 1776.

Ordered That the said Treasurer [of the Western Shore] pay to Messrs Robert Purviance, David Stewart and George Woolsey five hundred Pounds on Account of the Schooner *Resolution*.

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday May 4th, 1776.

The Comm'ee agree to take Mr. Maximilian Calvert's vessel lying at Hampton, to be employed as an armed Cruzier in James River, and Capt. Y'ghusband is directed to repair to Hampton immediately, and either engage seamen there to carry her up the river, as he shall judge best, and watch a safe opportunity for carrying her up the river, there to be fitted up for her intended purpose, taking on board 2 Six pounders for defence, and putting on board all the cannon at Hampton unfit for use to be conveyed to the falls of James River, that he apply to the two Capt. Barrons' for their assistance and to the Commanding officer at Hampton, for a few soliders if necessary for escorting the s'd vessel so far up the river, as to be out of danger from the Enemy's tenders.

[A warrant to] Fielding Lewis, Esq'r, for £500 upon acc't for the Comm[issione]rs of the Gun Manufactory, and £400 for the outfit of Sundry vessels, &c.

Same to Same £1059.17.11, Ballance of his acc't for the Sloop *Patsey*, the Schooner *Hannah*, and the pilot boat and their cargoes' adventures for the Importation of arms and ammunition.

Ordered, that 1200 lbs. Powder remain at Fredericksburg for use of the Vessels in Rappahannock River, and 100 lbs. for proving arms at the manufactory and at Mr. Hunter's.

On considering a Letter from Colo. Hugh Mercer, the Comm'ee approve of having a pilot boat with oars, furnished at the joint expense of this Colony and Maryland, and stationed at the mouth of the Potomac river, for the purpose of giving intelligence, w'ch Colo. Mercer is desired to communicate to the Comm[issione]rs of Maryland.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 167.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1776

Williamsburg, May. 4.

We have advice from Portsmouth, that our Troops entered that town without opposition, and have taken a number of waggon loads of effects, viz. rum, sugar, molasses, and a variety of dry goods, belonging to persons who are enemies to the American cause; they have also destroyed two or three houses which were the property of John Goodrich, and brought off some

prisoners. Lord Dunmore is very strongly entrenched at Tucker's mills, and has a great quantity of cannon mounted, defended by about 500 men.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Cruizer*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY ¹

- May 7⁶ Moor'd off the Fort [Johnston, Cape Fear River]
 Wedy 1st fir'd 5 guns to answer some guns fir'd in the offing, fir'd several guns at the Rebels ashore. Fresh breezes and Cloudy wear. Sailed up the river the *Terrable* Tender and *Glasgow Packett* Transport
- Thursday 2^d A M recd on board some Water Mode and Cloudy Weather Recd on board some Provisions, saw several sails of ships in the offing, Sent all the pilots out to them.
- Friday 3^d A M Crane in His Majestys Ship *Sol[e]bay*, Several of the rebels Came down and fir'd, fir'd at them again. Mode and fair weather at 3 P M Came to an Anchor without the bar his Majesty's ship *Bristoll* Commodore [Sir Peter] Parker & *Harcourt* Transport. Came into the harbour 14 Sail of Transports
- Saturday 4th Came in his Majestys ship *Action* [*Actaeon*] & *Hinchinbrook* and 2 small prizes taken by the *Action*. at 9 the Commodors Pendant was hoisted on board the *Solbay*, When all the Men of War Saluted him with 13 Guns each ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

2. The *Bristol's* draft was too deep to cross the bar. The Commodore shifted his flag to the *Solebay*.

ALEXANDER BLAIR TO GOVERNOR SIR BASIL KEITH ¹

[Extract]

Copy

Sir I have the misfortune to acquaint your Excellency that the Sloop *Morning Star*, belonging to Doctor Charles Irving and myself, was on the 30th of last month, forcibly seized, and carried away by two Spanish armed Sloops, from the usual anchoring ground, near the mouth of this River – As we have never been to the Southward of Great River in Lat 12°, 47", nor to the Westward of this place, nor have had any trade or intercourse with any place or person belonging to Spain, nor had not any Spanish produce on board, I am afraid, that this Stop can only be considered, as an armed declaration of their intention, to seize every vessel they find on any part of this Coast & which if permitted, must at once annihilate this promising Colony.

As many of my Papers have been carried away with the Sloop, I have not been able to make out so minute a detail of our Loss, as I could wish; but I can assure your Excellency, that from the best estimate I have been able to form, it amounts to £3509.8 – Jamaica Currency; besides the great detriment we sustain, from the loss of many of our Plantation Stores, the incompleting of those already landed, and the want of a proper vessel, to

keep up an intercourse with Jamaica, for the procuring Slaves and many necessaries.

Black River.

Mosquito Shore May 4th 1776

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 137/71, Part III, LC Photocopy.

INHABITANTS OF THE MOSQUITO SHORE TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

Sir

Mosquito Shore 4 May 1776.

Since the last Letter to you from the principal Inhabitants of this Colony, by Captain Judd then Commander of His Majesty's Sloop *Squirrel*, nothing of consequence sufficient to merit Your attention has happened, untill within these few days past, we have been alarmed by the appearance of two Spanish Armed Sloops upon this Coast, who immidiately after their arrival boarded and carried off a Sloop at anchor in this Road, the property of Capt Blair and Doctor Irvin two Gentlemen lately come from England with an intention of making a Settlement upon this Coast.

This unexpected act of Hostility, at a time when we imagined the Strictest harmony subsisted between the Courts of Great Britain and Madrid, has filled the minds of the Inhabitants with the greatest consternation, and the expectation of their paying us another visit (as we are well assured they are still upon the Coast) renders our Situation truly miserable, the late dreadfull hurricane in the month of November last has destroyed many of the necessaries of life, our usual and wonted supplies of provisions from North America totally cut off by the present unhappy differences there subsisting, and to Add to our distresses, the Only prospect we have left of supplies from England by a number of Vessels daily expected rendered very precarious by the two Spanish Sloops above mentioned cruising upon the Coast

We have sent David Miller master of Messr Blair and Irvin's sloop, express with this, and some dispatches for His Excellency Sir Basil Keith, informing him of our present distressed and defenceless situation we have also inclosed to His Excellency two different affidavits which will set this affair in clearer light; to them Sir we beg leave to refer You, as also to Mr. Miller the bearer hereof who will we make no doubt give you every necessary information upon this affair, and we flatter ourselves that when you have sufficiently informed Yourself of the Nature of this unjust attack upon us, You will be pleased to afford such relief as you may judge adequate to the exigence of our present situation We have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

John Bourke

Matthew Ernest Jun

John Lawrie

John Gallin

Daniel Hewlett

William Reid

William Walker Senr

John Orrett

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

5 May (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE ¹

May 1776 Remarks &c in Quebec 1776
 Sunday 5 at 5 A M Arrived here his Majestys Sloop *surprize* at 8 the
surprize & Sloop *Martin* with part of the 29th regt landed with
 their Marines
 Light Breezes & fair Sally'd out & drove the rebels off took
 at different places several pieces of Cannon some Howitzers & a
 Quantity of Ammunition

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Surprize*, CAPTAIN ROBERT LINZEE ¹

May 1776 Runing up the River [St. Lawrence] –
 Sunday 5. at 4 AM. Weigh'd and came to sail, at 9 Got the Top Chains up,
 and Slung the yards the Island of Coudre NEBE, & Cape Tor-
 ment SW $\frac{1}{2}$ W. off Shore 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile. At 10 Came too with the
 Best Bower in 11 fms. of Water, Veer'd to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable. at 11
 Employ'd racking the Lanyards of the Shrouds, and getting every
 thing ready for Action.
 Most part little Wind and Cloudy, Remainder Modre and hazey,
 at 2 [P.M.] Weigh'd and came to sail, Set Studding sails, nock'd
 down the Bulk Heads of the Cabbin at 8 PM Came too with
 the Best Bower in 13 fms Veer'd to $\frac{2}{3}$ of a Cable fir'd 19 Guns
 Signals for the Garrison of Quebec.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

New York May 5. 1776

By a letter from Genl Schuyler of the 27 ult I find Genl [William] Thompson & his Brigade were at Albany, – General Sullivan with the last, except three or four Companies of Col [Anthony] Wayn's Regiment not yet come, is embarked & gone, and probably will be soon there – I am apprehensive from General Schuylers account, they will not proceed with the wished for expedition, owing to a difficulty in getting Teams & provender for Cattle necessary to carry their Baggage, & a scarcity of Batteaus at the Lakes for so large a number, tho he is taking the utmost pains to procure 'em – Shou'd they be stopped for any time, It will be exceedingly unfortunate, as their going from hence has weakened us here much, & our Army in Canada will not be strengthen'd. I have sent with the last Brigade Sixty Barrells of Powder & other Stores & Intrenching Tools, a Supply being asked for; also the Chain for a Boom at the Narrows of Richelieu, & the three Boxes of Money brought by Mr Hanson, & have wrote Genl Schuyler to have the Boom fixed as soon as possible – The Commissary too has forwarded about

Eight Hundred Barrells of Pork & is in expectation of a further quantity from Connecticut, which will go on without stopping here.

As the Magazine from whence the Northern and Eastern Armies will occasionally receive supplies of powder, will probably be here, and our Stock is low and inconsiderable being much reduced by the Sixty Barrells sent to Canada, I shall be glad to have a quantity immediately forwarded – Our Stores shou'd be great, for If the Enemy [shou'd] make an Attack upon the Town or attempt to goe up the North River, the expenditure will be very considerable – Money too is much wanted, the Regiments that are paid have only received to the first of April, except those of Pensylvania & Jersey which are gone to Canada; they are paid to the last of April. By a Letter from Genl [Artemas] Ward I find his Chest is just exhaustd, the money which was left there with him for the payment of the Five Regiments at Boston & Beverley being almost expended by large drafts in favor of the Commissary & Quarter Master, and in fitting out the Armed Vessells –

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 639–41, NA.

————— TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] 5th May 1776

. . . *le commerces & l'économie*, are the cry, down from the King [French] to the lowest Minister, from these considerations I am myself convinced, that They will immediately and Essentially assist us; if independence is declared – But allowing that there can be no certainty, but mere bare chances in our favor, I do insist upon it, that these chances render it your duty to adopt the measure; as by Procrastination our Ruin is inevitable; shou'd it now be determined to wait the result of a previous formal negociation with France a whole Year must pass over our heads before We can be acquainted with the result – In the mean time we are to struggle through a Campaign without Arms, Ammunition or any one necessary of War – disgrace and defeat will infallably ensue, the Soldeirs, and officers will become so dispirited, that They will abandon their Colours, and probably never be persuaded to make another Effort – But there is another consideration still more cogent. I can assure you, Sir, that the Spirit of the People (except a very few in these lower parts whose little blood has been suck'd out by Muskitoes) cry out for this declaration, the Military in particular; Men and Officers, are outrageous on the Subject – and a Man of your excellent discernment need not be told how daingerous it would be in our present circumstances to dally with the Spirit, or disappoint the expectations of the bulk of the people – May not despair, anarchy, and finally submission be the bitter fruits? I am persuaded firmly, that They will – and in this persuasion I most devoutly pray, that you may not merely recommend, but positively lay injunctions on your servants in Congress to embrace a measure so necessary to Salvation – God Almighty, bless You, Sir, and make your coun-

sels whatever they may be, as beneficial to your Country as your capacity to serve it, is undoubted . . .

(Copy)

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] May 5th

. . . this afternoon arrived the Brigg *Lexington* from her Cruise of weeks she having carried away her foremast in being chasd by 2 Kings Ships for 8 hours who were covey to fleet of soldiers who were bound was uncertain, Upon this Loss he prudently returned passd the men of war at our capes who fired one gun at him which he returned as he passed her. ²

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

2. From the pension application of Coe Hendrick: "he was a seaman on board the brig *Lexington* [*sic Wild Duck*], coming from Eustatia, which was chased into Philadelphia by a British privateer and was then bought by the U.S. and put under command of Capt. Barry of the Navy, to take said privateer, and Hendrick volunteered to go with her. They were out about a fortnight and took the privateer off the Capes of Philadelphia. Never received a discharge in writing." Donald Lines Jacobson, ed., *History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield* (New Haven, 1930-1933) III, 146.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, MAY 20, 1776

Philadelphia, Sunday Evening May 5.

This day arrived by land from Cape May, (where his sloop is arrived safe in Five weeks from France with 26000 lb. gun powder, 25 tons Salt-Petre and 40 arms) Capt. [John] Young, of New York, who has brought an Irish paper of the second of March, by which we learn that Admiral Greaves had got home, with an account of the defeat of Gen. Montgomery at Quebec. Capt. Young says that there are to be 50 or 60 additional ships to be sent out; but by the papers they are likely to be badly manned. It is supposed Col. [Ethan] Allen and the prisoners with him, are coming again to America. We have three large ships within our Capes, said to be of 44, 36 and 20 guns, besides 7 smaller, being tenders and prizes. A Virginia pilot boat with six tons of powder is safe arrived in Indian river. A schooner with goods for Hispaniola, and a pilot boat with dry goods from St. Croix, are both run ashore to escape the tenders, but their cargoes are saved.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, Delaware Bay, Sunday] 5th May.

As I now began to grow short of water, and had lighten'd the Ship to as easy a draught of water as I could, which was abt 18 F6I I took the *Liverpool* with me & sailed up the River in order to fill my empty Casks, and reconnoitre the enemys force of the River.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen,

Lewistown, May the 5th, 1776.

On yesterday one of the British Pirates with two tenders stood out to sea, and took a schooner and sent in here, this morning with her two tenders, at 10 o'clock this morning the *Roebuck* and the other ship with the two tenders and Prize Schooner, all got under sail with the wind at E.S.E., and went out of the Road and are making up the Bay, they have got the Sloop, tender, Dawson's Boat and Prize Schooner all ahead of them, with intent I believe to sound the Channel, the wind is fresh, therefore the whale boat from here can be of no use. But I am in hopes as Mr. Edward's Boat is at Mother Kill she will give the alarm by water, and I have sent a Letter to Cantwell's bridge to be forwarded to Port Penn to the Alarm Post there. I am, [&c.]

Henry Fisher.

[Endorsed]

My Express went off [f] at 20 m. after 11 o'clock.

Henry Fisher.

Came to Cedar Creek $\frac{3}{4}$ after 10 o'clock, & went off [f] at 2 o'clock.

Thos. Evans.

Rec'd at Dover 6 o'clock, Dispatched at $\frac{1}{4}$ after 6.

Battell.

Rec'd at Cantwell's Bridge 55 Minits after ten, dispatched 10 Minits after eleven.

Mat. Delany.

Rec'd at Wilmington at five o'clock Monday morning, Dispatchd 10 Minutes after five.

Thos. Kean.

Rec'd 20 minits after 6 o'clock at Chester, Dispatched 10 minits after 7 o'clock.

Wm. Kerlin.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 743-44.JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Bristol*, CAPTAIN JOHN MORRIS ¹

May 1776

North Cape Fear NEbEt $\frac{1}{2}$ Et Distance 2 Leagues.

Friday 3rd

At 3 A M made the Signal & tack'd. At 5 tack'd Ship and fired 2 guns & made a Signal for a Pilot.

Moderate & fair Wear At 1 P M tack'd Ship At 3 came too with the Best Bower in 17 fm His Maj's Sloop *Falcon* Saluted us Do return'd it. Moor'd Ship a Cable each way

Saturdy 4th

At 5 A M fired the Morning Guns at 8 came in here His Majestys Armed Schooner *Hinchinbrook* who Saluted us. Do return'd it. At 10 Sir peter parker hoisted His broad pendant on Board the *Solebay* who Saluted him do return'd it.

First part fresh Breezes & Clear Wear middle & latter little

Winds & Do Wear unbent the Fore topsail to repair it being much wore in Several places
 Sundry 5th At 8 A M sent the pinnace Mann'd and Armd into the Harbour
 Light Airs and fine Wear at 2 P M came out of the Harbour the *Sandwich* Tender and took on board the General Officers Baggage At 4 came the *Cruizers* Tender & took in our Empty Cask.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/137.

6 May

COMMISSIONERS IN CANADA TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Montreal May 6th 1776

. . . If hard money cannot be procured and forwarded with dispatch to Canda, it would be adviseable, in our opinion, to withdraw our army & fortify the passes on the lakes to prevent the enemy, & the Canadians, if inclined, from making irruptions into & depredations on our frontiers.

1. Papers CC (Letters and Papers relating to Canadian Affairs . . .), '166, 29-31, NA.

JOHN LANGDON TO NICHOLAS BROWN ¹

Sr. Portsmouth. 6th. May 1776

I was in Boston few days Since from whence I wrote you, and Mr. John Brown Desireg you would be so good as to forward abt 150 ps. Canvas if you had so much, or as many as could, by land in Carts, down thro Cambridge, and so on to Ipswich from whence I have them by water with[ou]t Risque, (to the Continent) - I desired the Canvas might be sent to the Care of Mr. Winthrop but on my Return from Boston thro Ipswich did not See him he being out of Town, I therefore left the Matter with Capt. Jeremiah Stamford, of Ipswich to Whose care you'll please send the Canvas I will Readily pay all Charges of Transportg the Canvas - No news this way worth mentioning except what you'll have, er'e this Comes to hand Your [&c.]

John Langdon

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

PIERSE LONG TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

[Extract]

Portsmouth, N.H., May 6th, 1776.

Sir, By Capt. Jephthorn, who arrived here from St. Lucia, whom I sent among others on this Colony account for warlike stores, you are advised of the arrival of your sloop *Diamond*, Capt. Samuel Soule, and that he had on board, and that he would sail soon after Capt. Jephthorn (not exceeding one week) about 8,000 lbs. gun-powder, 200 pieces of canvass, 2 hhds. of twine, 100,000 gun-flints, with some other articles. By which account I suppose you may look for him by the time you receive this. Capt. Jephthorn brings nothing material, only that he fell in with a fleet of ships about the lat. of 29

north, and long. of 66 west, steering about northwest. He supposes they were bound to Virginia, I suppose, [Charles], Cornwallis, who I make no doubt will meet a warm reception there.

By Capt. Jno. Ley (a son of the late Col. Ley, of Marblehead), who arrived a few days since from Bilboa, in 29 days, we learn that 12,000 Hessians were on their passage, bound for Boston, and that General Burgoyne had sailed with 4,000 Hanoverians for Quebec. The Hessians were under the command of Lord Howe. In the same fleet were 27 Commissioners to treat with us at the point of the bayonet. God grant they may fall with the weapons, which they are bringing, in their right hand. . . .

1. "Revolutionary Correspondence From 1775 to 1782," *Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society* (Providence, 1867), VI, 155.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, MAY 6, 1776

Watertown, May 6

On the 15th ult. a sloop of about 90 tons burthen, laden with sugar, molasses, cocoa,&c., was retaken by a number of boats in Frenchman's bay, and safely taken care of.¹ She belonged to Mr. John Brown, of Providence, and was commanded by Capt. Treadwell, who had been at New London, and unladed her dry goods, but in going to Providence was taken by the *Rose's* tender, who sent her for Halifax; but meeting with contrary winds put into Frenchman's bay, where she was retaken. One Fisher, a Midshipman of the *Rose*, as prize master, with 3 or 4 sailors, and 2 marines, were bro't prisoners to this town on Saturday last.

On Wednesday last arrived at Newbury, Capt. John Lee, from Bilboa, in 29 days, & informs that on the 14th of last month, in longitude 45, from London, he spoke a vessel from Plymouth in England, who informed him, that 4 days before, he parted with a fleet of 60 sail of transports bound for Boston, under the command of Admiral Lord Howe, having on board 12000 Hessian troops.

1. Sloop *Hannah*. See Massachusetts Council Order, May 4 and *Providence Gazette*, May 4.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO JAMES WARREN¹

Sir

Boston 6 May 1776.

I would inform you that last Evening a Man made his escape from Lovell's Island in this Harbour, who appears to be an honest American, he informs that yesterday we was on board the Man of War which Lies in Nantasket And that an officer of the Navy told him the Fleet and Troops from Halifax were expected to return soon to this place, and that they intended to land their Troops below and march to Boston by Land while the Men of War made an attack by Water. The same account was given by another Man who made his escape from the same Man of War the Night before last. What regard ought to be paid to these accounts you will determine. I

thought it my duty to give you the information that you might acquaint the General Court there with I am Sir [&c.]

Artemus Ward

[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives May 6, 1776 Read & committed to Mr Phillips Coll Freeman & Mr Partridge with such as the Hon Board shall join Sent up for Concurrence Saml Freeman Speak PT
[Second endorsement] In Council May 7, 1776 Read & concurred & Jno Withrop & Jno. Whetcomb Esqr are joined Perez Morton, D Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 376, 377, NA Photocopy.

PROCEEDINGS OF COURT MARTIAL OF ABRAHAM WHIPPLE,
COMMANDER OF THE *Columbus*¹

At a Court Martial held onboard the *Alfred* at Providence in the Colony of Rhode Island on the 6th day of May 1776 – By Order of Esek Hopkins, Esqr Commander in Chief of the American Fleet, and at the desire of Abraham Whipple Esqr Commander of the Ship *Columbus* for an Enquiry into his the said Whipple's Conduct on the 7th of April last in an Engagement with the *Glasgow* Ship of War —

Present

Captains	Dudley Saltonstall	President	
	Nicholas Biddle	}	Members
	John Hazard		
	Saml Nicholas		
	John Welch		
Lieutenants	John Paul Jones		
	Rhodes Arnold		
	Hoysteed Hacker		
	Elisha Hinman		
	Jonathn Maltbie		
	Matthew Parke		
	Henry Dayton		

Abraham Whipple Esqr aforesaid appeared before this Court and says his character stands Aspersed for Cowardice onboard the *Columbus* the 7th of April last in an Engagement with the *Glasgow* Ship of Warr, therefore desires to be heard touching the Same – Whereupon the Court proceeds to hear him who setts forth in his declaration that for want of Wind and by means of the *Glasgow* firing stern guns together with his firing Bow guns and now and then a broadside he was unable to make his Attack closer than he did This Court having heard sundry Evidences who were present in different vessels during the Engagement with the *Glasgow* respecting the matter now before us, are of Oppinion – That said Whipple's conduct on said 7th April was agreeable to what he hath sett forth in the foregoing declara-

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A Court Martial held on board the U.S.S. Albatross at
dence in the Colony of Rhode Island on the 6th day of May
1876. By Order of Richd. Stephenson, Commander in Chief of
the American Fleet, and at the desire of Abraham Whipple,
Capt. Commander of the Ship Columbus for an enquiry into
his the said Whipple's conduct on the 7th of April last in
an engagement with the Glasgow Ship of War

President

Captains Dudley Saltonstall President

Nicholas Biddle

John Hazard

Sam'l Nicholas

John Welch

Leutenants John Paul Jones

Rhodes Arnold

Augustus Parker

Elisha Hinman

Jonathⁿ Mattice

Matthew Parker

Henry Taylor

Members

Extract from the court martial of Abraham Whipple.

tion and that his mode of attack on the *Glasgow* in our Oppinion has proceeded from Error in Judgment and not from Cowardice –

Signed	Dudley Saltonstall	John P. Jones	Matthew Park
	Nicholas Biddle	Rhodes Arnold	Henry Dayton
	John Hazard	Hoysteed Hacker	
	Samuel Nicholas	Elisha Hinman	
	John Welsh	Jonath Maltbie	

1. Papers CC (Letters of John Hancock and Miscellaneous Papers), 58, 259, NA. An attested copy.

CHARTER PARTY FOR THE RHODE ISLAND SHOONER *Sally*¹

This Charter Party of Hire or Affreightment indented and made this Sixth Day of May, Anno Domini, One Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Six, betweene Aaron Lopez of Portsmouth in the Colony of Rhode Island Merchant, in behalf of himself and Mr Francis Rotch Merchant of Bedford (owners of the Schooner *Sally* now in the Port of Providence) on the One part, and Nicholas Brown and John Brown of said Providence Merchants, who in this matter Act for, and in behalf of the Honble Continental Congress (in Pursuance of a Certain Agreement or Contract entered into betweene the Committee of Secrecy and said Nicho. Brown and John Brown) on the other part, Witnesseth, that the said Lopez and Rotch Owners of said Schooner, Burthen One hundred and Twelve and three quarter Tons, Do by these Presents let unto or freight the said Schooner and her Appurtenances unto the said Browns for tht Use of the United Colonies for a Voyage to be made in her from Providence to Europe, and from thence back to Providence again, And the said Lopez and Rotch, doth hereby Covenant with the said Browns that the said Schooner is strong and staunch and well fitted for the Voyage aforesaid and is to be kep't at the Expence of said Lopez and Rotch in Good Order during said Voyage. In Consideration whereof the said Nicho Brown and John Brown the Freighters in behalf of the United Colonies do hereby Covenant and agree to pay unto the said Lopez and Rotch the sum of Six shillings and Eight pence Lawfull money p Ton, or Thirty Seven pounds Eleven shillings and Eight pence Lmoney for Each and Every month the said Schooner shall Continue in the said Serice aforesaid, and in that Proportion for a less time than a month to Commence from the Date hereof: The said Hire to Continue untill her Return and Discharge at Providence aforesaid or any other harbor within the Narragansett Bay, Secunnet Point, or Bedford, and to be paid within Thirty days after the time of her Discharge, and the said Nicho Brown and John Brown in behalf of the United Colonies, Do further agree to pay all Port Charges of Victualling and Maning the said Vessel for the Voyage aforesaid, and all other Charges, saving the Necessary Charges for keeping the Vessel in good repair as aforesaid: But in case said schooner should by any misfortune be lost either at Seas or in Port by any kind of Seizure, – British or other or in any manner whatsoever, saving and Except the Danger of the seas, which is to be risqued by the said Lopez and Rotch that the said Nicho

Brown and John Brown (who Act for the united Colonies) – shall and are to pay unto Said Lopez and Rotch in Case of Loss as aforesaid, The Sum of Eight Hundred and Seventy five pounds Lawfull Money (She being Estimated at that Value by Persons appointed by His Honor Governor Cooke) on Demand with Intrest from this time Untill paid, and no hire money. To the True, and faithful performance of Each and Every of the Said Articles, Covenant, and Agreements, the Said Parties bind themselves, their heirs, Executors, and Administrators Each to the Other. In Witness whereof the Parties have hereunto interchangeably Set their hands and Seals, the Day and Year aforementioned.

Signed, Sealed in the Aaron Lopez
Presence of Us. – Nicho Brown
Wm. Tillinghast John Brown

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

Connecticut Courant, MONDAY, MAY 6, 1776

Hartford, May 6.

Henry Edwin Stanhope, and George Gregory, the two prisoners advertised in our last, to have deserted from Northampton, have since been taken at Middletown, where they had taken passage on board a vessel bound to the Mississippi – they are now (we hear) obliged to take up [blurred] close quarters in Northhampton goal.

The above persons had concealed themselves in a cave, near the river in Middletown, where they were fed by one Wetmore of that place, and were to wait there till the vessel was ready to sail. Wetmore is in close confinement in the goal of this place. Quere, Which of the three is the greatest criminal?

ADAM BABCOCK TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

New Haven May 6. 1776

I heard a few Days since that your Excellency had fitted out an Armed Vessel under the Command of Capt Perrit to Cruise to the Southward – should that be the Case – I beg leave to propose that a Vessel I have fitted out commanded by Capn Brooks ² may go out in Company with Her, which will make them both quite secure against any Thing they may chance to meet with in getting off the Coast, except they should fall in with a Man of War

The little Vessel I have fitted Mounts 6 three Pounders with Swivels Blunderbusses & small Arms for 50 Men which She carries, and is already Man'd – and is a Prime Sailor – will Sail the beginning of next Week – but will wait till Thursday for your Excellency's Vessel – if in the mean Time I am informed that She will be ordered here and to keep Company with my Vessel till both are clear of the Coast I have the Honour to be [&c.]

Adam Babcock

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Lemuel Brooks, of Norwalk, commissioned May 13, 1776, to the privateer sloop *Gamecock*.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, MAY 6, 1776

New-York, May 6.

Friday last sailed from Sandy-Hook, and supposed for Halifax, his Majesty's Sloop of War the *Nautilus*, with the Ship *Lady-Gage*, 4 Brigs, and two Sloops. The *Phoenix* and *Dutchess of Gordon* are at the Hook, and the *Asia* lies between the Banks about 8 Miles from the Narrows.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, May 6, 1776

Captain [John] Young, who was fitted out at the expence of the continent, by Messrs. [Francis] Lewis and [John] Alsop, being arrived at Egg Harbour,

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to give proper orders for landing, securing and bringing to Philadelphia the cargo imported by Captain Young.

Congress resumed the consideration of the report on General Washington's letter of the 24 of March; and, thereupon, came to the following resolution:

[Whereas] General Washington having requested directions concerning the conduct that should be observed towards commissioners, said to be coming from Great Britain to America,

Resolved, That General Washington be informed, that the Congress suppose, if commissioners are intended to be sent from Great Britain to treat of peace, that the practice usual in such cases will be observed, by making previous application for the necessary passports or safe conduct, and on such application being made, Congress will then direct the proper measures for the reception of such commissioners.

The committee appointed to bring in a resolution, whereby persons resident, or having property in America, who assist any of the enemies of these United Colonies in the capture of vessels or goods, may be made liable to make good the damages to the sufferers, brought in their report which was read:

Ordered, To lie on the table.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 328, 329.

RICHARD HENRY LEE TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR.¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, May 6th 1776

Dear Sir, I received yesterday your favor of the 2d instant, and in answer to that part of it desiring to know if Mr Hancock gave a copy of your letter to any person, I must say that I do not know whether or not, but I am inclined to think he has not. This business appears to me thus – When Mr Hancock received the dispatches from Baltimore, he proceeded to read the whole in Congress, and among others, a letter containing observations on the Council of Safety of Maryland, relative to the timidity of their Councils;

which it appears he had not previously read in private, because, when he came to that part of it which mentioned its being written in confidence, he stopt, and observed it was private, and proposed it should be so considered; but as he had read so much of it, he went on, but read no name at the bottom, & in the debate consequent upon it, 'twas supposed to be anonymous, and it was conjecture alone that fixed you as the Author. I should have certainly informed you of this, if I had then found myself at liberty to do it, and when I heard from you of your summons before the Council, it was too late for a letter to reach you before your appearance at that board. But the idea of drawing from the mouth of a person accused his own condemnation is reprobated by English jurisprudence, and is the practice only of inquisitorial or Star chamber Tyranny. I should incline to think that this persecution will be carried no further, at least I am sure the time is quickly coming when violence from without will render absolutely necessary a perfect union within. A late arrival from Port L'orient with 13 tons of powder & 30 of Salt petre brings us a Cork paper near the middle of March, by which we learn that more than 40,000 men would sail from Portsmouth & Greenock about the 1st of April for N. America - They consist of Hessians Hanoverians, Mecklenburghers, Scotch Hollanders [Lowlanders?], & Scotch Highlanders, with some British Regiments. Their destination not certain, but said to be N. York, New England; Canada & 2 expeditions more South - ²

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.

2. *Ibid.*, on May 1 Lee had written to Purviance supporting him in his difficulties with the Maryland Council of Safety: "The public of America is a generous public, and when appealed to will readily distinguish things dictated by the general good, tho irregularly executed, from such as are evil in their nature and merely the suggestions of folly and wickedness."

PRESTON BOWDOIN TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Philada May 6th 1776

Capt [Thomas] Matthews was some time last Fall sent a prisoner by Lord Dunmore, in a Sloop from Norfolk bound to Boston, but on the passage was retaken by the *Lee* privateer, & carried into some part of New England,² this Gentleman since his Return to Virginia told me that he had inform'd your Excellency that the Sloop in which he was retaken, had been partly the property of myself & Brother, but unjustly seiz'd by Capt [John] Collins,³ & that you told him if I would prove the property you would have her paid for, this I shall be able very amply to do, by some papers I expect from Virginia next Post. If your Excellency can find time from your more important Business, shall esteem it a favour if you will inform me whether it will be necessary for me to come to N. York myself or whether sending the papers will do your answer will much oblige Sir [&c.]

Preston Bowdoin

His Excellency General Washington at New York

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The sloop *Betsy*, John Atkinson, master, taken December 17, 1775, by Captain John Manley in Washington's armed schooner *Lee*.

3. The captain of H.M. Sloop *Nautilus*.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

[Philadelphia] Monday 6th May.

Upon application of Capt. [John] Rice for a sum of Money for the payment of the Men employed in sinking the Chevaux-de-Frize, By order of the Board, an order was drawn in his favour on Jno. Nixon, Esq'r, & others, the Committee of accounts, for £150, for said purpose.

Orders were this day sent to the Commanding officer of the Fleet & Artillery Company at Fort Island, to call every Boat & Soldiers to their stations, & each to prepare for immediate action, and to suffer no Officer or Man to leave their station without the Licence of this Board, or the Commanding officer.

Resolved, That Colo. Nixon & Capt. Whyte be desired immediately to go to Fort Island, and give every necessary advice to assist the Officers carrying the above orders into execution.

The Officers & Men of the Armed Boats now in Town, except Capt. [Nathaniel] Boy's, were this day directed to go immediately to their stations at Fort Island.

By order of the Board, Capt. Hazelwood was directed to send down the Fire Vessels & 2 Chains of the Fire Rafts, & to dispose of them in the most convenient situations, near Fort Island.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 556, 557.

Pennsylvania Gazette, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1776

Port Penn, half past 11 o'clock,
May 6, 1776.

There are now in sight of Port Penn two ships of war, one topsail schooner, and three smaller, supposed to be tenders.

P.S. We have heard above forty guns fired, but know not from which vessel.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY,
WEST-NEW-JERSEY, MAY 6, 1776." ¹

This serves to inform you of an alarm we had about 11 o'clock this day, of a party of regulars landing on Findle's Island,² in Bacon's Neck, about four miles from Greenwich, supposed to be about 30 in number; shooting down the cattle, taking them on board, &c. whereupon I called the militia together as soon as possible, and upon our appearance, a gun was fired from on board one of the vessels for them to repair on board, which they did with the greatest precipitation. Our men pursued so closely, that they were near taking 3 of them prisoners, one of whom left an excellent musket behind, which we got, with some cartridges. They hollowed to our men to go on board the *King-Fisher* and they wou'd pay for the beef. It is supposed they took off between 20 and 30 cattle, 5 they left dead on the shore, and wounded many others, which, with all the others, we have drove from the

water side. They have taken, this morning, a shallop belonging to Daniel Richard's, bound from Philadelphia to Morris's river; but the hands escaped to shore.

1. *Pennsylvania Journal*, May 8, 1776. An account also appeared in *Pennsylvania Gazette* this date.
2. Tindall's Island.

BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Observation for Balt County

6 May, 1776.

Gentlemen. We Received your Letter of the 1st Inst – Mr [Hugh] Young had liberty to take the Schooner *Ninety two* at our last meeting –

We have the pleasure to inform you that our Boom is now laid down and so far secured, that we judge the Vessells that are sunk at Whetstone may be removed. You will therefore please to give Orders for that purpose, assoon as you think proper. We are Gentn [&c.]

p. Order

Sam^l Purviance Junr Chairn

Will^m Lux V. Chn

Jn^o Sterett

W^m Buchanan

John Boyd

Ja^s Calhoun

B. Griffith

Will^m Aisquith

1. Red Book, XII, Md. Arch.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen.

Baltimore May 6th 1776.

I Received your favour of the 3d Inst by Capt Fulford and Observe the Contents, and never was so much Surprised as on the Receipt, on Your Informing me that you never heard from me Since the 9th Febry which was the time I Contracted with You for the Brig *Rogers*, and also that it does not Appear to You that I have done anything, In the Purchase of her Cargo, it Certainly must Appear to You, that when the Committee took the Vessells here, to Sink for the Safety of this Town, that mine was detain'd as well as all Others, & I do Suppose that Charles Carrol Esqr must Know that was the Case, However Soon after the *Otter* was here Mr Wm Lux was going to Annapolis, & I Requested him to let You know, that my Brig was detain'd, and the Cargo Ready to put on Board her, and Requested your further Instructions, on his Return he told me you had not any further Orders to give me but if You had Any further You would send them to me hereafter on which Account I thought it was Unnecessary to Give You any more Trouble but Resolved, to Load the Vessell as Soon as Possession was given to me, Unless Orders had Come from You to the Contrary.

Last Monday they gave me Possession, and I now have Nine Hundred Barrels on board her, and I shall have her Ready for the sea this Week, and I hope in the End shall give You Every Necessary Satisfaction, tho You seem to think by what You say in Your letter, that I have not laid

out the Publick money Properly, if I had been one of those kind of men, Mr Thomas Jones of this Town, would not have given me a Letter to Any friend he had, & that time I Contracted with You he gave me a few Lines to Danl of St Thoms Jenifer Esqr your President. However I must Confess I was to Blame to trust any man, & see now I should have wrote You in Preference of sending by Mr Lux, but if he has Deceived me I cannot help it now, but shall for the future never Depend on him or any Man, on such Business. I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Geo: Woolsey

1. Red Book, XII, Md. Arch.

WOOLSEY & SALMON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Baltimore] 6th May

The Honourable Council of Safety For
Maryland at Annapolis –

Gentlemen I wrote You the 6 Inst and now have the Pleasure of Inclosing You Invoice & Bill Loading for the Cargo shiped on Bd the Brig *Rogers* (Thomas Ridley Master) by Your Order And now send him down to take Your Instructions, I shall send You a Duplicate of the Invoice pr first opportunity and hope I have given You full satisfaction in this Transaction, You may be Assured the whole Cargo was Ingaged in Eight days after I Recd the money, If I had taken more time, I Could have Purchased it Lower – I would have done so had I fore seen the stopage of the Vessell, I think it will come on as good terms as any Purchased at the time I did, and I Know it is put on Board in as good order as any Can. –

There is a small Ballance of £ 39.0.7 which if the Acct is Right Please send by Capt Ridley, if You want me down, please write me & I will Carry the Duplicate Invoice with me, I have not Yet had time to get the Vesell Vallued but shall in a few Days, You will Oblige me Verry much if You Inform me to what Island the Vesell first goes to, as I want to give the Capt Orders for his future Government. –

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

[Williamsburg] Monday the 6th of May,

Ordered, That the Committee of Safety do state and report the case of John Goodrich, jun. who hath been apprehended as a suspected person, and that he be confined to his room in the City of Williamsburg, under a proper guard; and that William Harwood, gent., surety for the appearance of the said John Goodrich, be discharged from his recognizance, on delivering the said Goodrich to the commanding-officer.

1. *The Proceedings of the Convention of Delegates held at the Capitol, in the City of Williamsburg, in the Colony of Virginia, on Monday, the 6th of May, 1776* (Richmond, 1816).

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Monday, May 6th, 1776.

James Foster is appointed Lieutenant of Marines in Capt. [John] Marsden's Company.

A warrant to Lieut. James Foster for £21.15.0 for advance and recruiting expenses of his proportion of Marines and one month's half pay of himself.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 170.

NAVAL AND MARINE EXPENDITURES FROM THE LEDGER OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹Dr The Cruizer

April 30	To Do [Cash] p a months ½ pay to Master & Recruiting service	26..0..0
April 5	To Cash p the purchase of necessaries & Materials	30..0..0
25	To ditto	30..0..0
	To ditto p one months ½ pay	6..0..0
April 10	To Cash upon accot for the outfit	£25..0..0
23	To Do advanced Aaron Jeffrys 1st Mate for recruiting seamen and one months ½ pay advance to himself	39.10..0
April 18	To Cash paid Robt Donald for ⅔ds of the purchase money	£433..6..8
24	To Do advanced Robert Gayle in part pay for Carpenters	10..0..0
May 6	To Do advanced Capt Cocke p the Outfit & pay of Workmen	125..0..0
April 23	To Cash advanced Capt Westcott p recruiting seamen & a months ½ pay	76..0..0

Dr Mr George

April 13	To Cash upon acct. & pay of Workmen in building the Galley under your care.	50..0..0
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Dr The Hero

April 23	To Cash advanced Capt Mutor p Recruiting Seamen & one month to himself & his first Mate	80.10..0
May 1	To Do p furnishing arms and materials.	100..0..0

Dr The Manley

April 23d	To Cash advanced Capt Travis p the purchase of material.	100..0..0
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Dr. Captain John

April 23d	To Cash advanced p recruiting your Company of Marines & one months ½ pay to yourself and Officers	83.10..0
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Dr Captain Peter

April 23	To Cash advanced for recruiting the Company of Marines & 1 months $\frac{1}{2}$ pay to yr Self and Lieutenant Kelly.	}	77.10..0
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Dr. Captain Alexander

April 23	To Cash advanced p recruiting your Company of Marines & one months $\frac{1}{2}$ pay to yourself and Officers.	}	83.10..0
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Dr Lieutenant James

April 23	To Cash advanced for recruiting yr Quota of Ma- rines and one months $\frac{1}{2}$ pay.		21.15..0
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Dr Mr. Jacob

April 25	To Cash p one months $\frac{1}{2}$ pay and upon acct p re- recruiting your Quota of Marines.		14..5..0
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Dr Mr. Williams

April 30	To Cash advanced p one months $\frac{1}{2}$ pay & recruit- ing Seamen.		23..0..0
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Dr Captain Williams

May 1st	To Cash & purchase of arms & recruiting your Ma- rines.		60..0..0
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Dr Captain Samuel

May 5	To Cash advanced p yr one months $\frac{1}{2}$ pay and re- cruiting in the Marine Service.	}	29.10..0
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Dr Lieut. Richard

May 5	To Cash advanced p a month $\frac{1}{2}$ pay & recruiting your Marines.		14..5..0
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Dr Lieutenant Henry

May 6th	To Cash advanced p a months $\frac{1}{2}$ pay & recruiting Marines.		18..0..0
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Dr Lieutenant James

May 6th	To cash advanced p a months $\frac{1}{2}$ pay & recruiting Marines.		21.15..0
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"SALES OF CARGOE BY THE BRIGT *Sam*, CAPT ROBERT FORSYTH, ON ACCOT & FOR
THE USE OF THE PROVINCE OF MARYLAND - MARCH 1776." ¹

Flour		Bread	Staves	prices	M/que Curry	Maryd Curry -
Com. S. fine						
Cash		1		38.15/		38.15.-
Pierre Begorrat	1265			52.10.	66412.10.-	
Ditto Ditto		118		63	7434	
Ditto Ditto	(sold by Wt, being 9521 French)	90		27 P C	2570.14.-	
Ditto Ditto			4760	200	952	77369..4.-
Capt Robert Forsyth	short delivered for wch I					
charged him	3					92..4.-
	1268.	118.	91.	4760		77500..3.-
Charges vizt						
	Port Charges of the Vessell				205..5.-	
	Duty on the Cargoe 1 P Ct				553.12.-	
	Freight £4467.4.3 Md Cy eql to				10278.13.-	
	paid Soldiers their attendance on board				64.10.-	
	Commission 5 P Ct				3875..-.-	14977..-.-
						60023..3.-
						equal to } 2728..6.6
						£2728..6.6

Note. That this Superfine Flour was all in small Casks, and the Quality of it so indifferent that I was obliged to let 10 barrells go as Common.

R Harrison
Errors Excepted
R. Harrison
St Pierre May 6th 1776.

(Copy)

1. Executive Papers, Box 6, Md. Arch.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO LIEUTENANT TOBY CAULFIELD,
H.M.S. *Bristol* ¹

Instructions for Lieut: Caulfield

The *Pensacola* Packet in which you are to Embark, with one Petty Officer & Ten Men from the *Bristol*, is to be under the Care & Protection of Captain [Anthony] Hunt of His Majesty's Ship *Sphynx*, whose orders you will punctually obey. You are to proceed in Company with the *Sphynx* Off Charles Town South Carolina, & you are to go into that Harbour as far as you can with Safety, & are in Concert with the Engineer (who will be sent in her by Order of General Clinton) to observe the Motions of the Rebels & gain all the Information in your power of the state of the Fortifications & particularly, whether any have been lately Erected on Sullivan's Island – Cummin's Point or at the Light House –

When you have finished your Observations, you are to sound the Bar with the greatest Exactness in order to Ascertain the true depth of Water. You are not to Exceed 48 Hours in the Prosecution of these Services, but if you cannot do it before, you are at the Expiration of that time to Join the *Sphynx* off the Bar, and return with her to this Harbour. Given under my Hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Solebay* Cape Fear Harbour the 6th May 1776

1. Clinton Papers, CL.

MINUTES OF THE WEST FLORIDA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ¹

His Excellency ² Informed the Board that he had called them together in Consequence of a report brought by the Schooner *Sally* Thomas Pollard Master who lately Arrived from Jamaica (which report was confirmed by Several Letters and public Prints) that the Americans had Arrived at New Providence with seven Armed Vessels who seized upon His Excellency Governour Brown [Montfort Browne] and his Secretary – And after taking on board all the Cannon and Military Stores at that place they set sail with the same and their two Prisoners –

His Excellency therefore desired the opinion of the Board whether it would not be necessary to attend to the immediate Defence of this place? The Board were of opinion that it was necessary to put this place in a state of defence and that the Provincial Engineer should make a report what he judged was necessary to be done in Order to Compleat the same – The Engineer being present was asked whether this place was in a state of defence or not who gave for Answer that he did not think it was – It was then Advised that he do immediately report upon the State of it in Writing and at the same time point out What he may think is necessary to be done for its immediate defence in Case of a sudden Attack – Upon which the Engineer gave in his report in writing and is as follows together with an Estimate of the Expence thereof –

Report of Captain Elias Durnford Engineer respecting the Works re-

quisite to prevent the Forts at the Town of Pensacola in West florida being taken by Surprize –

The Fort towards the Bay out to be secured with a Parapet at least six Feet high ten Feet thick and a Ditch with Pallisades on the Line some Cannon should be mounted to face on the Bay and to Flank the Fort. –

The Swivels should be mounted on the proper parts of the Stockade and Banquet made within for the Troops to stand and fire over which at present cannot be done – One peice of small Ordnance should be mounted on each of the Block Houses –

The Sallient Angles of each of the Block Houses ought to be Covered with a small redan with a Good Parapet and ditch capable of containing four Pieces of Cannon on which two might be mounted.

The above mentioned Works I Judge absolutely necessary for the immediate Security of the Fort at this place And the Expencc will not be very considerable as will appéar from the Annexed Estimate –

Pensacola 6th May 1776.

Elias Durnford Capt of Engineers
and Chief Engineer for West Florida –

The Governor then desired the farther Opinion of the Board Whether it was necessary to complete the several works mentioned in the said report –

The Board weere Unanimously of Opinion that all those works should be completed without delay for as the Public Works which were carrying on by the direction of His Excellency General Gage the Commander in Chief have been put a stop to by his Orders before finished the Board are therefore of opinion that His Excellency the Governor should draw on the Treasury for the Charge of those immediate necessary works agreeable to the Treasury Minutes of the 28th: November 1764, and the 15th July 1766

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/634, LC Photocopy.

2. Governor Peter Chester.

7 May

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Surprize*, CAPTAIN ROBERT LINZEE¹

May 1776

Running up the River above Quebec

Tuesday 7th at 6 AM Weigh'd and proceeded up the River with the *Martin*, and Schooner sent the Prize & Prisoners down to Quebec. at 8 Saw a Brig & 2 Small Schooners in Shore fir'd a Number of Guns at them, but finding the Shot to fall Short, Sent the Arm'd Schooner to destroy them, as we proceeded up the River, saw a great Number of the Rebel Army, marching towards Montreal. Fir'd Round & Grape Shot, at them to Annoy them whenever we saw them assemble in large Parties . . . at Noon Came too with the Bt Bower in 11 fm. Veer'd to 1/2 a Cable off Point au Platoun. –

Mode Breezes and Cloudy, at 3 PM the Schooner returned

and inform'd us that the Brig was fitted for a fire Vessel; but the Rebels fearing She Should fall into our Hands had run her on shore, and made her so leaky that she could not be possibly got off. at 4 PM sent the Barge mann'd and Arm'd with the Generals Aide [de] camp to go on Shore to get Intelligence, at 7 the Barge return'd and inform'd us that 20 large Boats with Men had gone pass towards Montreal in great Confusion.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Martin*, CAPTAIN HENRY HARVEY ¹

May 1776 At Anchor off Point Plator [St. Lawrence River]
 Tuesday 7 at 7 AM: Sail'd up the River, sent the Schooner to Quebec: – kept firing along the Shore at several detachments of the Rebel Army, that were retreating upwards: – At Noon Anchd in 12 fm off Point Plator:
 Fine weather: Fir'd occasionally at the Rebel party;

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/581.

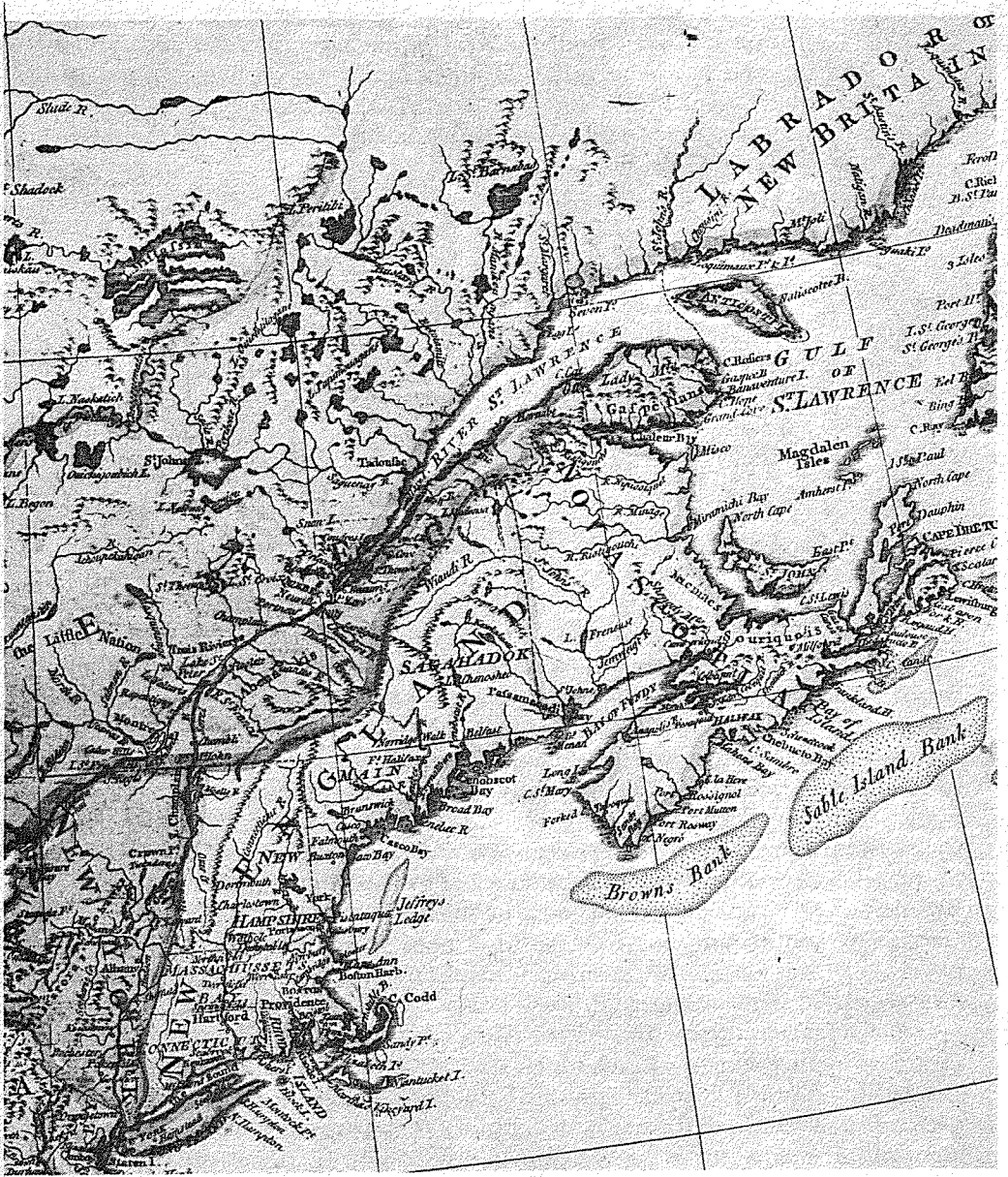
MAJOR GENERAL JOHN THOMAS TO THE COMMISSIONERS IN CANADA ¹

(Copy)

Hd Qrs Pointe de Chambeaux 7th May 1776

Gentlemen Immediately on my arrival at the Camp before Quebeck, wch was on the first inst, I examined into the State of the army, & found by the returns there were 1900 men. Only one thousand fit for duty; including Officers. The rest were invalids, chiefly with the small pox. Three hundred of those effective were Soldiers, whose inlistments expired the 15th ulto., many of whom refused duty, and all were very importunate to return home. There were several posts to be supported with this small number, at such distances from each other, that not more than 300 men could be rallied to the relief of any one, should it be attacked by the whole force of the enemy, by means of rivers and other obstructions. In all our magazines there were but about one hundred & fifty pounds of powder, & six days provision; the French Inhabitants much disaffected, so that supplies of any kind were obtained with great difficulty from them.

Considering these, and many other disagreeable circumstances, I thought it expedient to call a council of war; and the Council consisting of Brigr Genl [David] Wooster and all the field Officers in camp, after mature deliberation, were unanimously of opinion, that as upon the first arrival of any reinforcement to the enemy, all communication by the River would inevitably be cut off by their armed vessels, it was absolutely necessary for the safety of the Invalids, immediately to remove them in batteaus to the Three Rivers, & to collect the artillery and other stores, in order to remove them and the army farther up the River, as soon as it could conveniently be done, for the purpose of securing some important posts, where there would be a prospect of resisting with success. This was on the 5th inst., and in the eve-



The northern colonies and maritime Canada.

ning of the same day I received certain intelligence of fifteen ships being forty leagues below Quebeck, making up the River. Early the next morning, five of them appeared in sight, and the wind and tide being favourable, they soon arrived before the city. We were employed at this time in carrying the sick, artillery &c. on board the batteaus; the enemy in landing their troops, and as the event shews, in preparing to make a sally. Our movements were retarded by the change, [the appearance of those] vessels had produced in the dispositions of the inhabitants; for they would neither furnish us with teams, nor in any way afford us assistance, but kept themselves concealed.

About one o Clock a considerably body of the enemy attacked our centinels & main guard; in consequence of which I instantly orderd the Troops under arms, & detachd a party to support the main guard, which was now coming off in good order. By the best judgment I could make, the enemy were one thousand Strong, formed into two divisions, in columns six deep supported with a train of six pieces of cannon. The most that we could collect at this time on the plains, to oppose them did not exceed one quarter of that number, with only one field piece.

This being our situation, by advice of the field Officers present, I gave orders for the army to march up the River to this place, where the greater part came up this day. On my arrival, I without delay called a council of war, a copy of the determinations of which I have inclosed, as I have of that held in camp before Quebeck. The result of this Council is, as you will see, to advance still farther up the River, and is founded on many reasons, some of which I will suggest. The ships of war were hastening forward with all possible dispatch, and had already got up as far as Jacques Cartier: we had no cannon to prevent their passing the falls of Richlieu; and if cannon could have been procured, we had no ball, and not more provision than would subsist the army for two or three days.

We should therefore be under the same disadvantages at Pointe de Chambeaux as before Quebeck, they could run above us with their men of war and cutters, intercept all our resources, & oblige us to decamp. I am very respectfully Gentlemen [&c.]

(Signed) Jⁿ Thomas

1. Schuyler Papers, vol. 16, NYPL.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

[Extract]

Halifax, May 7, 1776

In your Lordship's dispatch of the 5th January Mention is made of a separate Letter, wherein I may expect the Honour of His Majesty's Commands for the Operations of the ensuing Campaign, which is not yet received. I hope my Design of removing with the Army from hence to New York, as soon as I am enabled by a Supply of Provisions, may not meet with the Kings disapprobation, although it should take place before I receive the letter in question; for every Instant we remain here must increase our Embarrassments. the fogs setting in upon the Coast may delay the Fleet upon its Passage, occasion a Separation, & thereby prevent the Army from acting in

full Force upon its Arrival. The Enemy will be better prepared for our Reception, & the Reinforcements from Europe may arrive before us. From these Considerations I shall at all Events get away from hence without a Moments unnecessary delay; but I tremble when I think of our present State of Provisions, having now Meat for no more than thirteen Days in Store, with the Possibility of Supplies not arriving before the Fogs take Place, after which Time the Ships may be a Month upon the Coast without being able to get into Port. The Frost being now out of the Ground, the Works for a temporary Security to the Dockyard were begun this Day, . . .

By the Addition of Vessels taken into the Service, & of Arrivals at this Port since leaving Boston, we shall have a sufficient Quantity of Tonnage for the Removal of the Army from hence, without the Inconvenience of the Officers & Soldiers being crowded, which was experienced on our Way to this Port. The greatest Part of the Women & children will be left & subsisted at the usual Allowance of half a Ration for each Woman, & one Quarter for a child, in which a Supply of Rice, lately arrived from Georgia, will be a principal Article.

By this Opportunity I have sent to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury an Estimate of the Forage expected from the Bay of Fundy, & if we have not a sufficient Quantity of Hay for the 17th Dragoons, that Regiment will be left to follow the Army as soon as it can be procured; It is now in Cantonments, in the Neighbourhood of Windsor for the Convenience of getting Hay.

I have also sent to their Lordships a Return of Seamen engaged in the West Indies, who are put into Transports, & are a very seasonable Assistance: It is at the same Time humbly submitted to their Lordships consideration, if it would not be an expedient Measure to send out a naval Storeship for furnishing the Transports with the several Articles of Rigging & Stores, which they greatly need at present, particularly Pitch & Tar; likewise a Victualing Ship for their Seamen, who have no other Supply than from the Army Stores.

The Stores destroyed & left by the different Departments, on the late Removal of the Army, will appear from the enclosed Returns. I must own in the Ordnance Branch they have exceeded my Expectations; but in that of Forage it was inevitable from the Want of shipping.

In Obedience to your Lordship's Commands, for a more explicit Account of the Expedition to Falmouth, which was Entrusted to Lieutenant [Henry] Mowat of the Navy, assisted by a Detachment of Marines & Artillery, I have re-examined the Officer who commanded this Detachment, & find that his Orders from General [Thomas] Gage were, to embark on board several armed Vessels the 6th October 1775, & to aid & assist Lieutt Mowat in annoying and destroying all Ships and Vessels belonging to the Rebels on the Coast, & in the Harbours to the Eastward of Boston: That they first examined the Harbour of Cape Ann, & finding an attack upon it inexpedient they proceeded to Falmouth, & laid the Armed Vessels before the Town on the Evening of their arrival, after which Lieutt Mowat sent an Officer on Shore

with a Summons to the Inhabitants to deliver up their Arms & Ammunition, acquainting them at the same Time that his Orders directed him to destroy the Town, if they did not comply with his Demand, of which they should be allowed two Hours to consider & to remove their Women & children; shortly after three Persons, deputed by the Inhabitants, came on board requesting a longer Time, & it was agreed to wait their Answer until Eight oClock next Morning, about which Hour the same Persons returned, & reported that the Inhabitants were determined to wait their Fate: Within half an Hour a Signal was made by Lieutt Mowat, the Vessels began a Cannonade, and several Carcasses were thrown into the Town, which set Fire to the Houses, & in a few Hours consumed the greatest Part of them: a Detachment was then landed who compleated the Destruction, & re-imbarked without Loss. The small Vessels in the Harbour were burnt, sunk, or brought away the 18th October, and the Armament returned to Boston the 5th Nov, without attempting any further.

Your Lordship was informed in my last that Lieut Colonel [James] Grant had returned from Georgia, where he had been sent with two Transports, & 170 Rank & File, under Convoy of the *Scarborough* Frigate, to procure Rice for the Army. He found the Country in open Rebellion, the Governor & many of the Kings Friends Prisoners at large, others disarmed, & all legal Authority subverted; a Vessel sunk in the narrow Part of their River, the Town of Savannah garrisoned by 500 Men, & Batteries raised on the commanding Grounds to obstruct the Passage of the Ships. Every Means were used to convince the People that his Designs were not hostile, that every thing required should be paid for, & their Trade protected; to this they were at one Time reconciled, but the Violence of the Mob soon over set his intentions: The only Measure left was to secure the Ships then in the River by Surprize, which was effected by the Detachment going up Back River in Boats with two or three small armed Vessels, thro' an intricate Channel & little known, while the larger Armed Vessels proceeding up the ordinary Passage by Way of Feint engaged their attention, and these met with every opposition the Enemy could make from their Cannon or with small arms. The Plan succeeded; eighteen Vessels of different Sizes were rescued, & brought down the back Channel; more Ships would have been brought off had the Detachment been stronger. Such was the Rage and Disappointment of the People on this Occasion, that they set Fire to the *Inverness*, a large Ship, richly laden, with a View of destroying the rest – Sir James Wright & his Family, narrowly escaping the Search of a Detachment of 150 Men sent to seize him, got on board the *Scarborough*, and is now here, intending to sail for England by this Opportunity; This Detachment, disappointed in their principal Aim, fired upon a Serjeants Party sent ashore for Wood, which the non-commissioned Officer returned, & retired to his Boat, with the Loss of one Man killed & scalped, one wounded, and one missing: The Rebels, on the Approach of Troops in Boats, quitted the Spot. The quantity of Rice obtained by Lieut Colonel Grant is 1083 Tierces, for which Certificates were

given to the Owners, as the Price could not be ascertained under such Circumstances; Sir James Wright is the principal proprietor.

A private Trader from Waterford arrived this Morning with as much Beef & Pork as will supply the Army six Days, which, tho' a small Circumstance, may not be displeasing for your Lordship to know in the present Situation of Things.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93, 305-14.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER ON BOARD THE MAN OF WAR IN
HALIFAX HARBOUR, MAY 7.”¹

My last was from Nantasket Road on our leaving Boston; our voyage hither was the most disagreeable I have ever had, as you may well suppose, when I tell you that we were a month from leaving the Road to our arrival in this harbour, which is one of the finest perhaps in the whole world. The wind was for the most part against us, but the fogs that prevailed on this coast were our greatest hindrance. Sometimes we were just off the Harbour's mouth, when the fogs came on, then immediately about ship and stand to sea, perhaps not able to see the ship's length, so that we were obliged to ring the bell and keep a loud noise, to prevent any of the fleet falling foul of us; at length we got into the Harbour, all except about four sail, who have come in since, and considering every thing, I think it is a miracle we have heard of no loss.

A great many of the troops were immediately disembarked, who have begun to repair and fortify the works, and put them in the best posture. I have not yet been ashore, on account of a hurt I received in my leg, when one of the fogs came on, by running foul of one of the guns, for it was so dark, though the middle of the day, that I could hardly see my hand before me. They tell me that the fogs here last two thirds of the year. We are tolerably well off, having had fresh beef sent on board us since we arrived, though they tell me it is very scarce to what it used to be, as it has been sold for three half pence a pound. I do not hear whether we are to stay here long, or proceed soon to any other place, the General being very close in all his affairs. The people here are glad we are come, and I assure you we are glad as they, having been obliged to keep a good look-out, and row guard every night in Boston Harbour.

1. *Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser*, June 12, 1776.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT¹

[Watertown] Tuesday May 7th 1776.

Resolved that Colo [Azor] Orne Mr Webster & Major Moody or the Major part of them be a Committee forthwith to Apply to Mr Jacob Boardman and others who have lately Imported Powder into Newbury Port for the Purchasing the said Powder on Accot, of this Colony and if the said Boardman and Company shall refuse to sell said Powder agreeable to the Encouragement given them by this Court for the Importation there of (as is re-

ported) that the Committee aforesaid purchase the same on the best terms it Can be Obtained not Exceeding Six Shillings p pound

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 856.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, May 7th 1776.

A Bill intituled an Act for fixing out Armed Vessells to defend the Sea coast of America, having passed the House of Representatives to be Enacted.

In Council Read a second time and passed a Concurrence to be Enacted.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 857.

CONTINENTAL BOND FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATEER SCHOONER *Lady Washington* ¹

1776 *Lady Washington*, Schooner. Guns, 4, and 12 swivels; Men, 20.

May 7 Commander: Joseph Cunningham,

Bonders: Joseph Cunningham, Ebenezer Dorr, and Joseph Gardner, all of Boston.

Owner: John G. Frazier, of the Parish of St. Johns, County of King William, Virginia.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 7, 291. An abstract from the bond.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO STEPHEN HOPKINS ¹

[Extract]

Providence May 7th 1776

The *Cerberus* and an armed Brig. ² have both watered at Block Island lately, and receive all the Supplies from thence the Island can afford. One of the Inhabitants hath lately purchased at Groton a Hogshead of Jamaica Rum for which he paid in Silver and which was undoubtedly for the Ship's Use. It is true that there is but a small Stock upon the Island not more then 3 or 400 Sheep with some working Cattle and Milch Cows but these may be of great Importance to the Enemy. Besides which the Island will afford every Species of Vegetables necessary for the Health of the Seamen; and the Captain of the *Cerberus* hath already given Orders to sew large Quantities and promised high Prices for them as an Encouragement. The Enemy also procure all the Intelligence they want by Means of the Inhabitants. The Assembly have ordered that they shall have no Communication with any Part of the Colony but Newport under the Inspection of a Committee; that if they are detected in carrying more Necessaries upon the Island than are allowed by the Committee they shall suffer the Punishment inflicted upon those who supply the Enemy; and that every Inhabitant found in any other Part of the Colony shall be immediately imprisoned. The General Assembly thought they could go no further as the removing near 600 Souls from their whole Property would be deemed a very great Hardship without providing for their Support which in the exhausted State of the Colony would prove a Burthen too great to be

born. Perhaps this Affair had better be immediately taken into Consideration by Congress

The screening [of] Vessels belonging to I[re]land and the British West Indies from Capture is a very great Discouragement to fitting out Vessels of War, as it is supposed British Property will be cloked under false Bills of Sales One Privateer is fitting from this Port, and another from Swansey.

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 323-25.
2. H.M. Brig *Diligent*.

ORDER TO LIEUTENANT JOHN PAUL JONES TO ATTEND COURT MARTIAL
OF CAPTAIN JOHN HAZARD ¹

Sir

Providence May 7th 1776 -

You are desired to attend at a Court Martial to be held onboard the Ship *Alfred* tomorrow Morning at 10 OClock for the Tryal of John Hazard Esqr for Misconduct

By Order of the Commander in Chief
Sam^l Lyon Secy

1. John Paul Jones Papers, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO COMMODORE JACOBUS WYNKOOP ¹

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 -

Ph: Schuyler

1. Schuyler Papers, vol. 2, Letters & Orders, 18 April, 1776 - 29 June, 1777; NYPL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, May 7, 1776

A letter of the 14th April from John G. Frazer, with lists of the vessels, cannon, and ordnance stores left by the enemy at Boston. . . read:

A petition from John Bayard, P. Moore, and John Patton, was presented to Congress and read: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to sell to the petitioners 600 lb. of powder, for the use of the privateer they are fitting out.

The Congress took into consideration the memorial from the committee of safety of Pennsylvania; Whereupon,

Resolved, That twenty of the heaviest cannon, taken by Commodore Hopkins, at New Providence, and brought from thence to New London, and since carried to Newport, be brought to the city of Philadelphia, and delivered to the committee of safety of Pennsylvania, for the defence and protection of said city; to remain there during the pleasure of Congress.

Resolved, That such of the iron cannon, as were brought from Ticonderoga to Boston, and have not been removed by General Washington, be lent

for the defence of the town and harbour of Boston, to remain there during the pleasure of Congress.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 330, 331, 333, 334.

JOHN HANCOCK TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir

[Philadelphia, May 7]

The Congress having by the fore going resolve agreed to lend twenty of the heaviest cannon taken at [New] Providence & carried to Rhode Island, to the Committee of safety of Pensylvania for the defence of this City ² I have to desire you will immediately deliver the same to the person or persons whom the sd Committee sent to receive & bring them hither I am [&c.]

John Hancock Presid.

To Commodore Es Hopkins or in his Absence To
Daniel Tillinghast Esqr

1. Harbeck Collection, HUL.

2. Hancock quoted in full the resolution of May 7, above.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, MAY 20, 1776

Philadelphia, May 7.

On the 5th arrived here Capt. [John] Young, belonging to New York, having on board his sloop 13 tons powder, 24 (I think) tons of salt petre, and 60 arms, all safe in Egg Harbour. He has brought with him an Irish paper of the second of March, by which we now know who the Commissioners are, and their number, viz. The Hessians, Brunswickers, Waldeckers, Hanovarians, English, Scotch and Irish troops, to the tune of 45,000.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia 7th May 1776

Yours of the 22 ulto is now before me, the greatest part of which is answered in my last. I dont much admire the nomination of the first Lieutenant ² – I think him too unsteady to be depended on. I shall expect a list from you by next post agreeable to my request which I suppose you must have recd some time ago. I now enclose you the Resolves of Congress respecting Privateers, captures &c – they did not come out till to day: you'll find the pay of the officers in the Navy – but in that there will be considerable alterations – the petty officers will I believe be considerably lowered and I shall do my endeavors to raise the Captain – that is, for the new frigates; there is a Committee chosen by the Marine Committee for that purpose. If you should engage any petty or warrant officer, it will be best not to mention their pay till you hear farther. You will have the appointment of all except the Capt Lieuts Master, Surgeon Capt & Lt of Marines; these must be recommended to Congress: no doubt you must have English colors for the ship – Your ship is a forward of those building here.

The *Lexington* returned yesterday, from a cruise having sprung her foremast; a week ago she fell in with a fleet of 17 sail, was chased by two frigates from the fleet; it's supposed they were bound for Virginia or Carolina but it's altogether uncertain – they may be the fleet from the West Indies bound to Boston.

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, I, 117, LC.
2. For the frigate building at Portsmouth. The first lieutenant subsequently commissioned was Peter Shores of Portsmouth. It is uncertain whether he was the officer about whom Whipple was dubious.

Connecticut Courant, MONDAY, MAY 20, 1776

Philadelphia, May 7.

On Sunday in his brig came up Capt. [John] Barry – On the Sunday before, lat. 34, long. 70, he fell in with a fleet of 17 sail, convoyed by a man of war, who gave him chase for eight hours, without sensibly gaining or losing: On losing another sail, Capt. Barry had the advantage, when the man of war quitted the chase and joined his convoy. Barry then followed, with design to pick up some of the fleet, but discovering that his foremast was sprung, he was obliged to alter his course, and after cruising two days off the Capes of Virginia, returned to get a new mast. From the course of the fleet he imagined they were bound from the West-Indies for Virginia, but afterwards was doubtful whether they had not proceeded to the north eastward.¹

Yesterday we were alarmed with an account, that the men of war and their tenders were coming up the Bay, and the signal guns were fired. – Soon after an account arrived from our vessels at the Chevaux de Frize, that a large ship appeared in sight, and all hands were preparing for an engagement. – The same day it was said the enemy had got up to Newcastle, and burnt or destroyed it; however, an express last night informs us, that the ships were at Reedy Island point, where it was supposed they were going to get water, steal stock, and do as much mischief as possible.

1. Barry's encounter seems to have been with Sir Peter Parker's fleet, bound for North Carolina, and his pursuer was H.M.S. *Solebay*.

RICHARD BACHE TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ¹

Dear & Hone Sir

Phila 7th May 1776

I am favored by yours of the 18th Ulto from Lake George; this I hope will find you well at Montreal – Yesterday the Alarm guns were fired, which put the Town into some Consternation for a short time, the Alarm was on Account of three Men of War which were at the Capes, coming up the Bay, we now suppose for Water; – should they attempt to come up the River – we are ready to receive them – The *Roebuck*, which by my last Informed was ashore in the Bay got off again witht sustaining any Damage; Capt Barry is return'd from his Cruize, having sprung his foremast, – You will see by the Papers What a formidable Armament we are daily to expect – 45,000, Com-misionins at least, of different Nations that is to say Hessians, Hannoverians

&c &c Commanded by Lord [Richard] How[e], it is said – We are well & send our joint Love & Duty I am Dear sir [&c.]

Rich Bache

[Memorandum entered on verso by Franklin] Our Accts with Congress – What News from Johnson Hill ²

1. Franklin Papers, IV, 86, APS.

2. The baronial home of the late William Johnson, Superintendent for Indian Affairs in the Northern Department.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1776

Philadelphia, May 7.

Yesterday morning an express arrived from the capes, informing the Committee of Safety that the men of war were coming up the river, and between ten and eleven the alarm guns were fired; and at ten o'clock last night another express came from Reedy-Island, which said that at half after eleven o'clock two men of war with several tenders and prizes were in sight, but no farther advices were received by the Committee when this paper went to press, at half past four o'clock this afternoon.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR DESERTERS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA GONDOLA

Bull Dog ¹

Deserted from the *Bulldog* armed boat, Alexander Henderson, Esq; commander, two men, viz. Lawrence Mahon, about five feet seven inches high, very slender built, short black curly hair, about twenty-six or twenty-seven years of age. He commonly used shalloping, and working along shore, was born in Philadelphia.

Cuff Warner, a Negro, he is lame on one side, commonly wears a white coat, and can play on the fife. Whoever takes up and secures them, and brings them to the said boat, or secures them till I am acquainted therewith, shall have FOUR DOLLARS reward for each.

Alexander Henderson

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, May 7, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 7th May, 1776.

An Express having arrived last night from Port Penn, informing that two Ships of War, a Top Sail Schooner & three smaller Vessels, supposed to be tenders, were in sight of Port Penn, half past 11 O'clock on Monday last; The Board, In consequence thereof, gave orders to Capt. [Thomas] Reed to order down the thirteen armed Boats under the command of the Senior Officer, with directions to proceed down the River, when they must concert the best method to attack, take, sink, destroy, or drive off the said Vessels if possible, but to be careful in exposing any of the Boats to Capture or destruction, and to send down the Fire Sloop Commanded by Capt. [Wil-

liam] Gamble, with one other officer & 4 or 6 Men, with some bedding and other necessaries; also a six or four oar'd Boat; & to acquaint the Officers & Men in the Fire Sloop, that for their encouragement in performing any Essential Service, this Board will reward them handsomely. At the same time the Commissary was directed to send down a sufficient quantity of Provisions for the supply of the people in this expedition; and upon application of the Board to the Secret Committee of Congress an order was procured, directing Capt. [Lambert] Wickes to supply the Boats with as many Voluntiers as may offer, which order was sent to Capt. Reed.

. . . By order of the Board, Robert Towers was directed to . . . put on board the Shallop provided by the Commissary of Provisions, 30 Round of Cartridges of ammunition for each of the armed Boats, two-thirds of the Shot to be Cross Barr, if so many are in Store, and to put up 20 Rounds of Powder & Ball for two Guard Boats.

At a special meeting of the Committee of Safety, $\frac{1}{4}$ after 5 o'Clock, P.M., 7th May, 1776.

Resolved, That four Members of this Committee be appointed to repair immediately to Fort Island, or on Board the Province Ship, with full and ample power to enforce such orders as have already been Issued, or may Issue from this Board, to the Commanding officer of the Naval armament of this Province.

Resolved, That said Members be authorized, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to suspend any Officer or Officers of said armament that shall refuse obedience to the orders of said Commanding Officer; That if any suspension shall take place in consequence of this Resolve, the said Committee be empowered to appoint the next in command, or some proper officer, to perform the Dutys of those that are suspended.

Resolved, That the said Committee, in Conjunction with the Commanding Officer, be fully authorized to Issue such further orders to the Fleet as they may think necessary, in Consequence of any further information they may receive respecting the motions of the Enemy.

Resolved, That Colo. [John] Cadwalader, Mr. [Alexander] Wil[c]locks, Mr. [James] Mease, & Capt. [Robert] Whyte, be appointed the Committee to perform the above services, and they, or any three of them, are hereby appointed and authorized to act as aforesaid.

Resolved, That the Committee appointed this day to go to Fort Island, be authorized to direct two Row Boats to be constantly kept plying between Fort Island and the Pest House Wharf, in order to give speedy Intelligence of any thing material that may happen.

That Mr. Owen Biddle be authorized to engage two Men with Horses to Ride express between this City and Province Island; that one to be station'd at the Island, and the other in this City, during the present alarm.

Resolved, That Mr. O. Biddle & Mr. [David] Rittenhouse be requested to examine into the quantity & quality of shot now in store, and make report of the same to this Board.

That they contract with proper persons to supply this Board, for the use of the Province, with any quantity that they may think necessary to provide.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 557-59.

CAPTAIN THOMAS READ TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen:

Ship *Montgomery*, May 7th, 1776.

I received yours at half past Twelve, and Immediately sent to the Commanders of the Boats to Repair on Board, which they did; I then Read the orders Received from you. They Requested a Number of Men, they being Short. Capt. Davidson [Samuel Davison] furnished Seventy-four. Capt. [William] Brown with the Chief of his Marines are gone. Capt. [William] Gamble is furnished with a Six Oar Boat, four Men with Mr. [Joseph] Greenway, third Lieutenant, who most Voluntarily offered their Services, and would have gone to a man Could I have Spar'd them, they this Night Rendizvouse under Hog Island, to receive Capt. Dougharty's [Henry Dougherty] orders, whom I gave a Copy of yours to me and his Signals, we have furnished them with Small Arms and Cartouch Boxes fill'd; you mention Inclosing an order to Capt. [Lambert] Wickes, to supply what may be defficient, that Order was not Inclosed, Capt. Wickes Came on board soon after, I read that part to him, he said he received no orders and could not let any of his Men go without it, tho' wish'd at the same time to do it, and would Immediately on Receipt of the orders. Thinking it Necessary to have a Surgeon to attend the Boats, I ordered my Doctor to apply to the person attending the Hospital, to furnish him with Medicine Chests that Doctor Duffield had with him, which he brought on Board, but have no keys for them, Could wish you would send them by the Victualing Boat. Several of the Boats are very short of men, Capt. Davidson has Left 36, we have 54, all included, making it late to get them all despatch'd, have sent you this short Sketch of the Manner they have been Supply'd, Capt. Dougharty will attend Strictly to the disposition of the fire Sloop, and think Capt. Gamble has been exceedingly cool and deliberate on it, and appears to go with hopes of Success, which I sincerely wish him.

Since writing the above, the province Sloop came down about 10 O'clock, went on Board, where was Colonel John Cadwallader, Alexander Willcox, Esqr., James Mease, Esqr., and Capt. [Robert] White. Received their orders, then went on Board. Capt. Wickes, with a Letter for his Men, which he comply'd with, from thence on board the Gallies to acquaint Capt Dougharty of the Situation of the Ships of war; this morning they were to proceed as soon as possible, they could see their way at Six O'clock this Morning; sent on Board Capt. Wickes, the two Pilot Boats, and the two fire Boats; on Board of which he has put 10 Seamen, Ist Lieutenant, 24 Marines, and the Capt. with Two Searjeants, equip'd with Small arms, all in great Spirits; our Doctor, Mr. Machenery, is gone on Board George Verts Shallop to attend the Fleet, with one of the Medicine Chests from the Pest house;

the Province Sloop went down early this morning with the Gentlemen on Board; we are now going to Assist Capt. Wickes thro' the Cheavax-de-frizes with all the hands we have left on board us and the Battery. I am, Gentlemen [&c.]

Thos. Read.

Directed, To Andrew Caldwell, Esqr., Commodore of the Province Fleet, and the Gentlemen of the Committee of Safety, Philadelphia.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 745-46.

JOHN MCKINLY TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Wilmington, 2 O'Clock, P.M.

Gentlemen:

Tuesday, 7th May, 1776

Mr. Bridges' Brig is just got into our Creek, escorted by the *Wasp*. The Twenty Gun Ship at the Creek's Mouth has fired a Gun, but the Vessells are out of reach. We are preparing to defend them. The *Rockbuck* [*Roebuck*] at New Castle & several Tenders. Yours in haste,

Jno. McKinly.

Directed, To Council of Safety, Philadelphia. P. Express.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 746.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

May 1776

At a Single Anchor in Hoar Kill Road.

Saturday 4th

Little wind and cloudy weather, at 5 in the morning saw a Brig standing up the Bay made the *Liverpools* Signal to chase, at 11 the *Fowey* Sail'd with her prize and ours for Virginia, having given Captain [George] Montagu orders for that purpose.

Moderate and hazy weather, with calm's at times; at 3 weighed and made Sail, at 4 it falling calm anchored in 8 fms $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the Beach, the Lighthouse SbEt at 10 Anchored here the *Betsey* Brig from Norfolk which was sent me by his Excellency the Earl of Dunmore agreeable to my request:

Sunday 5th

at 11 in the morning made the *Liverpools* Signal, and weighed and made Sail with her and Tenders up the River to procure fresh water.

Moderate and hazy weather, at 6 in the afternoon crossing over the upper Middle in 19 feet, at 8 Anchored in $6\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms water a little below Bombay Hook, as did the *Liverpool* and Tenders by Signal:

Monday 6th

at 9 in the Morning weigh'd and made Sail up the River: at Noon Anchored in 5 fms The first and middle parts moderate and fair, middle very foggy weather at 4 weighed and made Sail as before and at 8 Anchd in $\frac{1}{4}$ less 5 fms off of Morris Listins;

Tuesday 7th at 7 AM weighed and made up the River; Gave Chase to an armed Schooner,² and Several other Craft turning abreast of Newcastle.

Fresh gales and cloudy weather with Rain, at 1 in the afternoon fired at a Schooner, which run aground going into Weilmington Creek; at 3 Anchored off Weilmington creek in $\frac{1}{4}$ less 5 fms the *Liverpool* and *Betsey* Brig in Company, and the Tenders, sent the Boats mann'd and Armed to endeavour to get the Schooner off, employed getting up all the empty Casks & clearing the Hold for Stowing it again, having lost Room, by Stowing the Ground Tier on the Shingle Ballast:

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. Continental schooner *Wasp*.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, Delaware River, Tuesday, May 7, 1776]

We arrived off of Wilmington the 7th where we drove a Vessel ashore, and not being able to get her off proceeded to unload her of her Cargoe which was Bread & Flour. . . .

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW ¹

- May 1776 Ditto [Delaware Bay]
- Sunday 5 6 AM the *Roebuck* made the Signal to weigh weighed and came to sail at $\frac{1}{2}$ past anhd with the best Bower, bearing as before at 10 the *Roebuck* weigh'd and came to sail—at noon Light house So 3 or 4 Leagues in Co the *Roebuck* and Tenders—running up the Delaware—clear Wr middle calm latter Light airs in Co *Roebuck* & Tenders at 4 reevd a new Tiller Rope the old worn and brock. Brot too in 7 fm water veerd to $\frac{1}{2}$ a cable found the course up from NW to NWbW.
- Monday 6 the *Roebuck* weigh'd and we likewise, turning up Delaware River—
First part modr and clear midle Do Wr latter fresh gales came too abreast of morris Listings. Turn'd down to the *Roebuck*. at 4 bore away as pr signl sent the Cutter man'd and Arm'd to bring off a Sloop which being impracticable they set her on fire—brot too with the best Bower in 3 fm
- Tuesday 7 At 6 AM the *Roebuck* made the signal to wgh weigh'd and made sail in Co with the *Roebuck* & Tenders—Turning up the River Delaware in Co with the above mentioned.
First part fresh gales and hazey at 4 PM the *Roebuck* made the Signal to anchor Do Anch'd in 6 fm and veer'd to half a Cable

reev'd a new fore topsl Tye, mn and fore Topsl Halyards & staysl Do the old being converted into netting to go round the ship

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

COLONEL JOHN HASLET TO CAESAR RODNEY¹

[Extract]

[Cantwells Bridge, Del., May 7th 1776]

Two Hours after my arrival at Dover Yesterday, I received an Express from Col. Cantwell, with Information, that three Men of War were in sight of Port Penn, that they expected an Immediate Attack, praying Immediate Assistance – Another brought Intelligence, that the *Roe Buck* was fixt on one of the Thorowfare Shoals; to Ascertain this Capt. [Thomas] Rodney with Lt. [John] Learmonth set out in the night to reconnoitre with Certainty, & meet such troops as we cou'd Arm at the Cross Roads – the Lt. did meet us, the *Roebuck* had gone off – Capt [Jonathan] Caldwell marched with one hundred & thirty men well armed, paraded at 4 O'Clock in the morning at Cantwells Bridge found Capt. Rodney, the Men of War are gone up to Newcastle, or rather to the Chevaux-de-frise. I shall return with the Captain, & Order Capt Caldwell to continue his March, Col: [Gunning] Bedford to take command of the Detachment – . . .

1. George Herbert Ryden, ed., *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney 1756–1784* (Philadelphia, 1933), 74–75.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen,

Lewistown May the 7 1776 –

When I wrote you Last by Express I was under a great surprize for by the ships first Acctions I Judge'd they where a going out to sea on a Cruisse the wind being to the Eastward they stood up the bay as I apprehended to Weather the Cape till they had got at Least three Leagus up the Bay, and then they Bore away up a Channel Course therefore the wind being fresh and they haveing the start I thought it would be Needless to send of[f] my whale boat as she would have had thirty miles to Row – and that upon a Lee shore, Mr Sam Edwards told me that he had give his Men in his Boat orders if they saw the Pyrates Makeing up the Bay to Proceed up and Give the Alarm Even if they did not see a boat Comeing from below. –

Likewise I wrote to Mr [Matthew] Delany at Cantwells Bridge to forward letter to Port Pen to the Alarm Post to Give the Signal, therefore I am in hopes that you got the Earliest Accout of there Approaching up your River – We have no Vessel at this time in sight in our bay. – You may be Assur'd that I shall give the Earliest accounts to you If any more of the Pyrates Appears – I am [&c.]

Henry Fisher

Excuse hast as Mr Sitgravs wates for this.

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU¹

May 1776 [Off the coast of Delaware]

Sunday 5. at 9 AM shoaled our Wales and Tacked, soundings from 7 to 12½ fathoms.

Light Winds and fair the Vessels in Company at 7 PM Tacked, saw a Sloop to Windward and gave chase at ½ past hoisted the Cutter out and sent her on board, found her to be the *General Gage* Armed sloop from Cape Fear to Halifax, at ½ past in 2d & 3d reef of Fore & Main & 2d of Mizentop sail

Monday 6. at 4 AM gave chase to a sloop and ½ past brought her to, and sent the Cutter on board her, she proved from Saltatuda to New York, with salt,² left a petty Officer and five Men on board her at 6 wore ship and made sail, at Noon Tacked ship.

Moderate & Clear out 2d and 3d reef of Topsails, at 8 PM Tacked ship at 12 Tacked

Tuesday 7. at 10 AM out all reefs the Vessels in Company.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

2. The sloop *Polly*, W. Gardner, master, Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., owner, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO JOHN PRINGLE¹

John Pringle

[Baltimore] 7 May

We Recd yours of the 4th & shall Answer it more fully Next Post, the Present is merely to Cover the following Bills.

Amounting to £223 . . 2 . . 6 Cury to Your Debt which we hope will satisfy You that we do all we can for You in that way & we make Now doubt but You will send us Sugar Pack &c & Let us have the 10 Chists of Tea a 5/. You will have time to Give Capt Ridley further Orders he will be Loaded this week but not sail. —

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE¹

No. 147

Gentn The Quantum of Salvage on Mr [Jonathan] Hudson's Ship depends in Congress on the Length of Time she was in Possession of the Tenders in Patapsco River and we request, as it will occasion a great deal of Trouble and Expence to bring Witnesses for the Purpose before our Board, that you will immediately take and transmit to us the affidavits of such Persons, as are best acquainted with the Time of the Capture and Re-capture, that we may communicate them to our Deputies.

[Annapolis] 7th May 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ST. EUSTATIA, DATED MAY 7, 1776.”¹

I take the liberty of acquainting you with the arrival of a ship from —, with 50 tons of powder, and a parcel of fire arms; this vessel will be followed by two others, with the same articles, besides this, near twenty sail is expected from Amsterdam, all of which will bring more or less, so that if it is yet wanted in America, you will not be at a loss where it may be had in plenty.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 3, 1776.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS, H.M.S. *Seaford*¹

By James Young Esqr Vice Admiral of the Red; and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's ships and Vessels employed at Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands, &c.

(A Copy)

You are hereby required and directed forthwith to proceed with His Majesty's Ship *Seaford* under your Command to Old Road St Christopher's there to Complete her Water and Transmit a Letter delivered you herewith to the Honble Craister Greathead Esqr Commander in Chief for the time being of His Majesty's Leeward Caribbee Islands: you are then to proceed to the Islands St Eustatia and St Bartholomew; and make diligent enquiry if two Vessels (Brigs, Sloops, or Schooners) can be purchased that are fit to be employed as Armed Vessels; and for your farther Guidance herein, you are to take notice said Vessels must be in good Condition, fast Sailors, well found with Stores and Capable of carrying Ten, Eight, or Six four pound Carriage Guns each: You are to take on board the *Seaford* from the Kings Yard here Mr Charles Vewers the Master Shipwright's assistant, and cause Him and the Carpenter of your Ship Strictly and Carefully to Examine such Vessels as may be offered for Sale and appear likely to Answer the aforesaid purposes, and direct them to report to you under their Hands the Condition of the Hulls, Masts, Rigging, Sails and different Stores belonging thereto; and to appraise and set a just and equitable Value on the whole to the best of their judgements: you are afterwards to treat for the purchase of two of the Vessels that have been reported fit for the proposed Service, and endeavour to prevail with the Owners to send such Vessels up to English Harbour to be further examined and Appraised. to enable them to do so you are to give such assistance as you may think necessary and if then finally approved, the Owners will there receive payment, in Bills of Exchange on the Commission of His Majesty's Navy; You are to use all possible expedition to execute this Service; and then return and join me in English Harbour Antigua; for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my Hand at English Harbour Antigua, the 7th May 1776.

Jam^s Young.

By Command of the Admiral Geo: Lawford.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

8 May

CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

[Extract]

Copy

Isis before Quebec May 8th 1776

Sir Having taken our departure from Portland, on the 11th of March, on the 11th of April we made the Island of St Peters, on the 12th at three in the Morning found ourselves near the Ice, and brought too, the wind blowing fresh at S.E., the weather hazey, and Cape Ray bearing by reckoning N W, distant 6. or 8. Leagues: at break of day, we steer'd on Sundry points of the Compass, between Wt & N N E., (the gale increasing but saw no probability of any passage by such winding Courses, into the Gulph of St Lawrance. We then with a velocity of about 5 knots tried what effect, the running down a large peice of Ice, of about 10 or 12 feet thickness, would have upon the Ship, and she ran it to peices. Encouraged by this experiment, we thought it an enterprize, worthy of an English ship of the line, in our King and Country's sacred cause, and an effort due to the gallant defenders of Quebec, to make the attempt of pressing her by force of Sail, thro' the thick, broad and closely connected fields of Ice (as formidable as the gulph of St Lawrance ever exhibited) to which we saw no bounds towards the Western part of our horizon, and we shaped our Course accordingly. Before night when blowing a Snow Storm we brought too or rather Stopped we had penetrated about 8 Leagues into it describing our Path, all the way, with bits of the sheathing of[f] the Ships bottom: and sometimes peices of the Cutwater, but none of the Oak Plank: And it was pleasant enough at times, when we stuck fast, to see Lord Petersham, exercising his Troops, on the Crusted surface of that fluid, thro' which the Ship, so recently had sailed. After 9 days of unspeakable Toil for 50. or 60. Leagues, & having put in Practise various expedients, too manifold to particularize, some of more, some of less efficacy in Order to fortify the Ships bows, against the continual friction, or strokes of the Ice, and to break or remove it, from before her. On the 21st of April we got clear of it, made the Island of Anticosti and that evening entered the River St Lawrance, in a Snow Storm at N E: on the 30th we anchored in another near the Pilgrims, and, on its clearing up, observed successive Smoaks made from Cape to Cape towards Quebec. On the 3rd of May after various obstacles, from Fogs, Calms, or Contrary Winds: we anchored near the Isle of Coudre. There, (bringing a fair Wind with them) first the *Surprize*, and then the *Martin* join'd us having also struggled hard with the Ice of [the] Gulph: And here, we secured all the French Pilots, for his Majesty's Service, the Rebels intending to have them seized, and sent to their head Quarters. On the 5th the *Surprize* being a remarkable good sailor, and every hour becoming more & more precious: I directed Captain [Robert] Linzee, to make the best of his Way to give notice of approaching relief to the invested City: On the 6th at 6 in the morning the reciprocal signals, were made in our hearing, And we

all three, as fast as we could get in: the *Surprize* first, anchored in the Bason of Quebec: right between the Rebel battery on Point Levi; and the lower Town, having by a particular blessing of providence on our endeavours, but a few Men (tho' crowded Ships) who could not come to Quarters, Aw'd by our run out cannon theirs, tho on an eminence observed a profound Silence; and the Rebel Troops, who served them seemed to gaze with astonishment, at our Landing our several detachments, At one oClock, his Excellency General Carleton, wisely availing himself of the very different impressions our arrival had made on the Minds of the Rebels, and of his valorous Garrison, marched out at the head of about 800 Men, and Swept, or rather frightened away the panic struck Multitude: consisting of about 3000 Men at least, (now for the first time exposed to their very Buckles) from the celebrated height of Abraham where instead of teasing, they were just beginning to break ground in good earnest before the Capital of Canada: so soon as the tide of ebb eased, which exactly coincided with the dispersion of the Rebel crowd, I detached the Captains Linzee & Harvey of the *Surprize & Martin*, and a province arm'd Vessel, with orders to annoy their retreat, to take or destroy their Craft on the Water, & intercept any Stores or cannon expected from Montreal. In sailing up we saw their fire hinder the fugitives, who had occupied their Posts along the right of the St Lawrance & on the Isle of Orleans, from joining the others in their Flight towards Montreal, a flight perhaps the most precipitate ever heard of: for they left not only their undischarged Cannon, ammunition, scaling ladders, intrenching tools, and provisions: but even many of them their Muskets: & every other sort of encumbrance. Their Artillery of Point Levi, two of them brass, taken at St Johns, are now in possession of the *Isis*, with all their ammunition Stores and Provisions from that Post, and some english, Scotch, Irish, & American Rebels (who there surrendered to us) accuse their two Generals, (one of them late by profession an Apothecary, who joind them on the 3rd with a reinforcement) of having, on some pretence or other slipt away on horseback: soon after the Ships appeared: as did the Col Commanding their 270 Men at point Levi, leaving them his Major, and other Officers to shift for themselves: who, tis true, soon followed his example, I am happy in sending the news of this great event, to their Lordships by Captn [John] Hamilton, whose behaviour in his Country's cause, during the whole Course of the Blockade, or seige of Quebec, as Colonel of the brave, patriotic, naval Battalion, deserves the highest applause, and in having appointed Captn [Thomas] Mackenize of the *Hunter* Sloop, to succeed him in the Command of the *Lizard* frigate, in consideration of his gallant Services as Major thereof.

Be pleased to communicate the foregoing to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty: And I hope their Lordships will deign therewith to accept of my heart-felt congratulation, on the returning prosperity, of the loyal Cause, & the utter ruin of the rebellious one in Canada, (the existance whereof wholly depended on the taking of Quebec.) And in flying thro' the

PLAN
 of the
CITY AND ENVIRONS
 OF
QUEBEC,
 with
ITS BARRIERS and BARRIERS
 by
WILLIAM SMITH,
 Surveyor-General of the Province of Quebec,
 and of the City of Quebec,
 in the Year 1791.
 Published by W. Smith, at the Office of the Surveyor-General, in the City of Quebec.
 1791.



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Little winds & Variable with Rain: PM drop't a little lower down off Point Plator: fixed boarding Nettings, and kept the Watch under Arms all Night: -

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/581.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT ¹

- May 1776 [St. Lawrence River]
 Sunday 5th at 7 Weighd and Came too sail Tkd Occasionally *Triton* in Company
 Modt and Clear Wear at 5 PM came too with the small Bower in 13 fm veerd to $\frac{2}{3}$ d of a Cable Isld Bic ENE 4 Leagues Apple Isld WNW 4 Leags at 12 PM. weighd and came too sail
 Monday 6th at 2 AM Pass'd by the *Triton* and 5 sail. of Transports at Anchor off Apple Island at 3 Abreast of Nare Island.
 Light Breeses and fair Weather at 1 fired a Gun a sigl for a boat from the shore at 4 PM came too with the small bower in 13 fm the Westernmost part of the Pilgrams Islands SE 1 Mile at 8 do returnd
 Tuesday 7th At 1 AM weighd and came to sail 2 sail in sight to the Eastward at 9 AM. Anchord at the Island of Coudre veerd to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable found here the *Lord Howe* Transport with Troops for Quebec
 Moderate and fair at 2 PM weighd and came to sail as did the *Lord Howe* Transport at 8 Do came too with the small Br in 10 fams Cape Torment SWbW Dist 1 League
 Wednesday 8th At 4 AM weighd and Came to sail at $\frac{1}{2}$ past the Traverse at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8 Came too with the best Bower of[f] the Town of Quebec in 14 fams veerd away and moord Ship found here His Majestys Ships *Isis*, *Lizard*, *Hunter* Sloop, *Magdalen* Schooner and several Transports at 10 Anchord the *Lord Howe*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Montreal May 8th 1776

. . . Our Army Consists of few more than Two thousand effective Men, & twelve hundred sick & unfit for duty chiefly with the small Pox which is universal in the Country. We have very little Provs No Cash, & less Credit & until the arrival of the heavy Cannon & two Mortars from Cambridge Our Artillery has been triffling. the Mortars I expect will reach Camp tomorrow & shells can be supplied from three Rivers. I hope they will have the desired Effect. the want of Cash has greatly retarded Our Opperations in this

Country. We are fortifying two very Important Posts which Command the River at Richelieu, fifteen Leagues above Quebec and at Jacques Cartier which commands a pass between two Mountains eleven Leagues above Quebec: If succours should arrive before we can possess ourselves of Quebec I hope we shall be able to Maintain these two Posts until a reinforcement Arrives to our Assistance, which we are told are on their way here. these are the only Posts that secure the River, until you approach near Montreal and of so much consequence, that Nothing but superiour numbers will oblige us to abandon them.

I have mounted three 24 Pounders on a Gundaloe & Armed several Battoes, which go down the River tomorrow. these with a schooner mounting Ten Guns & a Gundaloe mounting One twelve Pounder are all the Force we have in the River. four other Gondaloes are building at Chambly calculated to mount three heavy pieces of Cannon. but will not be completed these two weeks. tomorrow I set off for the Army with no very Agreeable prospects before me. should the enemy receive any considerable reinforcement soon, I make no Doubt, we shall have our hands full, at any rate we will do all that can be expected from Raw Troops, badly clothed and fed, & worse paid, & without Discipline. & trust the event to Providence.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO MAJOR GENERAL JOHN THOMAS ¹

Dear General

Inclosed is a Letter Just came to hand from Genl Schuyler, you will excuse the liberty I have taken to open it As, I imagined it Contained Intelligence absolutely Necessary For me to know. I beg leave to Congratulate you on the Prospect of reinforcements arriveing, soon, I shall forward you all the Tents & other articles here which you may have Occation for, & shall follow in a day or two, hope soon to have the pleasure [of] seeing you – I have thought Proper to Send off[f] this Post as the Intelligence, contained In the Letter may posably alter your Plan of Operation

The Gundalo goes from Chamble Tomorrow, & a vessell will be sent off[f] in the morning For Flour below, – I am with great respect Dr.General [&c.]

Montreal May 8, 1776

B Arnold

1. Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, HCL.

ISAAC SMITH TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Postscript]

[Salem May] 8th

Yesterday between MHead & the light house was taken by [Samuel] Tucker in one of the Contl Vessells a brige from the Western Islands with Wine – the Other [a brig] which [*sic* with] about 500 Bls beef & pork butter bacon &c. 40 days from Ireland ² the Mastr says there were abt 100 sail loaded with provisions, & Transports att present cant [kno]w any way

particulars – he spoke with the ship *Fa*[torn] belonging to P[illegible] bound to Europe – dismayed.

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

2. The brig *Jane*, James Fulton, master, 120 tons, from Cork with provisions, and the brig *William*, Richard Price, master, 100 tons, from Fayal with wines and fruits, taken by Tucker in the Continental schooner *Hancock*.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

Watertown, May 8, 1776

... time will only permit me to inform you that the only news we have is, that Captain [Samuel] Tucker, in the schooner [John] Manly used to command, yesterday took two brigantines, one from Ireland with provisions and goods, and the other from Fial[Fayal] with wine, and got them safe into Lyn. One of them he took close by the light house, while the man-of-war fired at him. While I am writing, there is a firing of cannon below. What that is I know not. Perhaps I may give you more news in the morning.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 239, 241.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT¹

[Watertown] Wednesday May 8th 1776

Whereas William Wood, Robert Ayles and others who were taken in bringing Supplies to the Enemy of the united Colonies have Obtained leave from this Court to proceed to Great Britian on their Parole but the said Wood Ayle and others having delayed their Voyage and being now on Board a Schooner in the Harbor of Glocester with design to proceed on the Voyage aforesaid – And as a Powerful Fleet and Army are now on our Coast and their having information of the present Circumstances and movements of this Colony may be of dangerous Tendency

It is therefore Resolved that the Committe of said Glocester be and they hereby are impowered and directed to haul up and Strip said Schooner and to detain the said Wood and Ayle and all other persons designing to go to England in said Schooner untill the further order of the General Court. –

1. *Mass. Arch.*, vol. 34, 860–61.

JEREMIAH WADSWORTH TO JOHN BROWN¹

Gentlemen

Boston May 8th 1776

In the Month of September last the Brigantine *Polly* Giles Sage Master from Jamaica & Hispaniola (Laden with Rum Sugar and cotton) Whereof Matthew Tallcott Esqr of Middletown in Connecticut & my selfe were Owners – was taken by the *Nautilus* Man of War brought into this Port & here condemned by a Court of Admiralty and sold. I now find that some Part of Her Cargo Viz Twenty One Bags of Cotton Containing Two thousand three Hundred & Eighty three Pounds – are in the Store of George Ewing Esqr and am inform'd that You have taken the same under Your care in behalf of this Colony – believing it to be the Estate of the said George Ewin

Esqr – or some other Persons inimical to this Country – but I am able to make proof that the said Cotton was actually brot in Said Brign *Polly* and was the Property of us the said Tallcott & Wadsworth – and we conceive it still [to] be our property not believing that the unjust Capture made of our Estates hath in any wise changed the Property – we therefore lay before You our Claim and desire You will deliver the Cotton to some Person by us authorised to Receive it – I shou'd have applyed to You Gentlemen in Person but as You were not seting to day and I being Obliged [to go] out of Town desire You will transact the Whole Matter with Mr Benjamin Clarke whose Rect for the Cotton or any other Matters to us belonging shall be as effectual as if signed by [us] I am further to inform You that Richd Alsop Esqr Late of said Middletown was concerned in some Part of the Cargo of Said [Brigt] and that I am empowered by his Administrater Mrs Mary Alsop to transact for Her as well as for Mattw Talcott Esqr as by said Power deld Mr Clarke will Appear I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Jere^h Wadsworth

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 381, 382. Brown was chairman of the Committee in Boston.

COURT MARTIAL OF JOHN HAZARD, COMMANDER OF THE SLOOP *Providence* ¹

At a Court Martial, held onboard the *Alfred*, at Providence in the Colony of Rhode Island, on the eighth day of May 1776 By Order of Esek Hopkins Esqr Commander in Chief of the American Fleet for the Tryal of John Hazard Esqr Commander of the Sloop *Providence* in the Continental Service, for misconduct

Present

Captains—Dudley Saltonstall—President

Abraham Whipple

Nicholas Biddle

Samuel Nicholas

John Welch

Lieutenants—John Paul Jones

Rhoads Arnold

Hoysteed Hacker

Elisha Hinman

Jonathan Maltbie

Mathew Park

Henry Dayton

Members

Captain Hazard aforesaid being brought before this Court a Prisoner on the complaint of a number of Officers belonging to the sloop *Providence* aforesd bearing date May 6th 1776—setting forth a number of Crimes & Misdemeanors against him, as p Complaint on File which will appear at

large – The Charge being Read in the hearing of the Prisoner and the Question being put to him whether he was guilty or not guilty; he answered not Guilty; and desired he might be heard – Upon which this Court proceeded to hear him, and on trying the merits of the Case find him Guilty as follows –

[Question 1st.] Whether the prisoner was guilty of breach of Orders at Reedy Island, in not delivering a Certain parcel of Wood which the Commander in Chief had directed to be put onboard the sloop *Fly* –

Passed in the Affirmative Unanimous—

Questn 2nd Whether the Prisoner was Guilty of neglect of duty on the night the Fleet Engaged the *Glasgow*, in not preparing for Action before the Engagement began, he having timely Information

Passed in the affirmative Unanimous—

Questn 3 - Whether the Prisoner was Guilty of Embezzling part of the Vessels Stores

Passed in the Affirmative Unanimous—

Question 4th – Whether the Prisoner was Guilty of breach of orders going up Providence River the 26th April last—

Passed in the affirmative Unanimous—

In consequence of the foregoing Tryal, this Court are Unanimous in their Opinion, That the Prisoner John Hazard Esqr has rendered himself unworthy of holding his Commission in the Navy of the United Colonies of North America, and Adjudge him accordingly—

Signed –

Dudley Saltonstall, Prest	Rhodes Arnold
Abraham Whipple	Hoysteed Hacker
Nicholas Biddle	Elisha Hinman
Samuel Nicholas	Jonathan Maltbie
John Welch	Matthew Parke
John Paul Jones	Henry Dayton

A true copy from the file

Dudley Saltonstall Presidt

[Endorsed] Having this day receiv'd & examin'd the above Sentence of the Court Martial pronounced against Captn John Hazard, do hereby Ratify and Confirm the Same – and order that the said Hazard forthwith Surrender his Commission to the President of the said Court—

Esek Hopkins, Commr in Chief

Providence May 9th 1776—

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, 10 HO.A.M.

May 8th, 1776.

A letter and an indenture, therein enclosed, from Capt. [Richard] Varick to Mr.[John] McKesson, by order of General [Philip] Schuyler, were read, and follow, vizt:

[Here is inserted Varick's letter of May 1, 1776, with the indenture for ships' stores]

... Mr. Varick thereby requests, in the General's name, the articles mentioned in the following order, to be forwarded to Albany with all possible dispatch. Thereupon,

Ordered, That Colonel Curtenius, as Commissary, transmit to Albany, by the first opportunity, for the Continental service, in compliance with General Schuyler's request, (made by his Secretary,) a complete set of blocks of every kind, for two vessels and two pettaugers on the lakes, and five pieces of English duck, for sails for the pettaugers, and the following rigging and necessaries, viz: 6 coils of spun yarn; 2 jib stays of 6½ inches, 200 fathoms 2 inch rope; 200 fathoms 2½ inch rope; 100 fathoms 3 inch rope; 2 coils of ratline; 3½ inch stays; 1 dozen white hamberline; 12 doz. marline and houseline; and that he direct the store keeper, or commissary at Albany, to give notice thereof, when he receives those articles, to Major-General Schuyler, or Captain Varick.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 433.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, May 8, 1776

The orders given by the Naval Committee to Commodore [Esek] Hopkins, being laid before Congress, and read, ²

Resolved, That they be referred to a committee of seven; ~~and that the said committee be directed to consider the appropriation of the cannon taken by Commodore Hopkins~~ and Also, to consider the situation of the governor and lieutenant governor of [New] Providence, and the other officer, brought from thence, and report what, in their opinion, is proper to be done with them:

The members chosen, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, Mr. [James] Duane Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, and Mr. [William] Livingston.

Information being given to Congress that, [Moses] Kirkland, a prisoner, has broke gaol and made his escape.

Resolved, That a committee of 3 be appointed to devise ways and means to have him retaken.

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, and Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry.

Resolved, That whenever it shall appear to this Congress, that any

officer or officers, bearing continental commissions, shall have departed from orders, than an enquiry shall be made.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 334, 335-37.

2. "There were three Persons at this time who were a standing Subject of Altercation in Congress. General Wooster, Commodore Hopkins and a Mr. [Elias] Wrixon. I never could discover any reason for the Bitterness against Wooster, but his being a New England man; nor for that against Hopkins but that he had done too much: nor for that against Wrixon, but his being patronized by Mr. Samuel Adams and Mr. R. H. Lee. Be it as it may, these three consumed an immense quantity of time and kept up the Passions of the Parties to a great height. One design was to divert us from our main Object." L. H. Butterfield, ed., *The Adams Papers*, Series 1, *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams* (Cambridge, Mass., 1961), III, 382.

ADVERTISEMENT IN THE *Pennsylvania Gazette*, WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1776

Philadelphia, May 8, 1776.

Made his escape from the Goal of this city, yesterday in the evening, a certain Moses Kirkland, called Colonel Kirkland, belonging to South-Carolina, confined in said Goal by order of the Honourable Congress, for practices inimical to this country. He is a stout corpulent man, between 50 and 60 years of age, about 5 feet 10 inches high, of a swarthy complexion, fresh coloured, and wears his own grey hair tied behind. He had on a green coat, faced with blue velvet, a blue velvet waistcoat, and brown velvet breeches. Had also a brown coat and waistcoat, and may possibly have taken other clothes with him. It is said he crossed over Delaware, at Cooper's ferry, last night, and it is supposed will either endeavour to get on board one of the men of war in the river, or at Sandy-Hook. The public are earnestly desired to endeavour to apprehend this dangerous enemy to the American cause, and a reward of *One Hundred Dollars* is hereby offered to any person or persons that shall take and bring him back to the Goal of this city, and all reasonable charges will be paid. *The printers of the several newspapers in the Colonies are desired to insert this advertisement.*

MAJOR JAMES EASTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Honble Sr

Philadelphia May 8th 1776

I beg leave to give you the trouble of this; I have been in jail three weeks and having no prospect of being set at Liberty, I most humbly apply to your Honor, having no friends to assist me in this part of the World; I am sued for £1500 York Curry & I owe my Creditors £900 more of York Cur. I have due £8000 L.M. my Creditors have a Landed security of what I Value at £3000 L.M. In several Letters they have received from me since I came to this place, I have offered my Land, my outstanding Debts at an honest Appraisal, in short, I have done every thing in my Power to get a Settlement, but have heard nothing from them. there is no such thing as obliging people to pay their Debts in the Massachusetts by the Resolves of the Honble Congress: I ought to be on my way to Canada to the Settlement with the Commissioners appointed by Congress requires it a settlement of my Regimental accounts; of Five Captains still in Service at

Canada and getting the Stores & Vessels taken by the Regiment Appraised the Court of Inquiry to be held on them with regard to Major [John] Brown, and my self, and many other important matters all urge it; In short I am in pain to see the Event of Quebeck: I have with my 150 men at the Sorel, taken more for the Continent on board [General Richard] Prescotts savage fleet, than Three times over to pay all my Debts Viz 1835 Barrels of Provisions including 365 Firkins Butter at 60/ p Barrel amounting to £5505 – the Eleven sail of Vessels were of no small advantage to the Continent in transporting General Montgomery's Army to Quebeck, ² not to mention smaller matters, but not to forget Ticonderoga, may not my Honor be taken till I can go to N.York. and try to settle my affairs, and if I cannot do it, to return to jail again, I understand Savage Prescott is gone off [f] on a parol, His Excellency General Washington was pleas'd to observe In a Letter I laid before the Honble Committee on my affairs at the City Tavern that I had meritted from the Public; tho' I am accusd by General Arnold, I live in the faith that it is in the Power of the Honourable Congress to relieve me consistant with there true Dignity, and believe they will at any rate as I think they cannot be loosers by me.

Hond Sr please to use (if its not Inconsistant) your Influence to Liberate the unhappy man when it can be of no Advantage to my Creditors to keep me here. I humbly beg your Council in the Matter. I am Sr [&c.]

James Easton

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, VIII, 249–50, NA.

2: Easton commanded the detachment which intercepted the British vessels retreating down river from Montreal on November 19, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 8th May, 1776.

Resolved, That Capt. Robert Hardie be, and he is hereby appointed Captain of one Tier of Fire Rafts, and that his Commission be dated the 27th March last.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 560.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1776

Philadelphia [May 8]

On Sunday last [May 5] Capt. Barry, in the brig *Lexington*, returned from a cruise against the English pirates. On Sunday the 26th [sic] ult. at break of day, he discovered a fleet of 17 ships, when three of them gave him chace, two of which he soon run out of sight, the other, a very large ship of war, kept up the chace for several hours.

CAESAR RODNEY TO CAPTAIN THOMAS RODNEY ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia May the 8th 1776.

Yesterday afternoon We were informed by letter from General [John]

McKinly that the *Rhobuck* [*Roebuck*] and *Nautilus* Men of War then lay at Newcastle – and at 3 o'clock the same afternoon all the Gondola's left the fort and went down to attack them, Especially if they can get them Separate –

I have no News of importance Except what you will find in the papers, by which you will see that our (Much talk'd of) Comissioners are turned into Men of War and foreign troops.

1. Rodney Papers, HSD.

MARINE COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO
CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY ¹

Sir

Philada. May 8, 1776

You are hereby directed to Collect your officers & Men and repair down to the Provincial Armed Ship Capt [Thomas] Reed, and Supply him with as many of your People as he may want to completely Man that Ship fit for Immediate action, you will also spare any of them that may be wanted on board the Floating Battery, or on board the Ship *Reprisal* and in short We expect the utmost exertions from you your officers & Men in defending the Pass at Fort Island, and to prevent their coming up to this City, also that you will assist in taking Sinking & destroying the Enemy if it is thought adviseable to pursue them of which the Committee of this Board now down the River will judge. ²

By order of the Marine Committee

Rob^t Morris, Vice Prest

P.S. You may go down in the Sloop *Hornet* Capt [William] Hallock Cap Thos Read by Special Commission is the Commander at the Chevaux de Freize

1. Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, HCL.

2. Morris seems to have acted in a dual capacity. The committee "now down the River" were from the Committee of Safety, while his orders to Barry were based upon his Continental Marine Committee membership.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES BIDDLE ¹

[Philadelphia, May 8, 1776]

Some time after this the *Roebuck* and *Liverpool* came into the river, and were attacked by the galleys. I have heard that Captain Hammond [Andrew Snape Hamond] then said if the commanders of the galleys had acted with as much judgment as they did courage, they would have taken or destroyed his ship.

Hearing the evening before the engagement that the galleys were going down from Marcus Hook, where they were lying, and that it was probable they would engage the *Roebuck* and *Liverpool*, I set off early in the morning in a chair with Mrs. Gibbs, a widow lady, at whose house I was very intimate; to see the intended battle. My intention was to go as a volunteer on board one of the galleys commanded by Captain Thomas Houston, a

schoolmaster of mine. This I did not, however, communicate to my friend Mrs. Gibbs, who owned the chair, and I was fearful, if she knew my intention, that she would choose some other gallant, for she was attached to the British and I believe wished them success. After we had passed Chester about a mile, as I was driving furiously along, one of the shafts broke. Having kept the reins in my hands, I stopped the horses, so that we took the ground without any injury. Pulling the chair on one side of the road, I made an apology to Mrs. Gibbs for leaving her, and set off as fast as my feet could carry me for Marcus Hook, which was near three miles from where the accident happened. Notwithstanding all my exertions I was a few minutes too late. Not being able to get a boat to put me on board, I returned to Mrs. Gibbs, who was a very enterprising lady. She had with the assistance of some passengers got a rail put alongside the shaft, and was coming down when I met her. As she had a great friendship for me, she readily forgave me for leaving her so abruptly. She told me she was very glad of my being disappointed, that it was very foolish in me to run the risk of my head or neck on such an occasion. We drove down and soon saw the ships (which were under way) and the galleys firing at each other. It was a fine day, and the banks of the river, out of reach of the shot, were lined with spectators, and every house near the shore filled. Among others Colonel Turbutt Francis was there. Col. Francis was a native of Philadelphia, who had been an officer in the British service. He had a chair placed on the bank of the river where he sat to see the action. He was so much afflicted with the gout that he could not walk. As his chair was placed where the shots from the ships sometimes passed over him, I requested he would have it removed. He, however, would not, saying there was little danger, and he sat with great composure, observing the engagement.

1. Biddle, ed., *Charles Biddle Autobiography*, 84-86.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] May 8th

... near 2 went to Coffe house the city alarmed with the hearing great number of heavy cannon firing down river, the Drums beat to arms & number of volunters went down in boates in order to assist as the report was that the *RoeBuck*, of 40 & the *Liverpole* of 28 guns with tenders were got above New Castle standing up the river.

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

MEMORANDUM BOOK AND REGISTER OF WILLIAM BRADFORD, JR. ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday May 8.

In the Afternoon I went to the Office in company with Mr Linn. Here I found the young ladies very much alarmed with the firing of Cannon down the river. I listened & could hear them very distin[ct]ly: they were from 13 of our row Gallies which were attacking the *Roebuck* of 40 & the *Liverpoole* of 28 Guns. The fire Continuing several hours I hastened hom[e] where I re-

ceived orders to take out the Company provided with Amunition. We soon returned & learned that the *Roebuck* had got ashore, & that little damage had been done on either side; but the Gallies had surroundd her, & another engagement was expected.

1. William Bradford, Jr., HSP.

CAPTAIN THOMAS READ TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen: [Montgomery, Delaware River] May 8, 1776.

According to your orders have Supplied Capt. Jehue Airs [Ayres] with Eighteen Small arms & Ammunition for them, and on Board the Shallop that has the Powder a parcel of Cartridges fill'd for the galleys, as the Powder Being Loose Can be of no use unless the[y] had Emty Cartridges to fill. I am much Surprized that Mr. Towers Shou'd Send Powder without being fill'd, as he must know the[y] have no spare Cartridges or Paper on Board, that if you order any more Powder it may fill'd, as no Vessell belonging to the fleet has any Spare Cartridges to fill. Capt.[Samuel] Davidson sent ten Boxes of fill'd allso, and beg you may not Send any more Boats or Men to be arm'd from me, as I have now furnished Airs' Boat with all I have, we now want to be Supplied with what is Sent away. I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Thos. Read.

P.S. – Just Reced your orders by the Pilot, Shall Lose no time to Proceed down as Soon as the Wind & Weather will Permit, which can't be before Day Light in the morning.

T. Read.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st, IV, 747–48.

CAPTAIN THOMAS READ TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Ship *Montgomery* [Delaware River] May 8th, 1776.

Gentlemen: Yours Just came to hand, we are prepared as well as our Number will admit of, Capt. Davidson, Capt. Weckes [Lambert Wickes] & myself, form a Line with the Battery, all we want is Men; Ammunition, I fear, is much wanted for the Gallies, as I have heard a constant fire kept up from 10 o'clock till five, Since I have not heard a Gun; I have been well Assur'd the Boat with the powder Joined them before they came to Action; you may depend on it I will do every thing that time will Admit of; pray send provisions according to the Numbers that you think will Join us, and match Tubs which were much in want and Can't do Without. I am, Gentlemen [&c.]

Thos. Read.

Have Dispatch'd about [*sic* a boat] for Intillegence as soon as the [*sic* she] Return shall acquaint you.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 747.

JOHN MCKINLY TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen,

Wilmington, 8th May, 1776.

The *Roebuck* & another Man-of-War, supposed about Twenty Guns and their Tenders, are lying near the mouth of our Creek. We shall keep Five Companies of the militia of this County constantly under Arms & properly stationed, so as to prevent their getting any Supplies of Provisions from the shore. Officers & Men shew a becoming Spirit, & expect they will acquit themselves as they ought. I am, with esteem, [&c.]

Jno. McKinly.

Directed, To the Committee of Safety, Philadelphia. Favoured by the Rev. Mr. Davidson.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 749.

COLONEL SAMUEL MILES TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen:

Wilmington, Wednesday, }
8th May [1776], 4 o'Clock }

Our Boats and the two men of war have been engaged for two hours at long shot, I believe there is no damage done on either side, tho' I suppose three or four hundred shot have past between them, the men of war are the *Roebuck* of 48 guns, & the *Liverpool* of 28, our Boats fire much better than the other Vessels, but in my oppinion ingage at two great a distance. The *Wasp* being at Wilmington, as soon as the men of war had past the creek's mouth, sail'd out and has taken a brig, which he is now bring[ing] in; ² I write this from the Bank of the river, where I have been with one hundred Riflemen ever since morning, in order to afford any assistance that might be wanted. A great deal of amunition has been wasted, the Committee will judge what Quantity will be Necessary for the Action, how long it may last is at present I think entirely uncertain. I am, tho' very cold & hungry, Gentlemen [&c.]

Sam'l Miles.

Directed, To Col. [Daniel] Roberdeau, or any of the Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania, Thos. Heinberger, Jacob Antony.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 748.

2. The brig *Betsy*, Thomas Slater, master, taken by the Continental schooner *Wasp*, Captain Charles Alexander.

ALEXANDER WILCOCKS AND OTHERS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Off the High Lands of Christeen Province Sloop
Wednesday [May 8] P:M: 5 O'Clock –

We left the Cheveaux D'Frize this Morning and overtook the Armed Boats at Marcus Hook The whole Armament proceeded down the River and about 2 O'Clock an Engagement began between our Fleet the *RoeBuck*

& another Ship of War which continued upwards of two Hours and believe very successfully on our Part in the Course of the Engagement the *Roe Buck* run on Shore and is now fast on the Jersey Shore at Kearney's Point a little above deep Water Point – Our Fleet has suffered no Injury but by a Single Shot which struck the *Cambden* but has done her little Damage – We expect In an Hour's Time she will be on a Carreen when a second Attack will be made upon her and we hope it will be crowned with Success – The other Ship has come too under the *Roe Buck*'s stern within Musket Shot – All the Powder in Cartridges is expended – It is absolutely necessary that you send down an immediate Supply of Powder in Cartridges with Ball. We have consulted a Number of the Captains and they are of Opinion that it will be advisable to send down the Province Ship as she will run little Risque & possibly if she comes soon may be of use We are Gentl.[&c.]

Alex^r Wilcocks John Cadwalader James Mease ²

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.

2. Three members of a committee of four appointed May 7 to go down in the Province Sloop with authority to give orders to the fleet. The fourth member was Robert Whyte.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JOSHUA BARNEY ¹

[Delaware River, May 7 and 8]

... the *Wasp* then left the Cape & went up the Bay, we saw the *Roe-buck* & *Liverpool* & a Brig also coming up after us; we met several American Vessels in the Bay & made them return, & were ourselves obliged to enter Wilmington Creek, where we lay all night, the Enemy having Anchored abreast of it, in the morning the Row-Gallies came down from Phila. and Commodore Halewood ² attacked the Enemy when a brisk cannonading took place between them, our Captain thought this a favorable moment to do something, & immediately rowed out of the Creek and discovered attacked & took the Brig (tender) from the Enemy under the guns of the Ships, at this moment the *Roebuck* got aground on the Jersey shore which obliged the *Liverpool* to anchor, in order to protect her from the Gallies. this gave us an opportunity of getting back into Wilmington Creek; the prize was sent into a port below on the Jersey Shore; this little affair was thought a bold one and Capt. [Charles] Alexander much praised for his conduct.

1. Manuscript Autobiography, DARL.

2. Commodore John Hazelwood was not then in command of the galleys, a post given him more than a year later. Also, Barney places the event described above as taking place after another action, which was subsequent thereto.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW, H.M.S. *Liverpool* ¹

Whereas the service on which the Squadron under my command is employed, requires not only the utmost exertion against the enemy, but also the strictest vigilance and alertness to evade any attempts that may be made in



Captain Andrew Snape Hamond, R.N., as a young naval officer.

the night time to destroy His Majesty's Ships by fire Rafts &ca and although I have the fullest confidence in the conduct and zeal of the officers serving with me, yet I think it necessary at the time I am giving Orders for the safety and defence of the Ships in the night time to declare to them, that whoever shall distinguish himself in the performance of any Service under my command may rely most fully upon my unwearied endeavours to obtain them ample rewards for their merit; And on the other hand to assure him that, every neglect will be as strictly enquired after.

You are therefore hereby required to make the above known to the officers of his Majesty's Ship under your command and punctually to observe the following directions to prevent any Surprize from the enemy.

Every Ship is to keep the Station allotted for the night, for which purpose a Signal will be made in the evening; And if none should be made, then each Ship is to remain in the Station she was in the night before: The Cable is to be brought too ready for weighing the Anchor, in case of a Signal being made for that purpose; or that it may be absolutely necessary to move for the safety of the Ship: A Spring is also to be stoped along on each side ready to fix to the Cable, in order to bring the Guns to bear upon any particular point; The Sails are to be furled with Rope Yarns, and the Ship is to be kept constantly clear for action, particularly in the Night time; The Guns are to be loaded with round and Grape Shot, and kept primed, with two charges of Powder for each Gun brought up at Sun Set.

The Ships company are to be kept at 3d Watch and each Man of the Watch is to be Armed: A Boat from each Ship is constantly to Row Guard during the night from the setting of the Watch until the Gun fires in the morning: They are to repair on board the *Roebuck* in the Evening for Orders, and to make their report at 8 o'clock in the morning. They are to be provided with Arms and false fires, also small Anchor and Hawser, and the hand and Chain fire Grapnel, and to be relieved once during the Night.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* off Wheelminton Creek River Delaware the 8th May 1776 –

A S Hamond

[Enclosure]

Instructions & Signals for the Guard Boats &ca

In case they should discover any object moving on the water, and not be able to judge immediately what it is, they are to show a light, open only in that direction in which the ships are, and so as not to be perceived by the enemy – They are then immediately to row towards it, and as soon as they can plainly discern it to be the enemy, They are to burn a false light, and fire a Musquet, which the Ships will answer by shewing a light; When the Boats are immediately to pursue, and use their best endeavours to take the Vessel; But if it shall be found to be a fire Stage, or any machine intended to annoy the Ships, the Boats will then burn two false fires, And all the Boats of the

Squadron will be immediately sent to their assistance in towing off the Fire-stage or bringing it to an Anchor, as may be found most practible.

4 Lights at the Ensignstaff one over the other	}	For all Boats Manned and Armed
2 Lights one at each Cross Jack Yard Arm		When I would have the Guard Boats repair on board the <i>Roebuck</i>
2 Guns fired quick w[ith]h Several false fires	}	For the Squadron to slip A S H.

1. Hamond, Orders issued, 1776-1778, UVL.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

May 1776

At a single Anchor off of Wilmington Creek River
Delaware

Wednesday 8th

In the morning Sent on shore with a flag of Truce a Mr Budden ² to endeavour to effect an Exchange for Lieutenant Geo. Ball the 3d Lieut

The first & latter parts moderate and hazy weather, the middle very foggy: at 1 in the afternoon, I perceived the Armed craft of the River coming down, before the wind, with an appearance of attacking us; Their fleet consisted of 13 Row Galley's, each carrying a Gun, from 32 Poundsers to Eighteen, a Floating Battery of 10 Eighteen poundsers, and a Sloop fitted as a fire ship. We met them under Sail (as the Tide run too rapid to lie with a Spring upon the Cable) and lay under the disadvantage of being obliged to engage them at the distance they chose to fix on, which was scarcely within point blank shot, and being such low objects on the water, it was with some difficulty that we could strike them, so that we fired upon them near two hours when they thought proper to retire, and row off, unfortunately at this time the Ship got aground, and being high water, could not get her off untill 4 the next morning, after various attempts, (we lost the Stream anchor and two Hawsers) without any apparent damage to the Ship, being soft mudd.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. William Budden, who also carried an undated letter from Captain Henry Bellew of the *Liverpool*, reading: "Captain Bellew would be glad to be inform'd if safe Conduct will be Allow'd for Mrs. Bellew to pass through the Country to her Relations in New England. And whether Lieutenant [Richard] Boger of the *Liverpool*, now a Prisoner in Pennsylvania, may be permitted, on his Parole, to Escort her to Marblehead, if not the Lieutenant, Mr. [John] Draper the Midshipman also a prisoner, would undertake the Journey." Etting Autograph Collection, HSP.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW ¹

May 1776

Wilmington SW

Wednesday 8 empd fixing the netting –

First part light Breezes and hazey, middle calm and Foggy latter Light airs, saw several sail of Row Gallies—and arm'd Vessels coming down the River, the *Roebuck* weighed and made the signal to engage, which they Returned, Continued Engageing till half past 4 PM when the Rebels got into shoal Water and it was found impracticable to follow them, during the Engagement the *Roebuck* got a ground, bore up and anchd close by her and got her stream Cable onboard to heave her off, at 11 got two springs upon the Cable, at 12 sent both Boats to row Guard.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

MICHAEL EARLE TO THOMAS RINGGOLD ¹

[Extract]

Chester Town – 8th May 1776 –

Dear Sir Inclos'd is a Postscript to the *Penl Journal* which came to me this Day under Cover from my Uncle, & I forward it least you may not, as I suppose you will, have it so soon by the Western [Mail] – He tells me he is inform'd by a Gent who applyd to Tryon for a permit to take his Passage in the Packett which he could not Obtain, that he saw in a Vessel 150 fine Recruits Shipd from New York to Halifax, who slip off[f] in the Night & its suppos'd are Recruited privately – If so, the Congress will undoubtedly find means to prevent it in future – Tho' my Humanity would sometimes induce me perhaps to furnish them with the necessarys of Life, they should not have a single Mortal Man who I could keep from them – He adds an Express has arrivd from the Capes, that 3 Men of War were standing up their Bay, suppos'd to be bound to New Castle to Water – The Post says they lay off[f] Reeden Island Monday Night [May 6] – Some Man Dr Thompson saw at Church Hill this Day, told him they pass'd New Castle Yesterday Mornng. – Boltons Waggoner as Mr M'Combs tells me confirms this Accot – He says he was at New Castle when they did so – That the *Wasp* had been down below, called to them as she pass'd & told them they were coming,² that they presently hove in sight, & pass'd with firing a Single Gun, that is the *Roebuck* a 20 Gun Ship & 5 Tenders – seemingly in Chase of the *Wasp* & a Brigg, who were far ahead – It cannot be that they intend an Attack on Phila, neither can I think they show up there by way of diverting the Forces from New York, to make an Attack on that place, because either would surely be postpon'd, till the grand Armament or the Van of it arriv'd – I do suppose Provision Water & fuel may be their Errand, a View of the *Wasp* & Brigg, may have induc'd them up the River, & they may be inclin'd to feel the Pulses of the Inhabitants by giving an Alarm – Whatever be their Intention we must soon hear, & hostile or not, it will keep their Blood from Stagnating & I have wrote my Uncle, I shall not be surpriz'd to

hear that many are on the *Scoutt* for Retreats, & that I shall be on the look-out for him, tho' I guess as I have done sometimes, that they will not come into this Quarter – If the 45,000 Men arrive the only difference is that we shall have more – [three or four lines obliterated] Peace, but the appearance of Foreigners may [force] Independence, tho' it may be, they ought not – Their System will be to shut out all Correspondence by blocking up our Trade, I suppose, & in that Case, I shoud think we ought not to throw it in their way, but put them to living on their own Means by laying up our Vessels by the Walls, & withholding every kind of Supply from falling into their hands – But can this be done I ask? Can we support the Struggle by our own Internal resources? If not, its time to look about us – I have few fears from their 45,000 Men, but in my own Mind, I give up the getting Quebec, or holding it, if we have got it, & if so, they'l presently command Canada & of Consequence, in due Time the Savages, & I am not ashamd to own that I think their Navy in front, & those Devils at our Backs with the Assistance they woud give them woud be rather too much for us – If ever it comes to Tryal & they must take part, from good Policy, they must be against us – I was about going on at a round rate with my absurd Conjectures & nonsense, but I will not add on Subject, only that if they do their Duty, we shall be perpetually alarmed by their Cruizers & small arm'd Vessels, agst whom we are not prepar'd as I woud have been had I had the Direction – And I will tell you, that had I the direction of their Naval force, I woud harrass every Bay River & Inlet on the Continent throughout the Season – what shoud hinder me? . . .

The Congress shoud buy the *Defence*³ & join her to Hopkins's Squadron if that cou'd be where she might take her Chance with them – [Also] I believe, & we shoud lay out the Money in a No of small tenders, to be a Match for theirs, who will otherwise do us a World of mischief & keep us under perpetual Alarm. –

1. Hollyday Papers, MdHS.

2. The Continental schooner *Wasp*.

3. The Maryland armed ship *Defence*.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Annapolis] Wednesday 8 May 1776.

A Number of Vessels having been sunk in the Channel of the River Patapsco near Whetstone Point for the Safety and Protection of Baltimore Town, and the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County having given Information to this Board by Letter dated 6th Inst. that their Boom is now laid down and so far secured, that they judge the Vessels that were sunk at Whetstone Point might be removed, Therefore Ordered [that] said Vessel[s be raised] with all convenient Speed under the Directions of said Committee, and that Capt James Nicholson with the Ship *Defence* and her Tenders assist in executing this Order.

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday, May 8, 1776.

On considering the further reports of Archibald Cary and John Banister, Esqr, respecting the Brigg *Hope*,² and it appearing that the outfit of the said Brig, together wth the whole stores and prov[ision]s, amounting to £601. 0. 10½, in which is included stores val[ue]d to £48. 6. 3, which the said Commissioners think not necessary for public use, and others taken by Capt. James Cocke for his own use, valued at £10. 18. 3 This Comm^{ee} are of opinion that Robert Donald, proprietor of two-thirds of the said Brigg, ought to be paid the sum of £368.9.9 for two-thirds of the whole expense of outfits and Stores after deducting the £48.6.3 for unnecessary stores, and the rest being considered by this comm^{ee} as the Interest of the Proprietor; of the other third of the said Brigg, which is deemed British property, be retained subject to future order of the convention. And the comm^{ee} being of opinion that 36 water casks, valued at £19. 5. 6, part of the £48.6.3 above mentioned, will be useful to this colony for the other armed vessels fitting out, and, Mr. Donald consenting, the Comm^{ee} should have them at the value aforesaid. It is ordered that they be retained for the use of the colony, and that the remainder of the articles mentioned in that account be ret[urne]d to the s^d Donald, and the sum of £3. 3. 5 be paid to him to make up his two-thirds of the said articles. And it is further ord[ere]d, that Capt. James Cocke be charged with the articles he has taken on acc[oun]t, and that he take into his possession all the stores and prov[ision]s now on board of the said Brigg except those now ordered to be delivered to the said Donald, and return an Inventory thereof to this board.

Order'd, a warrant issue to Mr. Rob^t Donald for £371.13.2 pursuant to the above resolution.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 173-74.

2. Later named the *Raleigh*.

LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES, R.N., TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON ¹

St. Lawrence, upper Flatts, Wilmington

Sir River the 8th May 1776.

If you have Ordered the *Glasgow*² here for any assistance to me, to prevent any Craft to be sunk in the Channel, I beg leave to inform you that where She now lyes can be of none, there being a flatt between her and us, that neither of us can get over but at half tide, if you will please to Order her where I am we may effectually Execute any Service we are intended for I am Sir [&c.]

Jn^o Graves

1. Clinton Papers, CL.

2. The *Glasgow* was an armed tender.

South-Carolina and American General Gazette, WEDNESDAY MAY 1, TO
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1776

Charlestown, May 8.

Last Friday Evening Brigadier General [John] Armstrong and his Son Dr. Armstrong arrived in Town, from Philadelphia; they came by Water from Hobcaw, and were received on their landing at Champney's Wharf, by our Provincial and Militia Field Officers, and the Charlestown Militia under Arms; and on Monday Major Connor, Thomas York, Esq; and Mr. William Sykes, arrived here from the same Place.

We are informed, that several Transports are arrived at Cape Fear, from Ireland, and that many more were daily expected there.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Maidstone*, CAPTAIN ALAN GARDNER ¹

May [1776] Tortaga NbE 7 or 8 [Leagues]
Monday 8 AM 2 Wore Ship. 4 Set Fore and Miz Topsails. TKd & out
3d reef. Gave Chase Fired 5 Guns and brot to a Sloop from
Rhode Island to Cape Francois.² Sent a Midshipman and 4
Men to take Charge of her. & gave Chase to the Southward. 10
fired 3 Guns and brot to a French Schooner. Wore Prize in
Compy –
Strong Gales with a great Sea.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/572.

2. The master's name is not given in Gayton's prize list, PRO, Admiralty 1/240, but it can be supplied from "Account of Permissions granted by his Honor the Governor," as William Nightingale, sloop *Polly*, and the owners as Clark & Nightingale, Providence, R.I. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN THOMAS EASTWOOD,
H.M. SLOOP *Pomona* ¹

(A Copy)

You are hereby required and directed forthwith to proceed with His Majesty's Sloop *Pomona* under your Command to Prince Rupert's Bay at the Island of Dominica, and there use all possible dispatch to Compleat her Wood and Water; as soon as that is finished, You are to Sail without loss of time to Carlisle Bay Barbadoes; and deliver the Letter given you herewith to Governor Hay; you are then to proceed with the like dispatch to St George's Bay Grenada, and deliver the other Letter (given you herewith) to the Honble William Young Esq; Commander in Chief of all His Majesty's Southern Charibbee Islands &c, after the due performance of these Services, you are immediately to proceed and Cruize with the Sloop you Command, between St Eustatia, St Croix, and the Islands adjacent; there to intercept and take as Prize of War, all such American Vessels as you may meet with, and are particularly described in my General Orders dated the 28th February and the 7th April last, marked No 12, and No 13; which Orders you are Strictly to obey and Execute, as well as the other General Orders from me, directed to be left with you by the former Commander of the *Pomona*: how-

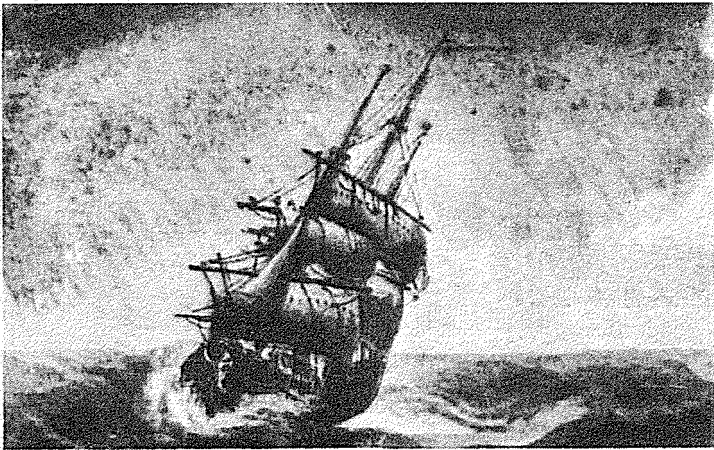
ever you are to be exact and careful in the duly executing the aforegoing Orders, not to offer any Insult to the Forts, Harbours, or Ships of War belonging to His Most Christian Majesty; His Danish Majesty, or the States General of Holland &c. you are to remain on this Service 'till the 20th June next, and then return and join me in English Harbour Antigua: for which this shall be your Order.

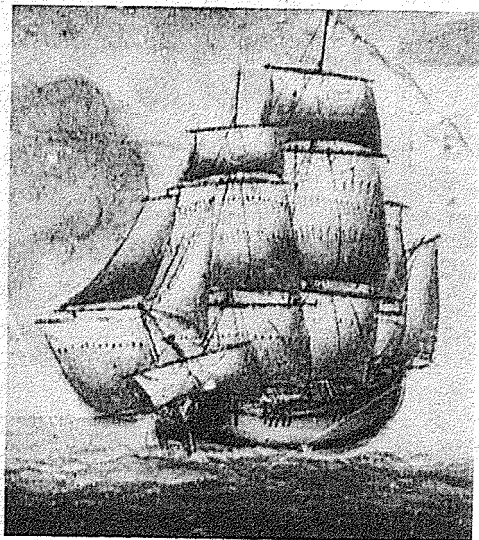
Given under my Hand at English Harbour Antigua the 8th May 1776. –

Jam^s Young.

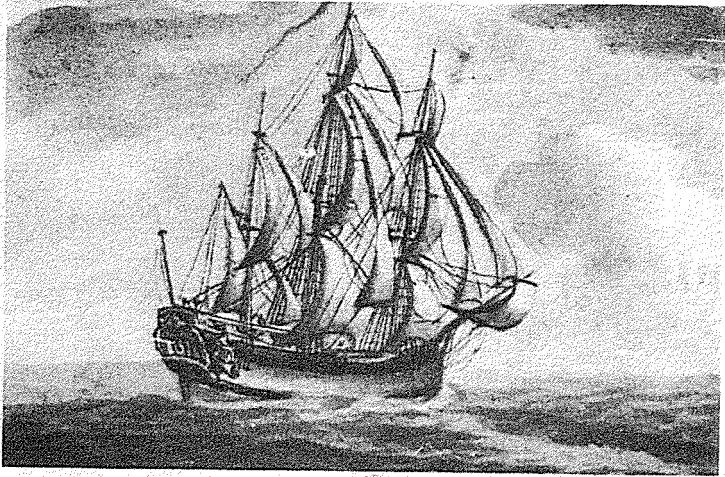
By Command of the Admiral Geo: Lawford.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.





APPENDICES



APPENDIX A

MERCHANTMEN PERMITTED TO SAIL FROM RHODE ISLAND, MARCH - MAY, 1776¹

[Extract]

[Beginning in March 1776 all outward bound merchant vessels were required to secure the permission of the Governor before sailing from Rhode Island, whether to coastal American ports, the West Indies, or Europe. This permission was entered in the bond also required of masters and owners.

A chronological record of these permits was maintained. Earlier entries required only the name of the vessel, master, and destination. Before the end of March, however, the data included cargo lists.

The permits through the last entry in May 1776, are presented in this Appendix.]

1776

ACCOUNT OF PERMISSIONS GRANTED BY HIS HONOR THE GOVERNOR

MARCH 5

Brig. *Industry* Edward Woodman Master to proceed to the foreign West Indies for Salt on the Colony

Sloop William LeCaron Master the same Voyage Both Vessels fitted by the Comd for the Co of Newport

Schooner *Sally* Lavis Sisson Master for New York.

Sloop *Diamond* John Norris Master for New York.

- 7th -

Sloop *Snow Bird* David Lawrence Master. Maryland.

Sloop *Industry* Nathan Pettis Master for Connecticutt.

- 8th -

Sloop *America*. Ephraim Carpenter Master. Pennsylvania.

- 9th -

Sloop *Greenwich* Isaac Upton Master. for New-York.

- 11th -

Sloop *Diamond*. Jonathan Carpenter. Master. for New-York.

- 12th -

Sloop *Victory* William Rhodes Master. for Connecticutt.

- 15th -

Sloop *Betsey* George Coggeshall Master. for New-York & Connecticutt.

– 18. –

Sloop *Favourite* Abner Coffin Master. for Philadelphia. in Ballast.

– 19. –

Sloop *General Washington* Thomas Pickering Master for South-Carolina with Passengers & Stores for the Continental Service.

– 27. –

Sloop *King Bird* Ebenezer Hill Master for Long-Island.

– 28. –

Sloop *George* James Aborn Master for Connecticut with 16.
Hhds Lime.

Outward

- Cargoes— In the Sloop *Polly* Simon Smith Master for Surinam.
- March 25. 300. bbls Flour, 65 bbls. Fish, 16 Hhds. ditto, 15[m] Staves, 2000. Ropes Onyons, and 100 Boxes Sperma Coeti Candles. Owned by John Brown.
30. In the Sloop *Defiance* John Chace Master for South-Carolina. 700. gallons N.E. Rum, 50 Casks Cyder, 6 bbls Oyl, 30 Boxes Sperma Coeti Candles, 237 Bunches Onyons, 1000w Chocolate and 1000w Coffee Owned by John Brown
- April 3d In the Sloop *Rosemary* Hezekiah Child Master for Connecticut a Lading of Oysters. Owned by Hezekiah Child & Jonathan Bowen of Bristol.
- 4th In the Sloop *Hannah* Timothy Ingraham Master for Santa Croix 24 Casks Rice, 30 bbls. Flour and 3 M. Hoops. Owned by Charles De Wolfe, Stephen Smith, Mark Anthony De Wolfe, Josiah Finney and Isaac Gorham all of Bristol
- 10th In the Sloop *Florida* Peleg Wood Master for Isaac Capes—On the Continental Service, 201 bbls Flour, 7 bbls Beef, 2 Hogsheads Dry Fish, 52 half bbls. Beef and Pork, 2554 Staves, 16 Hhds Tobacco, — 8 Casks Sperma Coeti Oyl and 166 Boxes Sperma Coeti Candles. — fitted out by Nathaniel Greene & Company of Warwick
- 12th In the Sloop *Unity* Charles Church Master for Hispaniola 164 bbls Flour, 21½ Tons Oil, 15 bbls Pork in Keggs, 19 Keggs Hogs Fatt, 13 Keggs Meat, 4 bbls Hams, 2 M. Staves and 60 Boxes Sperma Coeti Candles. owned by Nicholas Brown.
- In the Sloop *Polly* Remembrance Simmons Master for Santa Croix 22 m. Hoops, 124 Shaken Hogsheads, 25c Staves, 1½ Ton Oyl, 12 Keggs Hogs Fatt, 6 Keggs Meat, 4 Hhds Tobacco and 60 Boxes Sperma Coeti Candles. Owned by Nicholas Brown
- April 12. Sloop *Dianna* John Home Master for South Carolina with Seamen & Stores for the Publick Service, fitted by Clarke & Nightingale.
- In the Sloop *Sally* Arthur Crawford Master for Hispaniola. 100

13. bbls Flour, 4 M Hoops & 1 M Staves owned by Zachariah Allen. In the Schooner *William Joshua* Bunker Master for Bilboa. 564 Casks Oyl being 97 Tons, 300 Boxes Sperma Coeti Candles,
15. 4 bbls Sperma Coeti, 20 Quintals Cod Fish and 15c Staves. Fitted out from Bedford on the Continental Service by Nicholas Brown & Company.
20. Sloop *Betsey* Jared Starr Master for Connecticut in Ballast In the Sloop *Joseph* James Munro Master for Hispaniola. 3 bbls Mackarell, 54 Tierces Rice, 7 Tierces Dry Fish, 2 M. Pipe Staves, 150 bbls Flour, 24 Keggs. Oysters, 8 bbls. Pork, 4 ditto Beef, 6 Tierces Bread and 18 Shaken Hhds. Owned by Clarke and Nightingale.
- In the Sloop *Polly* William Nightingale Master for Hispaniola. 40 Tierces Rice, 12 M Feet. Jersey Pine Boards, 100 Shaken Hhds; 6 M Pipe Staves, 2 M Ropes Onions, 4 bbls Pork, 2 bbls Beef, 3M Hoops, and 10 bbls Flour. Owned by Clarke and Nightingale
24. In the Sloop *Favourite* Abner Coffin Master for Santa Croix. 300 bbls Flour, 4 M Hoops, 50 Quintals Cod Fish & 1 Hhd Tobacco. Owned by John Brown
25. In the Brigg *Happy Return* Gideon Crawford Master for Nantz in France. 360 Casks Sperma Coeti white Oyl qt. 69 Tons, 1 bbl. 16 lbs. bbls refined Sperma Coeti and 4 M 3c barrel Staves. Fitted out on the Continental Service by Nicholas Brown and Company.
26. Sloop *Hope* 40 M. Hogshead Hoops, 70 shaken Hogsheads, 50 Barrels Flour, 10 Boxes Sperma Ceti Candles, & 6 Hhds Tobacco Moses Lippitt Master bound to Santa Croix owned by Jacob Greene & Compy. of Warwick.

Outward

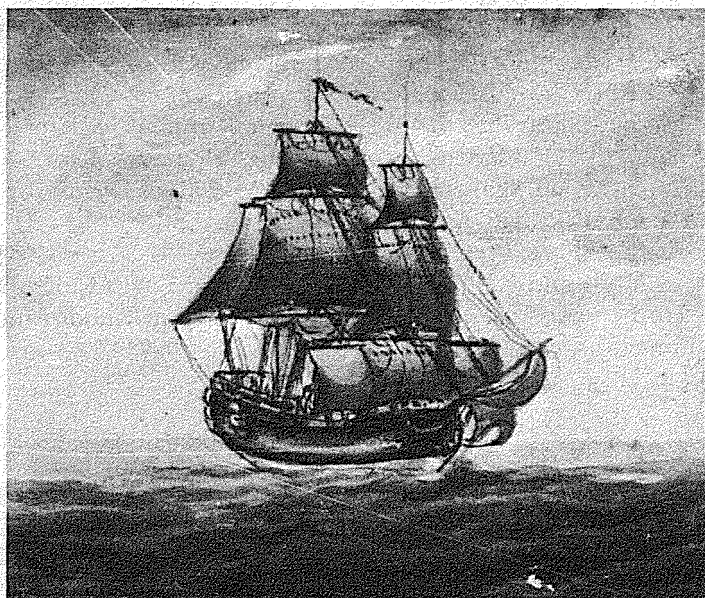
Entries. —
April. 27.

Sloop *Greenwich* Isaac Upton Master for New York with a Quantity of Household Furniture. Owned by Thomas Aldritch of East Greenwich

- May. 3. In the Sloop *America* Nathaniel Packard Master for Santa Croix 40 M Hoops 4 M Staves. 50 Boxes Sperma Ceti Candles. Owned by Ambrose Page, Nicholas Brown, Joseph Russell and William Russell all of Providence.
4. In the Sloop *Humbird* Philip Manchester Master for New York. 34 Cask Claret Wine. 31. Cask New-England Rum & 20. barrels Coffee. owned by Clarke & Nightingale of Providence
7. In the Schooner *Two Brothers* Philip Paine Master for New York. 40 Hogsheads New-England Rum. Owned by Philip Paine of Providence.
11. In the Sloop *Polley* Joseph Comstock Master for Surinam. 8 Hhds Tobacco. 4 Tierces Rice. 24. bbls Flour. 88 bbls alewives. 15. bbls. Tar 18. bbls Sperma Coeti. 50 Boxes Sperma Coeti

- Candles. 1 Cask Hams 5c feet Pine Boards and 30 Shaken Hogsheads. Owned by Nicholas Brown, Joseph Cumstock & Benjamin Cumstock all of Providence.
- In the Sloop *Sea Flower* Nicholas Cooke junr. for New-York. 42 Hhds. 2 Tierces and 1 Pipe Rum. 1 Hhd and 46 Tierces and bbls Brandy. — 8. bbls Coffee and 1 Trunk Dry Goods. Owned by Nicholas Cooke Esquire
15. In the Schooner *Success* Jonathan Donnison Master for Hispaniola. 90 bbls. Flour 4 Tierces Rice 6 bbls & 3 half bbls Beef & Pork and 33 Shaken Cask. Owned by Ambrose Page, Joseph Russell & William Russell all of Providence
16. In the Sloop *Sango* Job Thurston Master for Hispaniola. 100 bbls Flour. 45 bbls Lamp Oil. 54. bbls Munhaden Fish. 17 M Boards & Joice 3. M Hoops. 120 Shaken Cask and 50 M Shingles. Owned by John Mawdsley George Gibbs and Linn Martin all of Newport.
- May. 16. Sloop *Hawke* Stukely Williams Master for New-York in Ballast & one Hogshead Molasses. Owned by Phineas Frazier & Stokely Williams both of Providence
- In the Sloop *Victory* Benjamin Lindsey Master for New-York. 5. Hhds and 7. bbls. Coffee 2 bbls Brandy. 4 Tierces Claret and 7. Boxes Chocolate. Owned by William Rhodes, Zephaniah Brown and Benjamin Lindsey all of Providence
18. Sloop *George* James Aborn Master for New-York & Connecticut — in Ballast. Owned by James Aborn of Warwick.
- In the Sloop *Diamond* John Cahoone Master for New-York. Fifty Bbls Train Oil and Twenty five Boxes Sperma Coeti Candles. Owned by Amos Gardner of South Kingstown.
- In the Sloop *Humbird* Philip Manchester Master for New-York 6 Hhds Molasses, 6 Hhds. West India & 4 Hhds New-England Rum, 6 Tierces and 30 bbls. Coffee, 25. Cases Geneva, 5. Boxes Chocolate, 50 Rheams of Writing Paper, 1 Tierce Indigo and 24 Casks Cyder Brandy. Owned by Messrs Clarke and Nightingale of Providence.
21. In the Schooner *Sally* Samuel Avery Master. bound for France. One Hundred Tons Train and Sperma Coeti Oyl, Twenty two Casks Sperma Coeti and Seven Thousand Staves. Fitted out on the Continental Service by John Brown of Providence
22. In the Sloop *Charlotte* John Norris Master for New-York & the Jerseys 40. Hhds Molasses, 30 bbls Coffee, 4 Hhds and 8. bbls Sugar, and 10 Cask Oyl. Owned by John Freebody of Newport
- 23d In the Sloop *Greenwich* Isaac Upton Master for New-York. 200 Bushells Pottatoes, 50. barrels Cyder and 4 Hogsheads Rum. Owned by Thomas Aldritch of East-Greenwich.

- May. 24. In the Sloop *Speedwell* John Warner Master for New York. 17 Hhds. West India and 17 Hhds New England Rum, 17 Hhds and 1 Tierce Molasses, 3 Tierces & 5 bbls. Coffee and 10 Casks Brandy. Owned by George Corlis of Providence.
25. In the Sloop *Nancey* John Gardner Master for Connecticut. Ballast and 40W Indico. Owned by the said John Gardner of Newport
25. In the Brigantine *Nancey* Charles Davis Master for Surinam and Esquebo. 20 M. boards, 4 M Hogsheads Hoops, 200 Shaken Hhds, 40 bbls Beef and Pork, 7 Hhds and 3 Tierces Ship Bread, 160 bbls Flour, 60 bbls Herrings, 1 Tierce Rice 7 Tierces Oyl and 25. Boxes Sperma Coeti Candles. Owned by Simeon Potter Simeon T. Cockrun and Charles Davis all of Bristol.
- In the Sloop *Nancey* Isaac Ketchum Master for New-York. 35. Hhds and 20 bbls New England Rum and 1 bbl. Coffee owned by Zachariah Allen of Providence
27. In the Sloop *Two Brothers* Joseph Kinnicutt Master for Surinam. 6 M. Boards 80. bbls Flour, 15 Casks Rice, 20 Hhds. Tobacco, 60 Shaken Hhds. and 1 M Staves. Owned by Nathan Angell of Providence.
29. In the Sloop *Victory* Benjamin Lindsey Master for New-York. 18 Hhds and 2 bbls Sugar, 6 bbls. and 6 Baggs Coffee & 9 Bags Hops. owned by Zephaniah Brown, William Rhodes and Benjamin Lindsey all of Providence.



APPENDIX B

JOURNAL OF FRANCIS BOARDMAN, SLOOP *Adventure*¹

[Francis Boardman of Salem, Massachusetts, master of the sloop *Adventure*, sailed for Georgetown, South Carolina, on January 1, 1776. Upon his return voyage he was taken, March 8, 1776, by HM Sloop *Falcon*, Captain John Linzee.

In this journal, Boardman describes his treatment as a prisoner, his attempts to escape and final success, and his experiences as he made his way north by land from North Carolina.

The journal is transcribed as written. Boardman was a phonetic speller but not illiterate. While he concluded his journal with "Unhappy war," he did not end his service with this unfortunate voyage. From 1779 to 1782 he commanded Massachusetts letters of marque.]

Memorandum of A Journal on Board the Sloop *Adventure* My Self Master Bound to George Town in South Carolina

Monday January the 1th 1776 @ 7 in the Eavening Sailed from Mr [Benjamin] Bickford warft in Beverly with a fine sail of Wind at NW & Clear weather Arived Safe at George Town in 29 Days our Pasage Atanded with Contary winds & hard gails of Do one thing Remarkible on the Pasage we Came athaut thousands of fish Diferent kinds Lie Dead on the water in the Eage of the gulf Streem allso Lost our Small Anchoar in Coming to Anchoar off[f] North Island wich makes one part of the River Winyaw In George Town we Loded with 260 Casks of Rice Contaning 70 tones Nt Rice & about 1500 lb wt of Indico Dear Skins & &c we Sailed the 6 of March @ 8 in the morning In Company with Capt Richard Magery of Salem & Monrow of Providence the 8 of Do unhapily was taken by the *Falcon* Sloop of war *Siron* Frigat in site² ware I Received arouf Treatment from that Damd Raskel John Lindzey Capt of the *Falcon* I was Sent in with the Sloop into Cape Fear and was Sent out in the tender & put on board the Ship & was eaight weeks A Crusing for Sir Peater Parker & his Fleat before She went into Cape Fear Harbour most Part of the time at half allowance of Nothing but Poark & bread he never Demanded me to Do Duty but used me Very Iill Looked upon me with Desdain Spite & Malis John Adkings Chief Lutannant & Jears mourey Master tuck me Into thare mess in the gun Room & gave me very kind Treatment all the Cruse at Sea but at half allowance all most Parished with Hunger after got in the Harbour Linzey t[u]rnd me out of the above mess & after that I mest with the gunner Charles Penney wot was Remarkible at Sea besides Flogging Cusing & Black garding we tuck a franch Scooner & A Georgian Ditto³ Bured on[e] man with the Small Pox & another with the feaver & the Ships Tender taken &

Cared in to Charles Town wich made Linzey Scratch his head & Swaire to be Riveng on the Rabils as he Stiles ous all⁴ my mate John gallason Steaphen Smith Peter Smorrows & Samuel giles was put on Board the *Siren* on Actt of the Small Pox John Brown & Thomas Wight Sheared the Same fate with me the mate & People made to Do Duty the 10 of May Most part of the Fleat arived in the Eavening attempting to Swim on Shoar was taken up by a Transport Boat & Broat on board the Ship again was put In Irons for Nine Days My Friend penney Did Not for git to Send me Vitles & Drink we Leave the Fleat & Moove up the River as fare as Broomswick ware the People is all Left the Town John Brown one of my People & 2 other Sailoers the 16 Instant in the Night Swam from the Ship & git Safe on Shoar the Night folowing he Put me in Irons again thinking I was Noing of thair Leaving the Ship & keep me thare till Elaven oclock the Next Day my Risadance wilt in Irons was in the Sta[r]board Cablé tear whare I almost was Devoured with Lice my Masmate Penney & Self Concluded to Swim a Shoar @ 9 in the Eavening the 18 of may Beaing Very Dark with thunder & Lightning all though thare was 2 Santeries on Each ganway 2 Do on the Fore Castle & 3 officars on the Quarter Dack we git out of the Mid Ship Port the Labourd Side I Swim Round the Starn & he the hade of the Ship for hir Larbourd Side was off from the Shoar I got upon the Roder & Stript my self of avery thing but my Trouser & I hankerchief tide Round my Body with 4 & ½ gunies & another Round my head & with them Swim Safe a Shoar all though grately afeard of the Aligateers for thare is Plenty in this River wisted Sum time for my Partenear but find him Not & then thaut he was Either Drownded or went on board the Ship again I git under Neath a house by the Side of the bank to watch the motions of the Ship for fear thay would git thair Boat out and Come a Shoar in Sarch after me Not Long after I was a shoar grate Sarch was made as I Could See the Lanthorns going fore & afte the Ship as I Seposd in Sharch after me but I had the Pleasure to Laught at them I Past the Night with pleasure all though it was Dark & Dismal with Sevear thunder & Lightning & my Self Very Cold as I had Nothing on but apare of Trousers – I Never Cloasing my Eyes for Sleaf the hole Night at the Dawn of the day Saw aboat astarn of the Ship thaut it time to Set out & go up amounset the houses Calling friends to amaraca Saveril times thinking thare was Shoaldars kept thare as thay had fired on the Ship the Day before Who Should Cum out of a hous but Mr Penney the gunner of the Ship that Came over board with me Nothing on but apeace of an old Paticoat on to Cover his Nakedness our goy was grate thinking Each other was Drownded beaing Cold & Raney we Sharcht allmost Every hous to find Sumthing to put on find Nothing Looking See the Ships Boat all most a Shoar all though we Detarmining to ahald the Ship to Let that Damd Raskle Linzey Not have the Satifaction to think we ware Drownded But was oblige to Set out & Run or be taking we Run up along the Road by the Side of the River about 3 miles & Came to Kornal Hows Plantation⁵ ware thay was about 30 of a

Company Light hose Stashond who Lent ous some Cloaths to put on & gave ous Vitles & Drink from thare we was Conducted to Kornal Nashs⁶ Camp at a cross Road about 2 miles from this Place who gave ous a later to ganiroyl Moore⁷ at Wilmenton ware we Safe arived at 5 oclock in the after Noon after awalk of 15 miles Bare footed & was Anfamed by the Geniroyl Consarning the Pirots Fleet & Army the ganiroyl Did Not use ous well for he Nither offerd ous Vittles or Drink Cloaths Nor money but I Sun found a friend Kornal Paton⁸ who gave me 2 thin Jacotes 1 Shirt 1 pare Stokens 1 pare Shoes 1 hat & 1 Blue Coate the gunner allso had Saveril things gave him by other officers in the Same Rigerment but Neither had a Nugh for a sacont Shift Nor thay want to be had for Love Nor money for avery thing was Carred out of the Town into the Countary the People hear ar Very kind & ware glad to Sea ous Safe on Shoar from ahall afloat hear I got 20 Dollars from Capt Engraham of Newbary Port after Refrashing our Selves for 5 days thursday the 23 of May at 4 in the after Noon Take Leave of our friends & Set out on along teadious Journay of a 100[0] miles Nearist Compitiation from this Place to Salem NewEngland the first town We Arive at is a Small Town Cald Tarbery 160 miles from Wilmenton Road Very Sandy Lo Lavel Land Nuthing but a wilderness Each Side the Road but a few Scatring houses Some Distance 15 miles from Each other the People Very kind & Sivel our Living Chieflly on bacon Milk & Indin Brad Next town we arive at is halifax from thare to Hixes Foard from thare to Peter Burg from thence to osbon from Orsbon to warrock war thay was a galey abuilding from thare to Ritchmond a Very Eleagant Place from thare to Haniover Cort house thare we Came athought 3 Vagins & thay gives ous alief along to Fadirick Burg 40 miles dist was grate Easment to our weared Feat from thare we Travil to Dunfreast from thare to Colchester from thare to Alicksandrey on Petomick River Cross the Farey 2 Miles over Next Place Bladensburg ware we meat Capt Blunt an a Quantance of mine in the Westindies the Next Town we Came to was Baltimor & thare Came athaut of Capt Lock Palfery & Capt Daniel Adams Booth of Salem & my Entiment Aquantances Beaing Very warrey & tierd in Traviling Such a long Distance Stay hear from tuesday morning till Saterdag in the fore Noon my Falow Travilear Mr Penney meat with a grate in Corigement to go gunner of A New Continantiel Frigat Now on the Stoks⁹ & allso meats with Savirel of his old a Quantances hear wich Came from England Sum time Since & so Concludes to stay hear & I was Very Sorey to Part with so good a friend from hear I take Pasage in a Pacet Boat & go to the head of Wilk¹⁰ & thare Travil 7 miles over to New Castle on Philadelpha River & Take pasage on a Nother Packet Boat & go up to the City and thare Borrowed money of Mr Andrew Cabot wich have sence pd him take Stage from hear for Bortington and theare take Stage by Land to South Amboay and from thare by water for New york. thare met by Brother Ebenezer Boardman and many other friends take Stage for Providence by water the

27 June 1776 got to Salem found my wife and all friends well, wich makes amends for all my Sufferings. Unhappy war.

1. EI.

2. "Frydy 8 March 1776 Cape Fear S63°W - 7 Leags - at 6 A M gave Chace to a Sail in the S E Qr at 10 Brot too the Chace the Sloop *Adventure* from George Town to Salem without any papers loadd. with Rice Indigo Dear Skins & Indian Corn the master named Francis Boardman," journal of H.M. Sloop *Falcon*, PRO, Admiralty, 51/336.

3. *Ibid.*, the French schooner was taken by the *Falcon* on April 7, and the Schooner *Martha* from Bermuda on April 17.

4. *Ibid.*, May 20, 1776, "taken by the Rebels the latter end of March the Arm'd Sloop *General Clinton* with pilots looking out for Sr. Peter Parker & his fleet."

5. Colonel Robert Howe.

6. Colonel Francis Nash.

7. General James Moore.

8. Colonel John Patten.

9. The Continental frigate *Virginia*.

10. Head of Elk.

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*A Journal of a Cruise In the Brig Andrew
Doria Nicholas Biddle Esq^r Commander from
Port of Philadelphia Begun January 11th 1776.*

<p>Thursday January 11th</p>	<p>At 2 P.M. Cast off from y^e Harb^r In Company with y^e Comodoro Ship Alfred Columbus & Cabot, Light airy from y^e Harb^rward & made Sa in y^e River, At 6 P.M. Came to anchor in Liberty Island, & was there Detain'd by y^e See till the 17th</p>
<p>Friday January 17th</p>	<p>At 9 A.M. Cast off from y^e Purse, with a fresh breeze at N.W. & Run Down to Ready Stand, th^o being much Sea In y^e River was Oblig'd to haul In, to the Purse and was there Detain'd by the See till y^e 11th of February, Employ'd in Wooding & Watering the Ship Providence, & y^e found y^e Purse since we left Philadelphia & got 60 Men for y^e Fleet from Rhode Island in y^e Day</p>
<p>Sunday Feb 11th</p>	<p>At 10 A.M. Cast off from y^e Purse in Company with all y^e Fleet, and on Tuesday 13th was join'd by y^e Ship Hornet, Schooner Knop, Arica's vessel from Baltimore, within Cap Henlopen, where all y^e Fleet Anchored in Hole hill road where we lay till y^e 15th</p>
<p>Sunday Feb 13th</p>	<p>At 1 P.M. Weigh'd & put to sea, in Company with all Fleet, having on board the Hundred & four Officers of M. On Monday Feb 14th Wind gaboty thick Weather, lost sight of y^e Ship Hornet, & y^e the Night, nothing remarkable happened till we made y^e Stand of Ubbaco one of y^e Banks th^o we were carry'd a try West side In 62 fathoms, th^o we had seen nothing of y^e Hornet nor Fly since we parted with them, & y^e the 15th we puting Que Marina On y^e Ship Providence, at which all y^e Menus belonging to Fleet on board two small Ships, the Comodoro had taken to carry them to the Stand of Providence, On Sunday 16th & put to sea with y^e Fleet, having 1600 Men, 11000 L^{ts}, then made y^e Stand of Providence, having 1100 L^{ts}.</p>

1. Andrew Doria Journal, PRO Admiralty 1/484. The Journal was kept by Lieutenant James Josiah. On May 29, 1776, Andrew Doria captured the British ship *Crawford*, and Josiah went on board her as prize master. Therefore, from that date forward the Journal is that of the *Crawford* rather than Andrew Doria.

A Journal of a Cruise In y^e Brig Andrew

Where we lay off and on waiting for y^e rest of y^e Fleet at 10 o'clock. We came to
 under Hoop Island, with y^e rest of y^e Fleet in y^e afternoon. The Commodore
 sent y^e Ship Providence, Schooner Hawk & two Sloops with all their Stores amount-
 ing to two thousand and fifty under y^e command of Capt. Nicholas, and at 3
 in the afternoon they got possession of Eastman's is. & without losing a
 Man, the Satisfaction having I started it, after firing 15 or 20 Cannon at them
 early the next morning they marched in to Providence and took possession of y^e
 Nausau without any opposition, a schooner and sloop having gone off the night
 before with most of y^e Provisions our people found in y^e fort, charge quantity of these
 y^e shells, Sixteen Boxes of Different Sizes, 20 Casks of Powder & some Provisions
 fifty two Cansons, eight hundred seventy five & thirty two pounds of lead & m^o.
 Ground shot Double headed & single & several other Articles belonging to y^e
 Garrison. At 6 o'clock Morning March y^e 6th we left y^e Hoop Island in the
 remainder of y^e Fleet & run down to y^e Coast when we got a heavy Fleet from
 Providence & got safe into y^e Harbor and some tea of that Nausau in three
 y^e Home Station, our people here getting the Guns out of y^e Fort & fully rest the
 stores belonging to y^e on board of Hawk's putting our business on shore, we under
 ward by 10 o'clock and shall of Different Sizes for Balls the Commodore took a
 large Sloop in y^e service to carry some of y^e Cannons, our March 11th was found
 the Sloop by which was out y^e Fleet from us on y^e 19th of February who gives us
 account of y^e Sloop Hornet burning away her mast had two Sloops after they
 parted from y^e Fleet and expected to be away for some part of y^e town here
 while we lay here our people taking very sickly with the fever, all the care
 much care as possible was taken to prevent y^e spreading y^e day March 16th
 having got all the stores & Cannon of the fort, embarked our Marines &
 received orders for getting under way.

Log of the Brig Nicholas P. ... 662

Day	Hour	Wind	Sea	Weather	Remarks
9					Moderate Breeze & Clear Weather, at 10 P.M. Brought anchor just to sea with all the Fleet.
10	1	SE	SEB		
12	3	1			Cloudy Weather
2	1	1			
11	1	N E Breeze	SEB		
6	1	N East	SEB		At 6 A.M. left y ^e Island of Ulloa bearing N 70° E for y ^e Bay of St. Augustin, then the Bay of St. Augustin, the 12 th 1795, the 29 th spoke y ^e Brig cable & got y ^e Fleet out of the anchorage & under way y ^e 1 st of March.
3	2	1			
10	2	1			
12	2	4	SEB	SEB	All y ^e Fleet in sight under way y ^e 1 st of March, Lat. 12° 36' N Long. 75° 19' W
General					
1826	7	3	2	1	Lat. 12° 31' N Long. 75° 19' W
2	3	1	N E Breeze	SEB	
1	1				Monday 18 th Moderate Breeze
6	3				Clear Weather, at 5 o'clock y ^e Sloop spoke
8	1				In y ^e Bay of St. Augustin
10	1	1			
12	3	1			Clear pleasant Weather
2	1				
1	1				
6	3	1			At 6 o'clock y ^e Fleet in sight y ^e 1 st of March
8	3	1			
10	3				
12	3				All y ^e Fleet in sight Lat. 12° 36' N Long. 75° 19' W
General					
1826	7	3	2	1	Lat. 12° 31' N Long. 75° 19' W

A Journal of a Cruise In the *Brigs*

Day	Hour	Wind	Sea	Remarks
2	1	N B E	E B S	
4	3	North	South	Moderate breeze & Cloudy Weather with much brightening to 9 Westward
6	2			
8	1			
10	1	S W		Fresh gale with with heavy rain & 3/4 Spermials & fore sail
12	1			
3	1			Set M Stay sail
4	1	N B E		
6	2	N B E	N W S	Set F Stay sail & fore sail
8	2	N W W		Strong gale & Cloudy Weather all day
10	2			Flat in light Set M Sails 31.17
12	3			Longitude 22.19
Course D. 200				
2	4	N B E	N B S	
4	4	North	South	Sunday 21 Fresh gale with a heavy glass fall in Westward & 1/2 much white sea
6	4	N W W	N W W	at 6 PM fore sail & have to go 4
8	3	N W W	West	Flat in on M stay sail, at 8 Set
10	1			Fore stay sail
12	2			Heavy squalls of Windy rain, Down heavy
2	2			M stay sail by have two more Blew at 1/2
4	1	N B E	N B E	Set M Stay sail Fore & M Spermials by the
6	2	N B E	N W	Set M stay sail & 1/2 of Spermials
8	3			Fresh gale & heavy rain & M stay sail
10	3	N B E	N B E	but people may see it at 1/2
12	3			Longitude 22.20
Course D. 200				
26	20	63	30	22.20 00 30 22.20 00 30

Andrew Davis

664

Day	Hour	Wind	Sea	Remarks
2	1	N B E	N W W	Fresh gale & clear Weather at 1/2
4	1			Set M stay sail
6	2			Have two under of fore sail
8	1	N B E	N W	Set M stay & Balance M Sails
10	2	N B E	N W	
12	2	N B E	N W	Fresh breeze & Cloudy with heavy sea for 1/2
3	3			
4	3			
6	3			
8	3			Saw a white bird in a signal was made for us to chase, took 1/2 of the 1/2 of the sea
10	4			took 1/2 of the 1/2 of the sea
12	2	N W W	N W	took 1/2 of the 1/2 of the sea
7				Longitude 22.20
Course D. 200				
2	1	N B E	N W	
4	2			Tuesday 22 Moderate breeze & Cloudy Weather at 2 PM the ship
6	1	N B E	N W	at 6 PM fore sail & have to go 4
8	6	N W W	N B S	at 6 PM fore sail & have to go 4
10	7			from Barbours, bound to France
12	6			Blowing hard with a chop sea
2	7			
4	6	N B E	N W	Blowing hard with a chop sea
6	4			
8	4			Blowing hard with a chop sea
10	4	N B E	N W	Blowing hard with a chop sea
12	4			Blowing hard with a chop sea
Course D. 200				
28	17	96	14	31.18 00 17 31.18 00 17

C. S. Journal of a Cruise in the Ship "The Fish Hawk"

H	M	Course	Winds	Remarks
2		up E. by S	of E. by S	Fresh galesy Breeze Weather
4				with a large sea
6		up S. by S of E. by S		
8				Thick rainy weather
10				
12				
2				Set fore & main staysails
4				
6		up S. W of S. W	S. W	Thin ships of mist then a fresh gale
8	1	S. W	S. W	Set fore sail
10	1			Thick gale & heavy weather
12	3	N. by E	S. W	Observation
19				Longitude Long 72.57
Course S. by E 10				
Dist 10				
Bearing 2				
Lat 37.11				
Long 72.57				
Mon day April 3 ^d				
2		N. by E	N. by E	
4				
6	1	N. by E	N. W	Fresh Breeze & clear weather
8	2			
10	1	N. by E	N. W	
12	2			Drieling rain
2	2			
4	1	about		
6	1	S. by E	North	Set top sails
8			Calen	
10	6			Fresh Breeze & Drieling rain
12	6			Observation
Course S. by E 12				
Dist 12				
Bearing 8				
Lat 37.50				
Long 72.57				

Andrew Doria 1796

H	M	Course	Winds	Remarks
2	6			Fresh breeze & thick weather
4	5			In 2 ^d of 1/2 p.m.
6	1			at 6 ^o P.M. set top sails & fore main
8				fore sail
10				
12				
2				Set top sail & 11 sail
4				
6	1			
8	6			
10	6			Sounded 50 fathom line
12	1			Observation
Longitude Long 72.57				
Course S. by E 11				
Dist 11				
Bearing 27				
Lat 38.50				
Long 72.6				
Wednesday 5 th Nov 1796				
2	1			
4	2			
6	2			Breeze
8	3			
10	2			Sounded 50 fathom, thick foggy
12	1			Died Thomas Scimon Surgeon & Surgeant
2	1			of Mariner
4	1			53 fathom
6	1			
8	1			
10	3			Thick & foggy
12	3			Observation
Longitude Long 72.67				
Course S. by E 10				
Dist 10				
Bearing 28				
Lat 39.47				
Long 72.67				

Day	Weather	Wind	Sea	Temperature	Barometer	Direction	Distance	Remarks
Thursday	11	Variable		10.26	71.06			
Friday	5	Windy						
Saturday	6							

Remarks

Small Company of Black Soldiers, 200. 200 wounded, 150 of them
lost sight of by the U.S. S. D. M. saw a Sloop to leeward, 1000
miles, appeared to be of Gun Sloop Capt. Williams who passed for the
North, 20. (U.S. S. M.) made long Hand Down 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20.
U.S. Merchant made. North West. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20.
Hans, 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20.

Small Company of Black Soldiers, 200. 200 wounded, 150 of them
at 3 P.M. up with the 1st of the Commodore of Columbus who had
taken a schooner tender, belonging to Capt. Wallace's Fleet, 20. 20. 20.
stood in to y. North, we being ordered to look after of tenders, 20. 20. 20.
Spoke of Commodore who had just taken a brig tender belonging to Capt
Wallace's Fleet, La Mer, 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20.

U.S. Merchant made. North West. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20.
at 6 P.M. saw a brig of 1000 tons, 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20.
brought the brig of the Cabot, the sloop both from New York, 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20.
on board, and detained them they being bound to London, 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20.
saw sail to y. but made the signal for the Commodore to be at
with the rest of the Fleet, 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20.
she proved to be the Glaveau, Capt. Howe, upon which, 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20.
a broad side, and she retained two, 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20.
off and had to be to have been full of us, which obliged us to dash, 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20.
again, the Commodore came up next, and discharged several broad sides,
and received no many which did considerable damage in his hull &
Digger which obliged him to haul off the Glaveau then made all the sail
she was able to set, 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20.
we received several shot of hull & rigging, one upon the Quarter through
the Mast and stove of arm chest, upon the Quarter Deck and wounded
our Gunner in the leg, 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20.
overboard, she being too much disabled to follow us, 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20.
is southward, U.S. Merchant was fired by all the Fleet, the schooner
we had taken, 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20. 20.

Days	Winds	Course	Latitude	Longitude	Baromet
Sunday 7	SW W				
Monday 8	W				
Tuesday 9	Variable				
Wednesday 10	Variable				
Thursday 11	South & W				

Remarks

135
670

Light breeze & clear weather, at 2 P.M. In the night of the wind at 6 P.M. Bore E. by S. Distance 3 leagues and Montack, the 11th, 4 or 5 leagues, then made a latter foggy weather, with rain some of the fleet brought, but it cald.

Thick foggy weather, at 1 P.M. came to the Cape of the water, a boat of New London light house, in company with a vessel of the fleet at 1 P.M. the fog began to clear then have up & run in fog about at 6 came to within sight of light house, the Commodore Columbus, Providence not in sight, at 10 A.M. of Commodore of Columbus, came to off the light house, at 3 A.M. have up boat in the forest of the town in company with all the fleet.

Moderate & cloudy, wind orders to go out on a course, sent all the ships men on shore to a Hospital & got men from of Columbus & Providence, at 5 P.M. then upon with light breeze, strong south & beat down, about of the light house & came to at 10, 10 1/2 of the tide a flood, at 11 beat have up & beat out.

The first of middle part, light airs of thick weather, at 2 P.M. got a galewind a little to the westward of the light house, but being good tide we soon got off, at 5 P.M. the north part of Fishers Island bore E. by S. Distance 3 leagues, at 11 P.M. thick foggy weather then a shore on long Island on long Island, about 6 leagues from Montack Point, have all a last, & soon got of and came to in 15 of them weather, at 10 A.M. bore up with a fresh gale with W. N. W. and made sail to the south, & eastward.

Fresh gale & clear, at 6 P.M. the east end of Block Island bore North Distance 5 leagues, at 12 M. light, back of got a In to the westward at 6 A.M. were ships & stood in with for Montack Point, at 9 P.M. made Montack bearing N. W. by W. stood in under the fore sail, but it blowing hard, was obliged to stand off under 1/2 M. stay sail & fore sail, at 10 P.M. left fore & main sheet,

Wch Days	Winds	Course	Distance	Remarks
Saturday 20	Westerly			
Sunday 21	Variable			
Monday 22	No Wind			
Tuesday 23	Variable			
Wednesday 24	SW			
Thursday 25	Variable			To New London
Friday 26	WSW			Starboard
Saturday 27	Variable			
Sunday 28	Westerly			
Monday 29	SW			
Tuesday 30	SW			
Wednesday 1 st May	Westerly			
Thursday 2	Variable			
Friday 3	Southerly			
Saturday 4	SW			

Remarks

156672

Moderate Breeze & Cloudy Weather At 6 P.M. The Commodore got off after getting out all his guns & starting his Water and run in y^e Harbour.

Moderate & Clear run up to town of Longings, Doves, shells & shulls

Moderate & Clear, Employ'd nothing

Slight Breeze & Clear, At 4 P.M. Weight & run down to y^e Light of the Light house & came to

Fresh Breeze & Clear, Weight & run up to town, to clear

Moderate & Cloudy, got in to W. Shear's Wharf & got out our guns

Moderate & Clear, got y^e Provisions and Water out y^e Store out the Starboard side, had she made some much Water, she fill'd y^e cove with

Fresh Breeze & Clear, Employ'd, stiching y^e mast & top gallant

Fresh Breeze & Cloudy, Store out y^e Starboard side

Fresh Breeze & heavy, In heaving out y^e Starboard side she fill'd full of Water, Employ'd, righting her

Slight Breeze & Cloudy, Store out y^e Starboard side

Fresh Breeze & Rainy, Employ'd, Masting y^e Chimes y^e Rod

Moderate & Rainy, Employ'd in Surveys

Fresh Breeze & heavy, Employ'd, stiching y^e Water & taken in Balcony

Moderate Breeze & Cloudy At 6 P.M. left New London in Company with several merchant men bound out, At 10 P.M. saw a sail of Black Star, made a signal for y^e merchantmen to stand in, at 11 saw a schooner of Montez, spoke her from Balcony till she was out of sight, At midnight saw a large ship to y^e South of Black Star

Wkly Days	Month	Wind	Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude
Sunday	5	SW				
Monday	6	Southerly				
Tuesday	7	Variable				
Wednesday	8	Easterly				
Thursday	9	SE				
Friday	10	Southerly				
Saturday	11	SW				
Sunday	12	Westerly				
Monday	13	Southerly				
Tuesday	14	SW				
Wednesday	15	Variable				
Thursday	16	Southerly				
Friday	17	SW				
Saturday	18	SE				
Sunday	19	Westerly				

Remarks &

1354

673

Moderate Breezy & Cloudy, at 5 PM, the Merchant ship with 17 York Sloops, hauld here Round the 1/2 South of the Ship of Black Island bearing S 1/2 E about 5 Leagues at 11 PM bore away for Fresh Land at 9 1/2 part of Light House, and at 11 came to of Bannemout Point.

Fresh Breezy & Cloudy, at 12 PM, bore up and run up the river and came to below of Conch, a long side of Africa, and at 1 PM, the Colony of Columbus run on board of that we had taking store of Hospital at New London.

Moderate & clear Weather, Employ'd in Landings.

Moderate & Heavy, Employ'd accordingly.

Fresh Breezy & thick Weather.

Fresh Breezy & clear, Employ'd about 7 riggers.

Fresh Breezy & Cloudy, Employ'd getting stores on board.

Moderate Breezy & clear, Sent 1/2 of Manned on board of Providence that we got at New London, to 1/2 Camp at York.

Light air and calm, Night, in Company with 1/2 of Light House, down to Pt. Nechoc and came to.

Moderate Breezy & clear, bore up and beat down at 6 PM, got the Ground on 1/2 of gull rocks.

Light air & calm, at 8 A.M. got off 1/2 of Light House, down to Pt. Nechoc and came to.

Moderate Breezy & clear, Employ'd getting stores.

Fresh Breezy, the first part the latter 1/2 rain.

Moderate Breezy & cloudy thick Weather, the Ship avoid from Pt. Nechoc.

Light Breezy & clear, at 2 PM, took a Sloops from 1/2 of Light House to Point of Light, a long side of gull rocks, at 3 A.M. bore up and at 7 P.M. about of the Light House, about 1/2 of

Week Days	Wind	Current	Lat.	Long.	Temp. of Air
Monday 20	SW	16	39.56.20	66.16	
Tuesday 21	W. S.W.	12	39.10	66.37	
Wednesday 22	SW	12	39.12	66.36	
Thursday 23	W. S.W.	12	39.55	66.56	
Friday 24	W. S.W.	24	39.31	66.56	
Saturday 25	W. S.W.	12	39.30	66.56	
Sunday 26	W. S.W.	12	39.59	67.36	
Monday 27	W. S.W.	105	39.35	66.37	at station of the hill there at 10.30 there 292. 10. 10 detention

Remarks

1500
674

Under way of the ship at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30
The ship is at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30
The ship is at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30
The ship is at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30

Light breeze of the ship at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30
The ship is at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30
The ship is at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30
The ship is at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30

Light breeze of the ship at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30

Light breeze of the ship at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30

Light breeze of the ship at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30

Light breeze of the ship at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30

Light breeze of the ship at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30

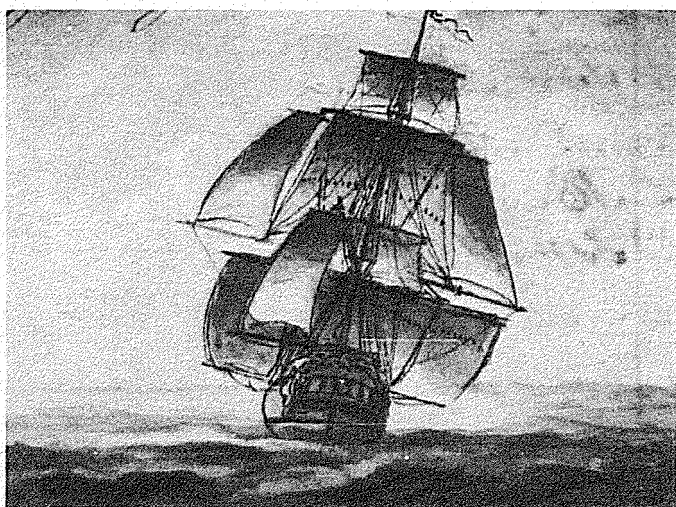
Light breeze of the ship at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30

Light breeze of the ship at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30

Light breeze of the ship at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30

Light breeze of the ship at 10.30. The wind is S.W. 10.30

Week Days	Winds	Courses	Distance	Lat. in the	Longitude	Baromet. & Therm.	Remarks &c.
Monday 3	SWat	N 36 W	77	11. 51	63. 59	at Madras 62.5 Bar 82.5 Therm 22. Miles by boatman	676 Fresh breeze & Breezy weather with a long swell from S Westward at 6 A.M. set Topgallant sails & stayed at the Brig & ship in company
Tuesday 4	Variable	N 32 W	68	12. 17	65. 17		Fresh breeze & dash weather the first part of this 24 hours. Near Middle of latter. Moderate breeze & equally weather. At 11. Made an long land of Top sails and Tacked to S South by Brig and ship in company
Wednesday 5	Variable	S 25 W	151	10. 19	66. 30		Fresh breeze & thick foggy weather the first part of this 24 hours. Near Middle of latter. Fresh gale & clear at 12. M. Night, thick & no sail & then to under Topgallant & Top sails with no line to S. Eastward, at 11 A.M. made sail with S Brig and ship
Thursday 6	Variable	West	140	19	68. 03		Moderate breeze & clear weather, at 6.30 P.M. sent a man with 12. 9 fathoms up and with the sail find a strong current setting to S Westward and East
Friday 7	SWat	N 36 W	30	10. 19	68. 31		Light airs and clear, the first part of this 24 hours the Middle of latter. Fresh breeze and equally with rain at 9. Sent a man with 12. 9 fathoms at 10. P.M. set S. Top sails, the Brig & ship in company
Saturday 8	Variable from SW	West	27	10. 19	64. 02		Fresh breeze & equally with heavy rain the first part of this 24 hours. Near Middle of latter. Fresh breeze and clear at 10 P.M. here shifted S. back to W. S. at 11. Sunk on bottom with a Runners pattern of line, at 11. P.M. reefed out 1/2 of Top sails the Brig & ship in company
Sunday 9	SWat	S 66 W	81	10. 41	72. 37		Fresh breeze & equally with rain & heavy sea from S Westward at 11 A.M. 11. Shifted to S Top sails at 11 A.M. Close reefed S Top sails & hoisted them, hauled on bottom. The Brig & ship in company



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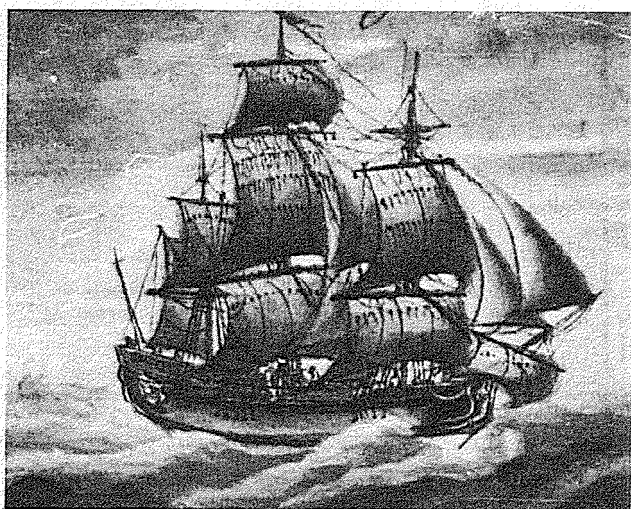
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