

# **Naval Documents of The American Revolution**

**Volume 4**

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

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

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

**Part 2 of 7**

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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*<sup>1</sup>

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, <sup>2</sup>
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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*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>

1. Bartlett Papers, No. 5753, BHS.

2. Fettyplace was First Lieutenant in the *Franklin*.

CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM<sup>1</sup>

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 Secretd 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 <sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

Philadelphia, 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 woollens, 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 ambassadors, 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 WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

*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 Delaware, 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 Chesapeake-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 conceive 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 BELLEW <sup>1</sup>

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 Rebels <sup>2</sup>

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 SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[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. <sup>2</sup> 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" <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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]s; 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 <sup>2</sup>

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

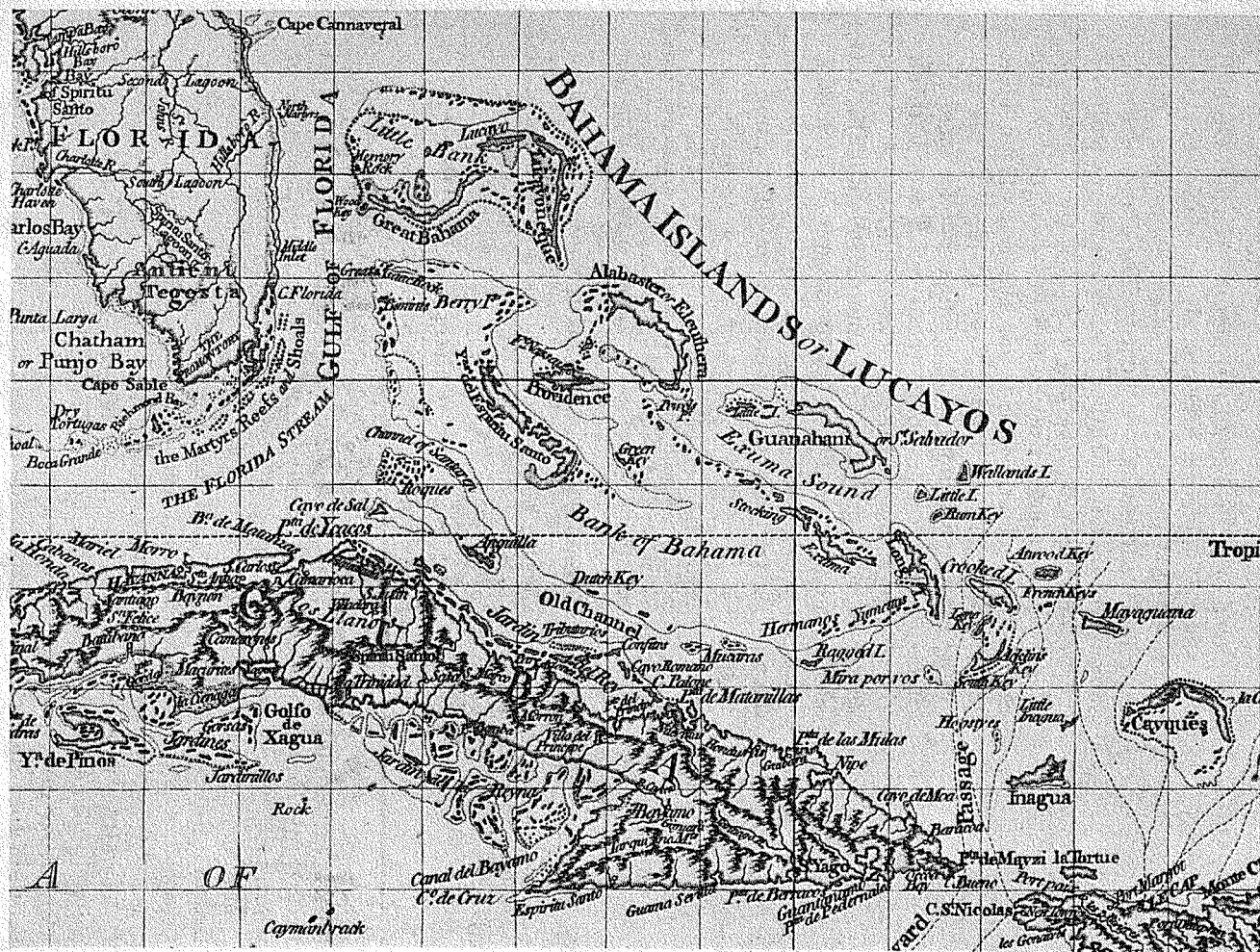
2. Journal of John Trevett reads: "we took two small craft, belonging to New Providence, and got pilots, and went in the night over to New Providence and landed all the men we could spare. I took command of one of the companies and marched to the first fort. They fired a few 18 pound shot, but did no 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 <sup>1</sup>

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:<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>s</sup> 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 Sept 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<sup>s</sup> Young.

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

[Extract]

English Harbour Antigua  
the 3d March 1776.

No 2:

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 Shulldham 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<sup>s</sup> Young.

[Endorsed] Rd 30 May.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

4 Mar.

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

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,<sup>2</sup> 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 solicited 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,<sup>3</sup> 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<sup>1</sup>

[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. . . .<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>

[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.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>

## In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 4th March, 1776.

Lieu't [Benjamin] Thompson & [John] Webb<sup>2</sup> 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 & Ladel.
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.<sup>1</sup>


[Extract]

Ph[iladelphi]a 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:<sup>2</sup> 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 – <sup>3</sup> . . .

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 LANGDON <sup>1</sup>

[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.<sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

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*,<sup>2</sup> which  
brought in a Brig last from France bound to Philadelphia  
with 40 Barrels of Gunpowder, a quantity of Saltpetre  
and Sulphur,<sup>3</sup> and a Small Schooner in Ballast  
belonging to New England.<sup>4</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 opportunity 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 <sup>1</sup>

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* <sup>1</sup>

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 Brittish 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  
SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

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 Demeré, 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 <sup>1</sup>

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 Dispathe 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>2</sup> and Sloop having gone off the night Before with most of the Powder, Our people found in the fort, Large Quantities 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." <sup>1</sup>

Ship or Vessels Name	Masters Name	Where Be- longing	Owners Name	Lading	Quantity of the different Species of the Cargoe & to whom belonging	No of Sea- men	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		6	Aberdeen	120
<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	140
<i>Maria</i> , Schooner	Rt Welch	Liverpool	Hugh & Henry Lee & Thos Case	Rice & Dry Goods	70 whole Barrels & a great Quan- tity 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	Rt King	London	Simons & Co	Ballast	"	14	London	200
(Copy)						(Sign'd)	And <sup>w</sup> Barkley	

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosed in Shuldham's letter of April 24, 1776.



JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. John*, LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT<sup>1</sup>

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 Prov-  
idence 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 An-  
chored 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 Governor<sup>2</sup> and council what was to  
be done on the Occasion; After Various Opinions it  
was resolved for the good of the Service that His Maj-  
estys 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 recommending 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 Schoon-  
er 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 Quar-  
ters—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 1½ 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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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.

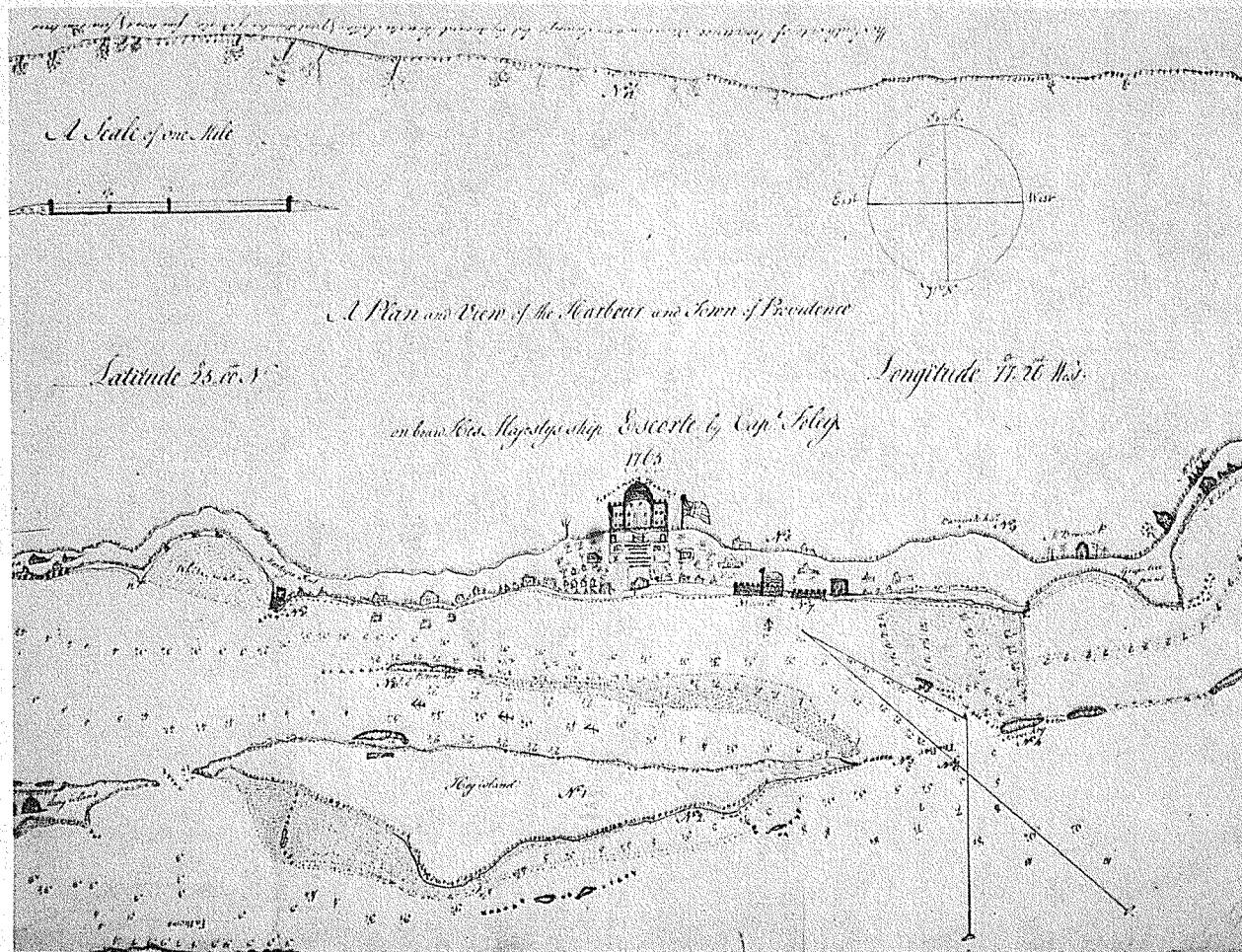
2. Governor Montfort Browne of New Providence.

#### JOURNAL OF LIEUTENANT JOHN TREVETT <sup>1</sup>

[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[ses]. 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.



*New Providence, Bahama Islands.*

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Argo*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM GARNIER <sup>1</sup>

March 1776                                      Turning into St Piers Martinico  
Monday 4th                                      took as prize the Sloop *Thomas* from Rhode Island. <sup>2</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>2</sup> 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—<sup>3</sup>

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, Shuldhams 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 CONTRACKT 1776" <sup>1</sup>

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 fram[s] & 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*<sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>o</sup> Legge	Duncan Ferguson
So.Marris	W Pearce	John Sefton
A.Walter	W. James	John Thomas
Rich <sup>d</sup> Graves	T. Landford	John Elwell
Andrew Elliott	Henry Cox	Robert Sackett
P B Morris	Tho <sup>s</sup> Edwards	Tho <sup>s</sup> Sandon
John Mall	Maurice Pierce	Dan <sup>l</sup> DePear
Ja <sup>s</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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,<sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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.<sup>2</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>1</sup>

1. The advertisement was repeated March 9, with the destination specified as "Bristol and Cork."



DAY BOOK OF CHARLES WHARTON <sup>1</sup>

Philadelphia, March 5, 1776

Sales of Merchandize by the Ship *Charming Peggy*, Captain [Thomas] Dowman <sup>2</sup>

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
	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 <sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

*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* <sup>1</sup>

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 Brig <sup>2</sup> 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 COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>

[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), NCDAH.

DEPOSITION OF WILLIAM RADDON, MASTER OF THE SLOOP *Joseph*<sup>1</sup>

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." <sup>1</sup>

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 CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[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 HABERSHAM <sup>1</sup>

Charles Town So Carolina 5th March 1776.

Dear Sir -Yesterday morning Mr Will brought me your favour of the 28th Ultio 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 GRANT<sup>1</sup>

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 GERMAIN<sup>1</sup>

[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,<sup>2</sup> 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[licate] 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." <sup>1</sup>

(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 Begorau, 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 publicly 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; <sup>2</sup> in which He is assistend by a Monsieur Degorau, an Inhabitant of St Pierres."

Memo Those parts of the above information, that are within the different



Parenthesises, were left out in the Copy sent to the Compte De Nosier.  
(a Copy) Jam<sup>s</sup> 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 RICHARDS<sup>1</sup>

[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 o'clock 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 6th<sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>2</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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] Vessel 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 Expende and delay, I hear she is so flatt that It is feared she will not be a good Sailor – I hear a Vessel 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 <sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

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 CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[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 enterprise. 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.<sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>2</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Wednesday 6 March . . . the Marine Comee was filled up, (Sergeant for N Jersey) <sup>2</sup> . . . [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) <sup>3</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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 Expende in forwarding them, for inter nos some here who are not very friendly to you & I, (& of our province you know who) begin publicly



## IN CONGRESS, March 6, 1776.

*Resolved,*

**T**HAT 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 <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadephia 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 BEALL<sup>1</sup>

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,<sup>2</sup> 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 Ham-burgh 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 untill 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 <sup>1</sup>

##### 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 inlist 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 inlisted 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 SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Your Memorialist Understanding That A Capt'n 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 Alexander<sup>2</sup>

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, HSP.

2. Alexander was captain of the Pennsylvania galley *Chatham*.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE <sup>1</sup>

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 assoon 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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<sup>d</sup> Dugan.

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

#### CALVERT COUNTY COMMITTEE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 EWEN <sup>1</sup>

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 MCINTOSH <sup>1</sup>

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 MCINTOSH <sup>1</sup>

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* <sup>1</sup>

Islands Shoals W B N 3 Miles	Remarks on bd the <i>Hope</i> 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 <i>John</i> , <sup>2</sup> 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 <i>Polley</i> <sup>3</sup> from So Carilina wt Rice, Intimenticos N W 7 or 8 Lgs <sup>4</sup>
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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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

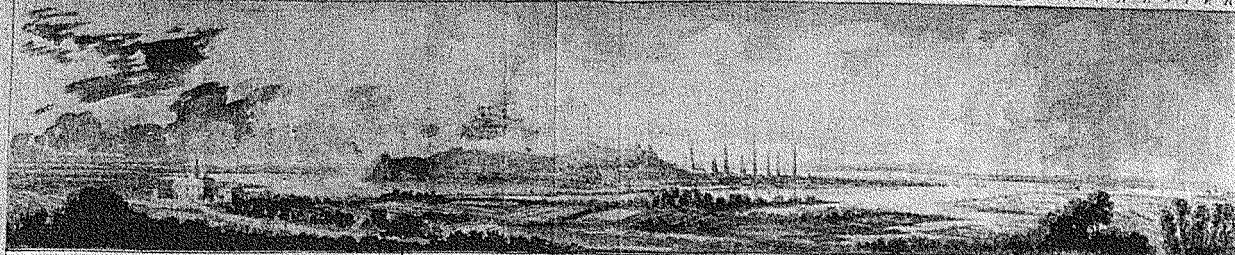
Cambridge March 7. 1776

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 <sup>2</sup> – 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.

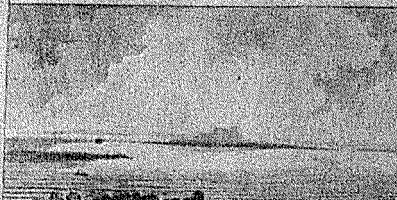
Our taking possession of Dorchester Heights is only preparatory to taking post on Nuke Hill and the point opposite the South end of Boston – It was absolutely necessary that they should be previously fortified in order to cover and command them – As soon as the Works on the former are finished and compleat, 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;

VIEW of *BUFFALO*, the Capital of *NEW ENGLAND*, *D.* from *Col. HATCHER*'s House, near the Road to *DORCHESTER*.



VIEW FROM *DORCHESTER NECK* (Station A.)



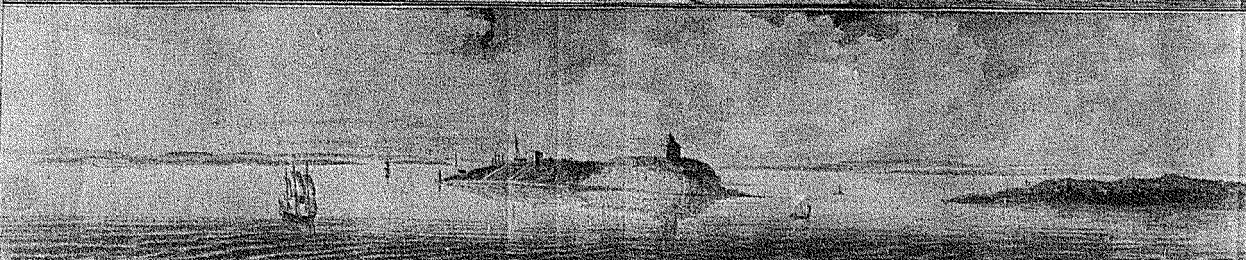
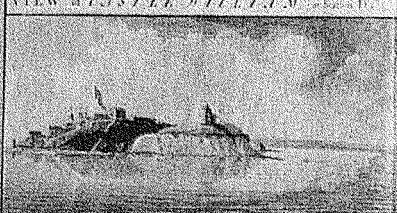
VIEW FROM *CHARLESTON* (Station B.)



VIEW of *COSTLE PILLIAM* (Station C.)



VIEW of *COSTLE PILLIAM* (Station D.)



VIEW of *COSTLE PILLIAM*, *DORCHESTER*, as *NEW ENGLAND* Harbor, looking out of the *HARBOR*.

This Plate was taken from the original of *Col. HATCHER*'s House, near the Road to *DORCHESTER*, and is now in the possession of the *British Museum*.

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

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 Men<sup>2</sup> 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 & Spectacle 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 ADAMS<sup>1</sup>

[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.<sup>2</sup> 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 GERRY<sup>1</sup>

[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. —<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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 HANCOCK<sup>1</sup>

[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 Expençe 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 Expençe 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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] Gansevoort, 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 JAY<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Head Quarters [New York] 7th March 1776

... The Sloop we are fitting out is ready<sup>2</sup> 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 Pike's made at Phila I am in Great Haste [&c.]

Alex<sup>r</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup>

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,<sup>2</sup>  
                          . . . Fir'd two Guns to bring Vessels too.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>

[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.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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[ed] 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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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, L.C.

#### JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Port Tobacco March 7th 1776.

Captain Conway arrived opposite the mouth of Port Tobacco Creek about 2 oclock this morning & it being calm & an ebb tide he came here for orders about eight oClock – 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 Jenifer & 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. <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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 with 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 between Wind & Water Punished Wm Norman Thos Burnfather, & Humphy Williams for Drunkenness Quarreling & fighting & Wm Mills for Dirtyness with 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 rebels<sup>2</sup> The people empd  
making points &ca

First part Calm middle and Latter fresh breezes and Hazey  
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 GRANT<sup>1</sup>

[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 GRANT<sup>1</sup>

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 TONYN<sup>1</sup>

Copy of a Letter from Lieut Grant

Sir

*St John 7th March 1776*

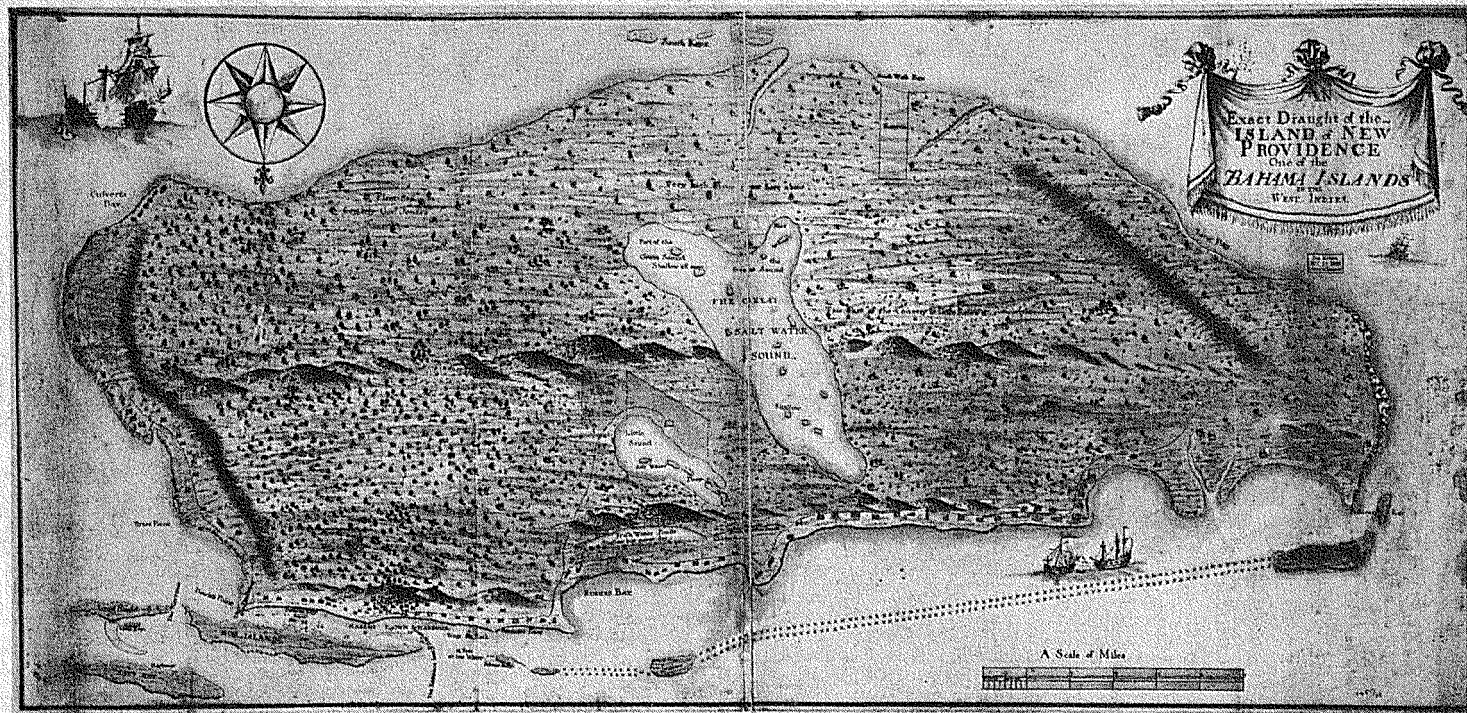
I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that His Majesty's Schooner under my Command is arrived off this Bar in three Days passage from New Providence, and that on Sunday last [March 3] an Armament consisting of eight Sail of North American Vessels Vizt. two Ships two Brigs three Sloops and one 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<sup>m</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

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 – <sup>2</sup>

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. *Ibid.*, the same day Hopkins acted favorably on the petition.**8 Mar.**STATEMENT OF JOHN RICH REGARDING CAPTURE <sup>1</sup>

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 Seven-twen 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 Hands they Carried on Board the Commandore and We Stay tow Days there then orders Came to the Commandore 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 ADAMS<sup>1</sup>

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, Chandeliers, & Fascines, our Troops were soon covered, & 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 allways 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 Sulken & Sulkey in Boston. suffering Our Works upon the Heights to be carried on without any other molestation, than now, & Then, a Feint Cannonnade 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,<sup>2</sup> & 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 LINNEL'S AFFIDAVIT<sup>1</sup>

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 Master<sup>2</sup> – 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 COMMANDERS<sup>1</sup>

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 molested 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 solicited a Flag of Truce for this Purpose <sup>2</sup>

Boston  
March 8th 1776.

Signed. John Scollay      Tho<sup>s</sup> Marshall  
Tim<sup>o</sup> Newell      Sam<sup>l</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

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 Consequence must be fatal. We are now using our utmost efforts and attention in Embarking the Ordnance 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 COLLINS<sup>1</sup>

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  $\frac{1}{2}$  pt 8 Came too in Nantasket Road with the S.Br in 3 f. Veer'd  $\frac{1}{3}$  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*.<sup>2</sup>

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*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>s</sup> Doten<sup>2</sup>

[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 8, 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 WOODHULL<sup>1</sup>

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 POUGHKEEPSIE<sup>1</sup>

The following is a Copy of a proposal made me by Jno Griffiths a Partner to Saml Patrick to which I acqui[e]scd 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 CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[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 necessities 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*; <sup>2</sup> 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, Shuldhams'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 <sup>1</sup>

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 ther 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.<sup>1</sup>

[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 LANGDON<sup>1</sup>

[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 SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

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 extreamly 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 <sup>1</sup>

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 – <sup>2</sup>

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 &c	90
Painter and Joiners Bill	10
	<hr/> £341

#### RECEIPTS RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

[Baltimore 1 o'Clock Friday] Morn'g [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<sup>l</sup> Purviance Junr Chairn  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Cockey  
Will<sup>m</sup> Aisquith

Wil<sup>m</sup> Lux  
John Moale  
And Buchanan  
W<sup>m</sup> Buchanan

[P.S.] Mr Usher just now a[rri]ved 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<sup>l</sup> Purviance Junr

I. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER<sup>1</sup>

[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 Barrister<sup>2</sup> 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] Nicholson<sup>3</sup> & 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 <sup>4</sup> to apprize him of our designs.

I am Dr Sir [&c.]

Sam<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

[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. MIDDLETON <sup>1</sup>  
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 OBSERVATION <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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 Annaps & 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<sup>r</sup> Squire

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.

JOHN A. THOMAS TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[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. <sup>1</sup>



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 . . . ret'd 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*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>

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*<sup>2</sup> load'd with Rice Indigo Dear Skins & Indian Corn the masters name Francis Boardman<sup>3</sup>

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 Evening 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 Streem allso Lost our Small Anchoar in Coming to Anchoar off North Island wich makes one part of the River Winyaw In George Town we Loded with 260

Cask of Rice Contaning 70 t[o]nes Nt Rice & about 1500 lb wt of Indico Dear Skins & [&c] we Saild 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[pil]ly was taken by the *Falcon* Sloop of war *Siron* Frigat in Site ware I Receaved aroud Treatment from that Damnd Raskel John Linzey Capt of the *Falcon*.

EI.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN JOINER, BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

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, Straggling, 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[oats,] 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 coud 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 erved in haste, & threw up Intrenchments. - & withdrew part of the Guard at Brewtons, without Weakening it too m[uch,] or withdrawing any of our Ambushes 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.]

Lach<sup>n</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

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 Severall 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 <sup>1</sup>

A Copy of a Letter to Admiral Shuldhham 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 &c

W<sup>m</sup> Grant

Adml Shuldham or the Commander in Chief at Boston

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 51c.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N.<sup>1</sup>

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? <sup>2</sup> 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<sup>k</sup> Tonyn.<sup>3</sup>

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*.<sup>1</sup>

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	W Duddingstone	Walter Urquhart
presence of	John Jump	D. Innes
John Bayley	Geo. Rutherford	
John Dawson		

[Endorsed] Receiv'd & Registered 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 DUDDINGSTON<sup>1</sup>

March 1776 [Off Liverpool, Nova Scotia]

Saturday 9 AM took a Brigg from Dominica with Malassus &c Moor'd the Brigg<sup>2</sup>

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 REPRESENTATIVES<sup>1</sup>

[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 adviseable 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<sup>l</sup> 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 vessell, & 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 <sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

1. Emmet Autograph Collection, NYPL.

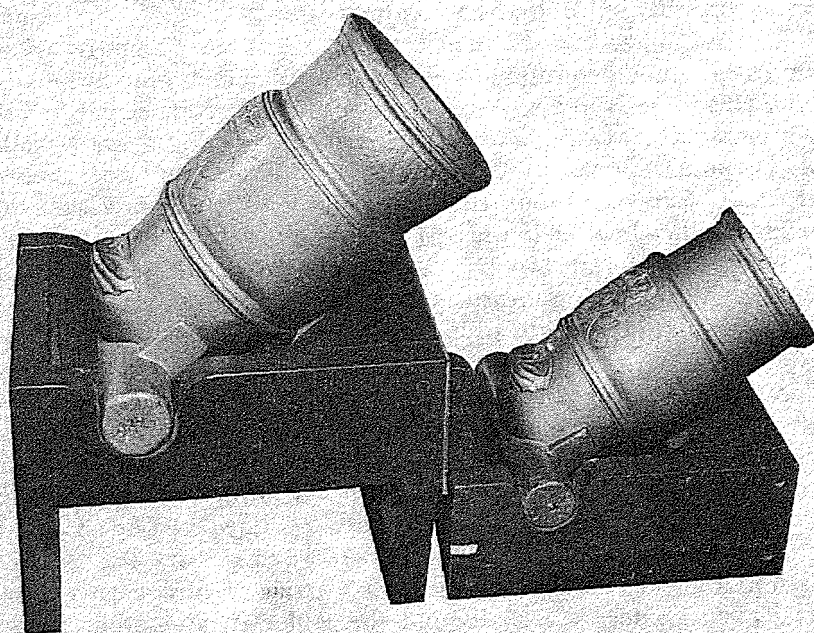
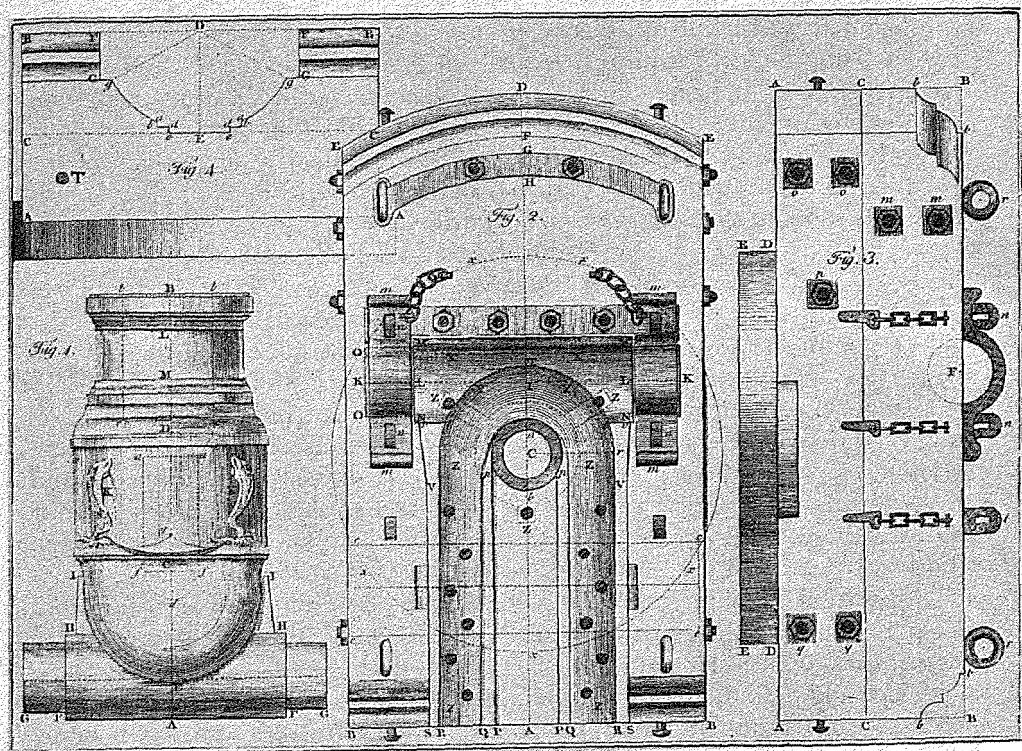
2. A similar letter was sent to the president of the New Hampshire Assembly. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 85, 86.

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

[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 Shuldhham 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 determined 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: –<sup>2</sup> 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. —<sup>3</sup>  
[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.”<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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 JOHANNET<sup>1</sup>

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 OTIS<sup>1</sup>

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 *Phenex* 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 terpine 3 M & ½ 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 Sholes 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 <sup>1</sup>

Providence March 9 1776

Mr Thos Durfey <sup>2</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

At a Meeting of the Committee of Insepction 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] Jones	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]ling on Board Said Ships Some passengers and M[ak]ling 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 Fright 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*<sup>1</sup>

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 Robert 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: 6:6½

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 Vanderpoot [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..5½
65 Ditto [bars] of Refin'd Ditto [iron] 19..	
2..13.. - 27/	26..9..7½
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<sup>m</sup> 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<sup>r</sup> Leffingwell, Justice of Peace <sup>2</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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* <sup>1</sup>

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 CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[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 SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

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 vessel <sup>2</sup> 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 SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

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 Virginia had sent off one ton in a waggon, this without solicitation 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  
HOLLINGSWORTH<sup>1</sup>

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 CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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, BARRISTER <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>l</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

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 –

L. Baltimore Committee, L.C.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. FOR THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO BENJAMIN GRIFFITH <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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<sup>m</sup> Lux.  
And Buchanan  
John Moale

Jn<sup>o</sup> Smith  
W<sup>m</sup> Buchanan

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

No 39.

[Annapolis] March 9th 1776

To Brigadier-General Chamberlaine <sup>2</sup>

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 SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

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 SQUIRE<sup>1</sup>

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

Wednesday 6

with the B Bower in 7 fam, at 6 the Tender joyned us with a Schooner prize.

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 Patruget 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.<sup>2</sup> Attempted to get the Ship under weigh, but found from the Pilot's ignorance it was impossible. At 11 the Tenders joyned 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.<sup>3</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>*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. <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Annaps 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 Majestie'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 oClock 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 <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>d</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

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	{	The <i>Roebuck</i> cruising within the Capes.
		The <i>Liverpool</i> , laying in Elizabeth River as a protection to the Governor, the Lines and the Fleet.
		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 Chesepeak Bay in quest of two Rebel Privateers.
		The <i>Otter's</i> Tender, sent as a Convoy to a Vessel carrying Arms and Ammunition to Governor Martin at Cape Fear.
		The <i>Roebuck's</i> Tender, at the mouth of the Delaware, chiefly in quest of Pilots for the River.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

DEPOSITION OF PETER SIMON <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

By the Council of Safety  
[Charleston] 9th March 1776.

Ordered that Mr. [Alexander] Elsinare & 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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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

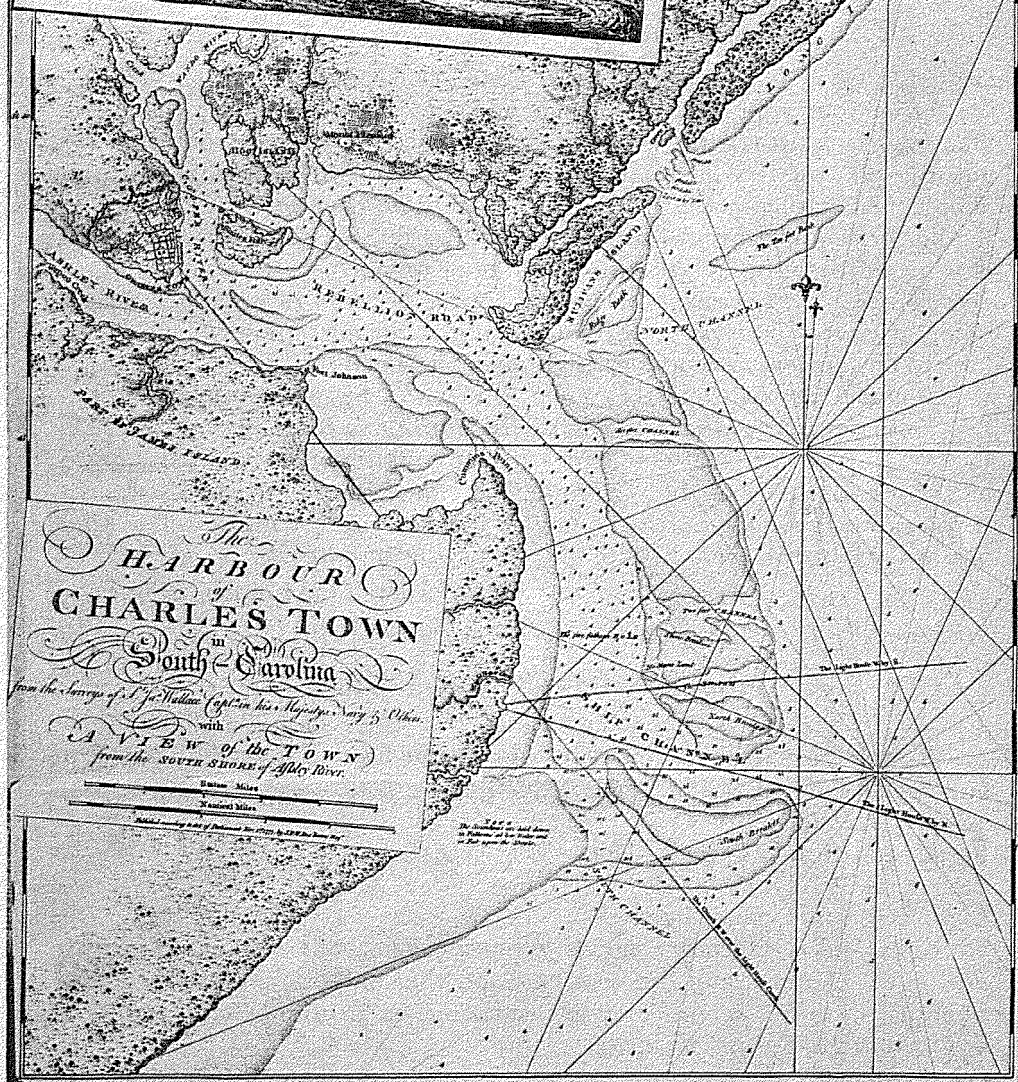
Broad blue ditto or Flag

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 flag
When a Ship or 3 Masts			Red Pendant





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 Flag, or Jack when a Coasting Schooner or Sloop is Seen at the Flag Staff two thirds up, If not coasters the same Flag will be hoisted quite up, in both these cases this Flag 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 Flag Staff, If Merchant Men. If Men of War the New Provincial Flag 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 Flag 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	Running up Savannah River to the Town
Fridy 1	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
Saturdy 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 <i>Cherokee</i> 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 *Symterter* [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
- Fridy 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* <sup>1</sup>

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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd 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 <sup>1</sup>

(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 AMERICANS <sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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; <sup>2</sup> 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 cabbins. 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 BRUSH<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>m</sup> 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 HALDIMAND<sup>1</sup>

[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 BOSTON<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>

March 1776

Sunday 10

At Single Anchor off of Hope Island

AM at 8 Weigh'd and came to Sail as did the Squadn at 10 saw a Brigg over the Land laying in Narrowganset Passage Made Sail Ordrd the *Glasgow*, *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 Island<sup>2</sup> at 3 Steering round the No point of Connanicot, Join'd the Squadn, at 1/2 past 6 Anchd 7 fm as did the Squadn

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<sup>1</sup>

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 Compleated, 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 <sup>1</sup>

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[f] 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<sup>t</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

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 Rifle-Men –

by order of the Comittee  
Ja<sup>s</sup> Smith Chairman

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.

#### BATTALION COMMANDERS OF FRÉDERICK COUNTY TO THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>s</sup> Johnson B. Johnson

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.

#### MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE <sup>1</sup>

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 1½ past 3 oClock, & at 1½ 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 <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>m</sup> Lux  
And Buchanan  
J. To<sup>y</sup> Chase

Jn<sup>o</sup> Smith  
W<sup>m</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>1</sup>

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 Captn 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 COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[Annapolis, Sunday, March 10] <sup>2</sup>

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) <sup>3</sup> 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 & Balt 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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<sup>ch</sup> 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<sup>ch</sup> may enable them to injure us.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 116, 117.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Mercury*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU <sup>1</sup>

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,<sup>2</sup>  
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 <sup>1</sup>

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  
abrest 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 grounded 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 Anchord with the streem 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  $2\frac{1}{2}$  fathm deep water point SW  $\frac{1}{2}$  W  
 Sunday 10th AM fresh gales and Cloudy wear at 6 weigd and run down at 8 Anchord 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." <sup>1</sup>

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 humurous 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 <sup>1</sup>

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,, . . .	98,,11,,-	
	& for 2 days Hire of a Flat 4 Negroes & a White Man for last parcel & this to Sullivants Island. . . }	12,,-,,-	
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 LAURENS<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

[Beaufort, March 10, 1776]<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>c</sup>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 CLINTON<sup>1</sup>

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 & Obligated 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 Obligated 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 <sup>1</sup>

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. <sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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 ROWE<sup>1</sup>

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 ISLAND<sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

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

Joseph Brown

Dan<sup>l</sup> Tillinghast

John J. Clark

Jos. Nightingale

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. <sup>1</sup>

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. <sup>2</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 Temple<sup>2</sup> 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 CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[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 necessities 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 <sup>1</sup>

##### 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. <sup>1</sup>

1. Last paragraph in newspaper Supplement of this date.

#### MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

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 crouded with Men to assist in Case of an Engagement, which would have been dreadfull, 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<sup>1</sup>

[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<sup>ch</sup> 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<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>

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
------------------------	---

Saturday 9

PM at 6 bro't too at 8 made Sail, at 12 made the Signal & TKd

AM: at 1½ 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 ½ past 1 spoke His Majestys Ship *Mercury* from Boston bound to Cape Fear having on bd Genl [Henry] Clinton, ½ 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 ½ past 6 made Sail, at ½ 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,

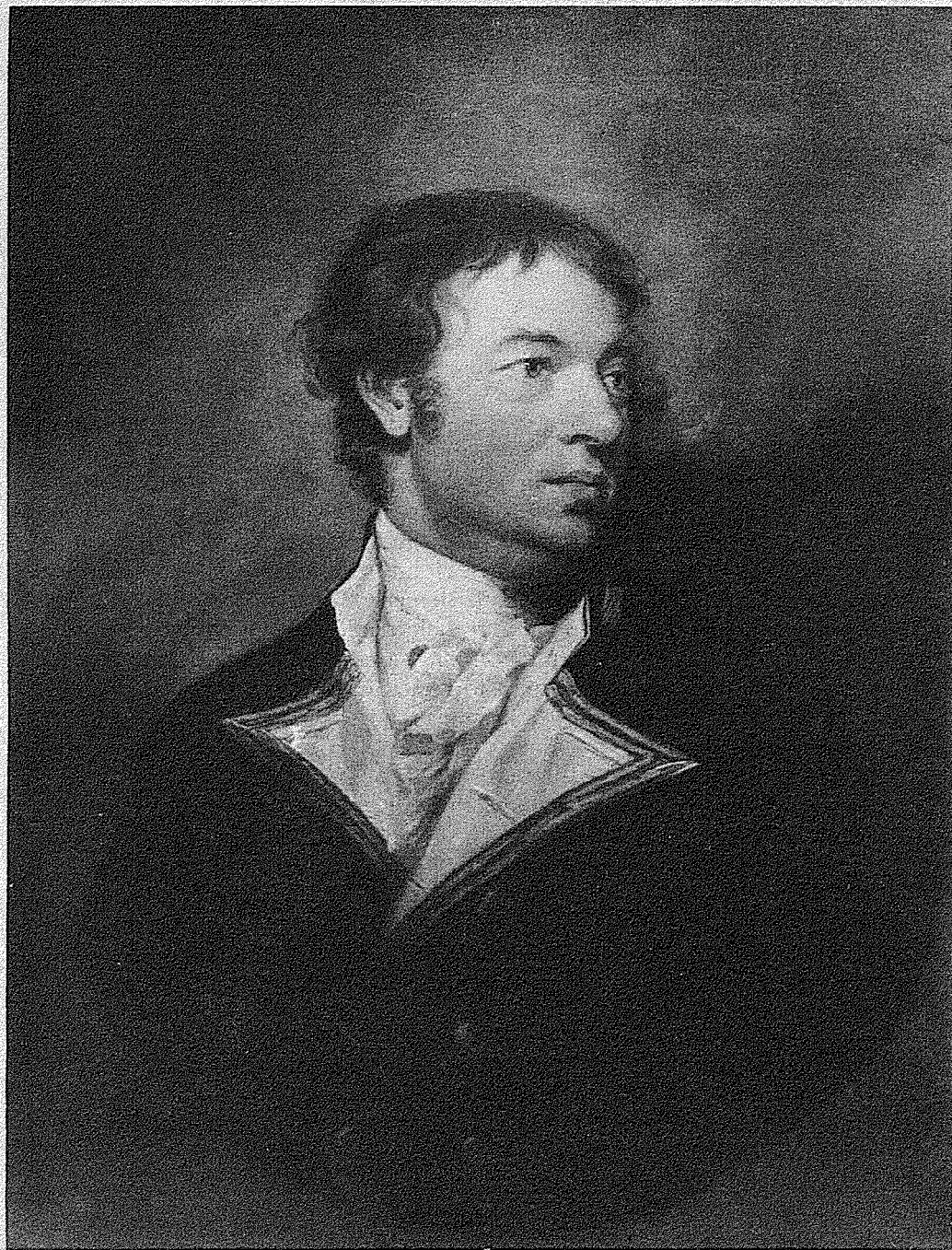
P:M at 2 parted Co the *Falcon*, at 11 TKd

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

INTELLIGENCE RECEIVED AT NEW PROVIDENCE BY THE CONTINENTAL SLOOP  
*Fly*<sup>1</sup>

[New Providence, March 11, 1776]<sup>2</sup>

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 Ship<sup>3</sup> 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 <sup>4</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>2</sup> 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 – <sup>3</sup> I've eve[r]ly thing to apprehend should 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 Scoondrel, 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 <sup>1</sup>

March 1776

St Eustatia NBE 4 or 5 Leagues

Monday 11

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.<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

2. Sloop *Sally*, Nathaniel Packard, master, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 24, 1776.

**12 Mar.**

MESHECH WEARE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

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 WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

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 Commander<sup>2</sup> 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 thay 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 CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Providence March 12th 1776

... Capt. Manly hath taken another Transport Ship laden with Coals  
Portor &c<sup>2</sup> She brings no News later than the 2d December. An armed  
Transport is also stranded on the back of Cape Cod.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

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 *Unity* Capt  
Paul Allen—from Curiso

117 Cask of Powder Wt Nt 3080 lb a 6/ Tho' I sold a Number of Cask a 7/ p lb	£924. . . .
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 CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[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 Honoble 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<sup>l</sup> Woodhull Presdt

Honble John Hancock Esqr

President of the Continental Congress. —<sup>2</sup>

*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 CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, March 12, 1776

A petition from Edmund Custis, and a letter from the committees of Accomac and Northhampton, 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 SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>1</sup>

[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.<sup>2</sup> ... 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.”<sup>1</sup>

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. . . .<sup>2</sup>

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 CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

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 don't think infallible<sup>2</sup>

I think my inventions may be of much service to this Country. The fewer that know them, the less probability, of our enemies knowing them, but if the Honourable Congress chuse, that a greater number of Gentlemen of their Body, should have an opportunity, of judging of them, I will discover the whole, to as many as the Honourable Congress, is pleased to appoint, provided the Gentlemen appointed, Come under the same obligation of secrecy, that those Gentlemen, already in the secret have done

I beg leave to assure you Gentlemen, that a desire of revenging the death of my dear Boy, who fell by the side of the Gallant Genl Montgomery,<sup>3</sup> has a less share, in prompting me to this application to you, than a desire of defending & transmitting the liberties 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 & successful 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 ill-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 COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>

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 Vessel expected in with Warlike Stores, and £14.10 — advanced him —  
The following Letter was just now received 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 –<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>

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] struggling 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 would 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

March 1776

Moored in Hampton Road Virginia

Saturday 9th

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.<sup>2</sup>

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*<sup>1</sup>

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 Purchased 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 & dropd a little to the NE & Anchord in 13 fath at 8 Weighed again & dropd 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 & dropd a little to the SW Anchord 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 TOLLEMACHE<sup>1</sup>

March 1776

Moor'd off Brunswick in Cape Fear River No Carolina

Tuesdy 5

Strong Gales and Cloudy with rain

PM sent to Govr Martin Gunners Stores.

- Wednesday 6      Empd Blacking Masts Yards &c Fir'd 2 Guns as a Signal to the *Cruizer*  
 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 *Cruizer* & Tender Anchd here the *Genl Gage* 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 <sup>1</sup>

- 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 <sup>2</sup> sent two petty Officers and 6 Men on board and took possession of her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/39.

2. Brig *Polly*, Paul Cruise, master, Gayton's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

13 Mar.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE <sup>1</sup>

- 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*<sup>1</sup>

March '76 Cape Ann NW  $\frac{1}{2}$  Wt 4 or 5 Leagues  
 Wednsdy the 13th [1 P.M.] Fresh Breezes and Clear Wt 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*<sup>2</sup> 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 ROXBURY<sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 artiff[i]ce that old England & New is Capable of ...

Your Affectionate father

Comfort Sage <sup>2</sup>

1. From the private collection of Frederick S. Hicks, Washington.

2. Sage was in James Wadsworth's Connecticut regiment.

THOMAS HOLBROOK TO JOSEPH PALMER <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Wellfleet March 13th 1776

I have inclos'd you an Estimate of the several Losses I have sustain'd by the Ministerial Ships.<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>s</sup> 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<sup>s</sup> Holbrook

Barnstable ss March 13th:1776 Then Thomas Holbrook made Oath to the  
 Truth of the above Estimate by him Subscribed to before Me–

J<sup>no</sup> Alwood Justis peace

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

[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 <sup>1</sup>

[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.<sup>2</sup>

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 SMITH<sup>1</sup>

[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 present<sup>2</sup> . . . 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,<sup>3</sup> [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 Woedtke<sup>4</sup> 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 SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

In Committee of Safety.

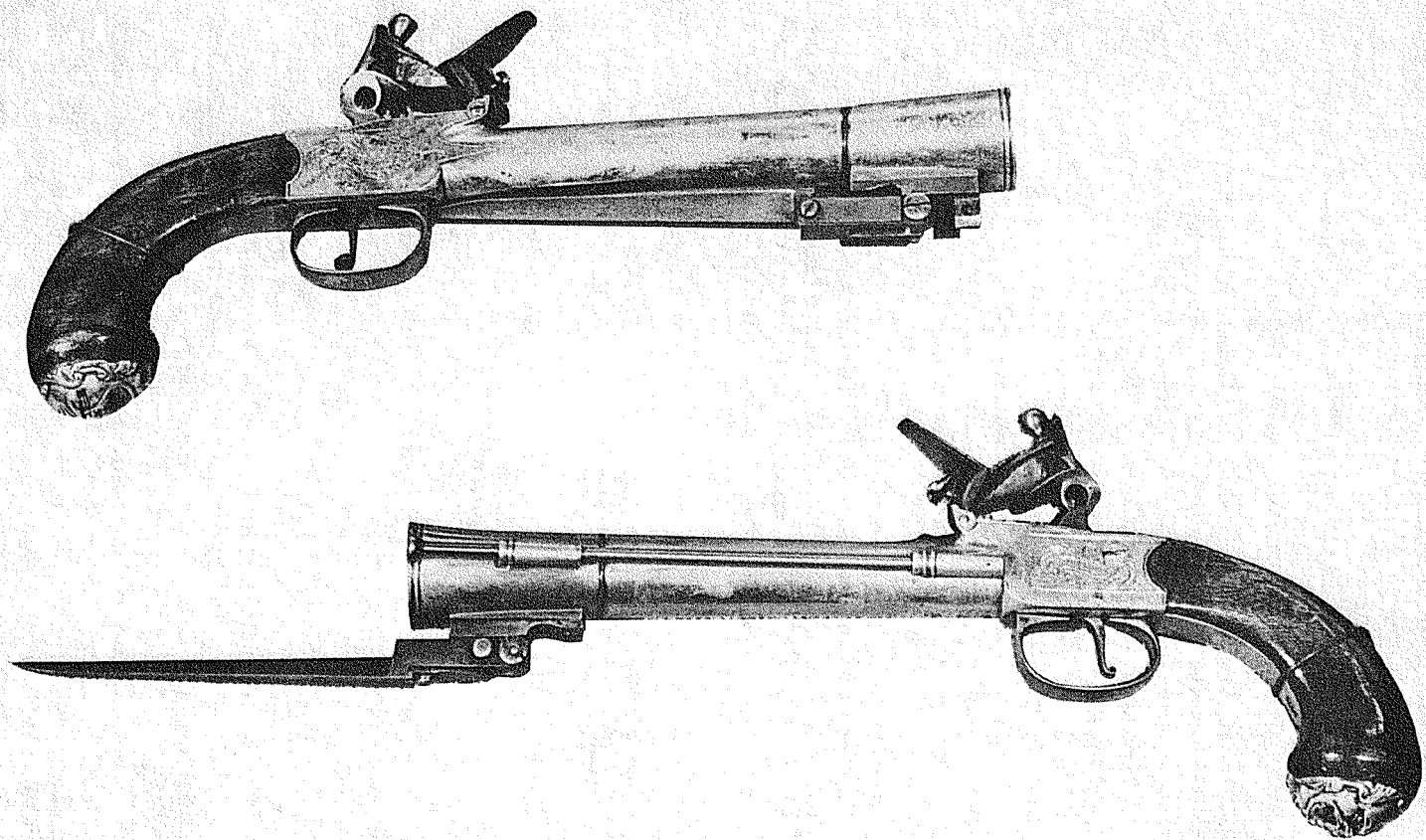
Philad'a, 13th March, 1776.

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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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<sup>l</sup> Purviance Jun<sup>r</sup> Chairman

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

ABRAHAM JACKSON'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* <sup>1</sup>

[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 & sponges	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	
	To 20 Coins	2..0..0
		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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

No 57.

To the Committee of Safety of Virginia  
Gentn Inclosed you have a Narrative,<sup>2</sup> 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 Vessell 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 <sup>1</sup>

- 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 <sup>2</sup>
- 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.<sup>3</sup> 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, Shuldhams 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 <sup>1</sup>

- 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, dried 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,<sup>2</sup> hear'd the Report of a Num-  
ber of Guns in the Offing at 8 the *Raven* stop'd a Brigg  
from Philadelphia<sup>3</sup> 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 GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

- 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 night<sup>2</sup> 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* <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

Fort Washington,<sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Glouster March [14] <sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>3</sup> 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 <sup>4</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 & Waggon's 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<sup>1</sup> (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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 krout, together with coal, cheese, &c. She also brought out 164 live hogs, but only 3 of them lived through the passage.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>th</sup> 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,<sup>3</sup> Capt. Manley drove on Shore, the Beginning of last Week, at Squam, near Salem.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Camp at Roxbury 14 March 1776

Sir The 2<sup>nd</sup> inst at night we began [a] cannonade & bombardment upon the Enemy, & continued it three nights successively; on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup>

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

2. Ward served as his father's aide-de-camp.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL REPORT UPON THE STRANDED BRITISH TRANSPORT  
*Friendship* <sup>1</sup>

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 Embezzlements 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 apprised 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 <sup>1</sup>

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 Dispatch 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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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

March 14th, 1776.

A copy of the examination of            Craigg 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 sheweth:

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 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 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.<sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 Enemies 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.<sup>2</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

##### 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 <sup>2</sup> 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.

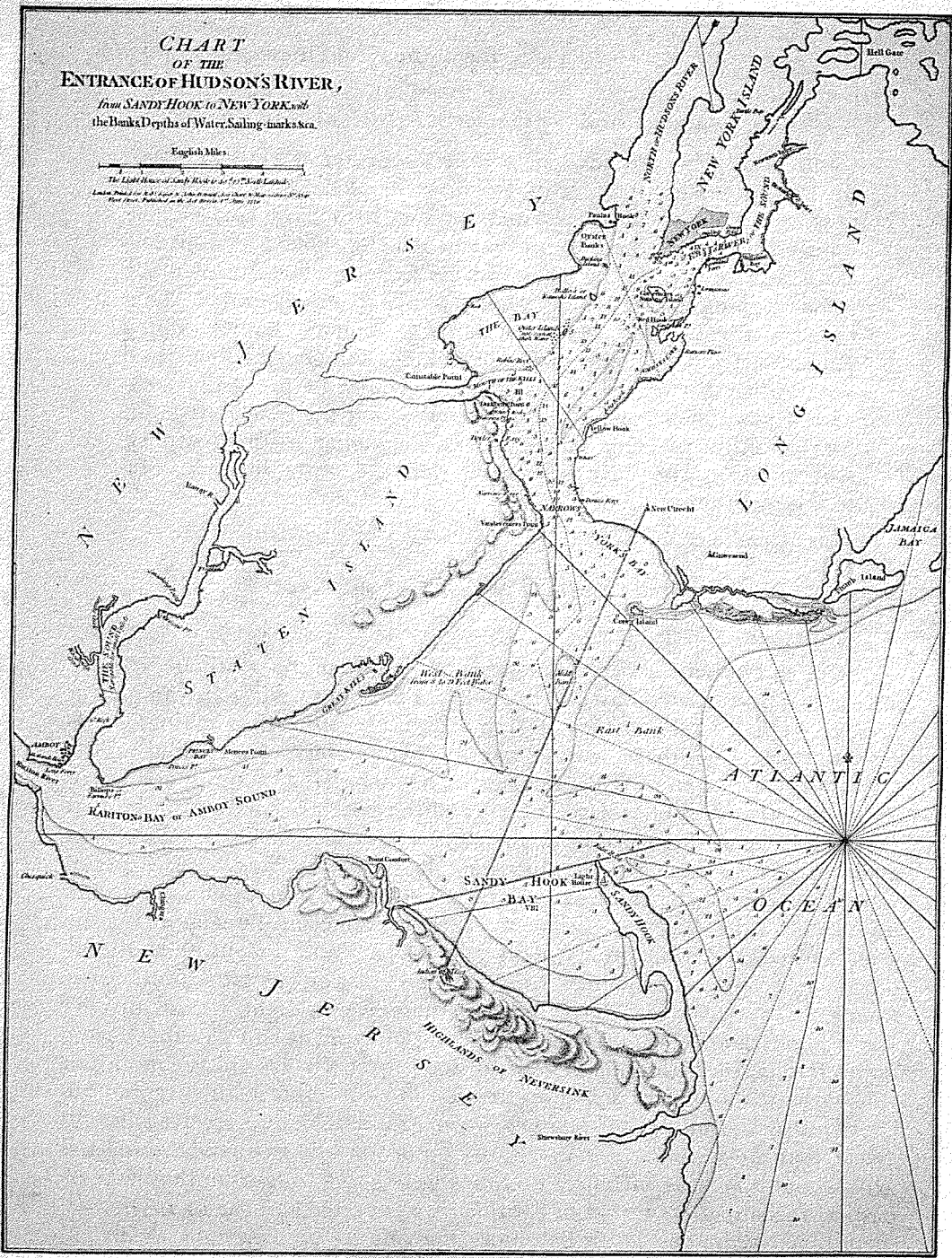
2. Captains respectively of the galley *Ranger*, the floating battery and the galleys *Chatham*, *Camden* and *Bull Dog*.

# 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 at Sandy Hook is at 40° 51' 30" N. Lat. and 74° 01' 30" W. Long. The Light-house at New York is at 40° 42' 30" N. Lat. and 74° 01' 30" W. Long. The Light-house at Fort Mifflin is at 39° 55' 30" N. Lat. and 75° 01' 30" W. Long. The Light-house at Fort Mifflin is at 39° 55' 30" N. Lat. and 75° 01' 30" W. Long.



MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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. <sup>2</sup>

[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 SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[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”<sup>1</sup>

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 SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[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 vessell.

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 <sup>1</sup>

*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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 –" <sup>1</sup>

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 desireing 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<sup>w</sup> Barkley  
James Grant

Edw<sup>d</sup> Thornborough  
John Stanhope  
John Maitland

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., AND MAJOR JAMES GRANT TO  
ANTHONY STOKES <sup>1</sup>

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 Tattnall, 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 MERCHANT <sup>1</sup>Cockspur, 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 Commodore'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. <sup>2</sup>

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 603.

2. Intercepted letter.

COUNT DE NOZIERES TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG <sup>1</sup>

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,<sup>1</sup> 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* <sup>1</sup>

Cape Ann SW 6 or 7 Leagues	Remarks on bd the <i>Hope</i> Fridy the 15th March 1776 Fresh Breezes and Clear, at 1½ 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 Vrible hoisted a Boat out and, Sent hir on Brd the Chace, found hir to be the Schooner <i>Buscowen</i> from No Carilina with Indian Corn took Charge of hir, <sup>2</sup>
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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" <sup>1</sup>

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	
			£432..6..5	
Advance at 75 – PCent			324..4..9	756..11..2
	21. a Bale	– Blanketts	36.18..6	
	22. a Bale	– Duffills	27.18..1½	
			£64.16..7½	
Adva at 100 PCent			64.16..7	129.13..2
	56. a Box	Linnens	91..7..6¾	
Adva at 200 PCent			182.14..7½	274..1.11
Card Over				£1160..6..3
Brot Over				£1160..6..3
CA. No	1. a Box	qt Cloths &c	145.18..4¾	
	8. a Box	Shalloons &c	91..8..3½	
			£237..6..8½	
Adva at 125 PCent			296.13..4	534..0..¼
	9. a Box	qt Linnens	30..4..9	
	10. a Box	Linnens &c	90..7.10½	
			£120.12..7½	
Adva at 150 PCent			180.18.10	301.11..5½
	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	
			£153.19..0	
Adva at 75 PCent			115..9..3	269..8..3
	19. a Bale	qt Cloths &c	£73..0..5½	
Adva at 125 PCent			91..5..6	164..5.11½
‡A. No	72. a Cask	qt Shoes	21.15..0	
	73. a Cask	Do	12..2..6	
			33.17..6	
Adva at 75. PCent			25..8..1	59..5..7
				£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..41½	
6 a Bale	Ozenbrigs	53.10..6¾	
		£124..8..1¼	
Adva at 250 PCent		311..0..2	435..8..3¼
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 - 1777 <sup>2</sup>

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 TALBOT <sup>1</sup>

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 NE 1½ N 1½ 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 1½ 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Friday 15 [March]. the Votes read & Letters from Gen Washington with a Packet of intercepted Letters,<sup>2</sup> and Two Letters from Arthur Lee to Wm Temple and brought by Him from England found in the Lining of his Cloaths <sup>3</sup> – 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. <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia, March 15] <sup>2</sup>

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 apointed 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 inlist 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 apointed 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 <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

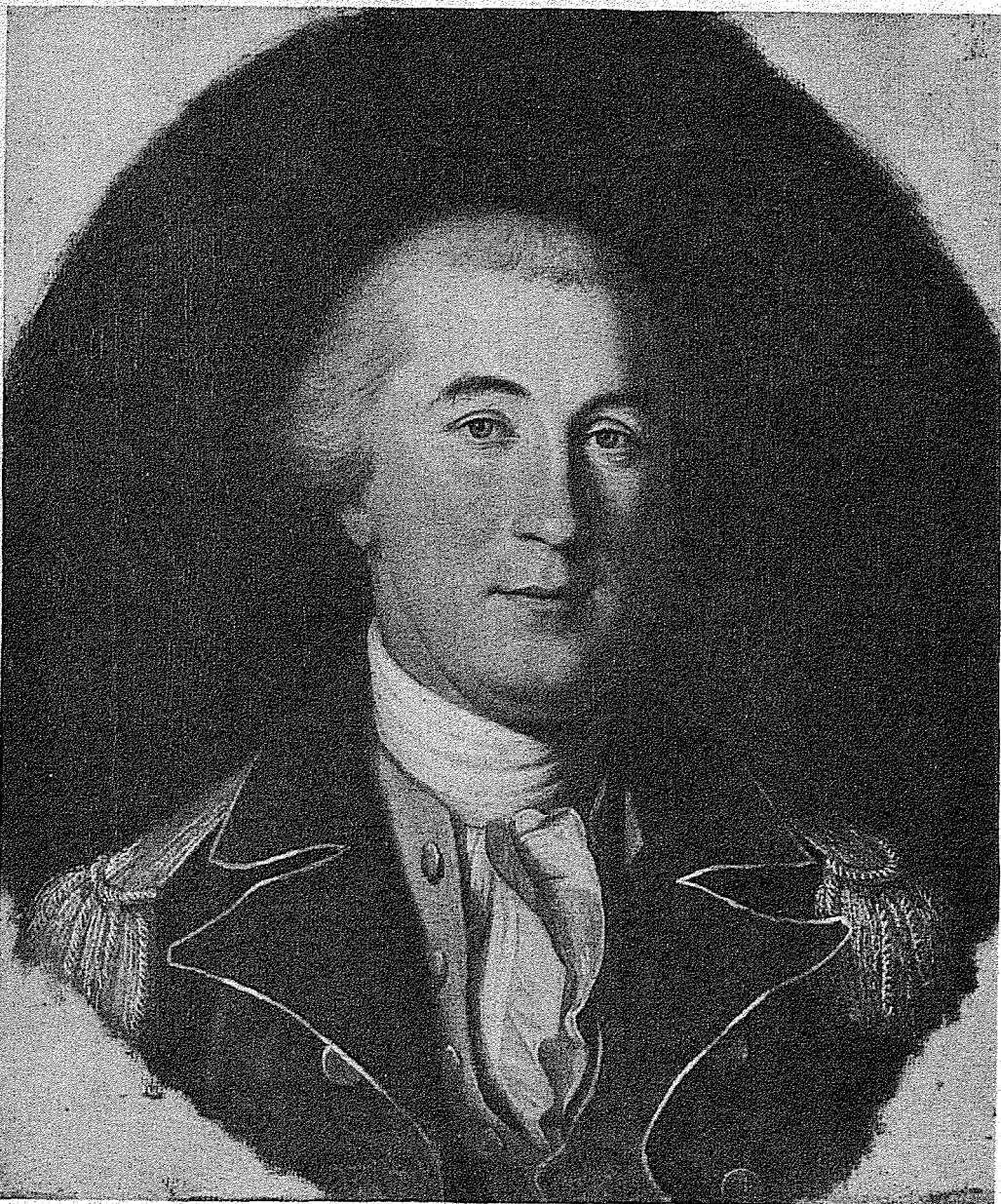
Philad March 15. 1776

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[o]n 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 <sup>1</sup>

##### 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* <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>m</sup> Lux

Baltimore 15 March 1776.

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

RECEIPTS FOR ARMS AND AMMUNITION RECEIVED FOR THE MARYLAND SHIP  
*Defence*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>o</sup> 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."<sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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 compleated 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

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.—<sup>2</sup>

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 Reeft the TP Sl's got down Top Gallt Yards at 11 dble reefed the TP Sl's 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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 LAURENS<sup>1</sup>

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; <sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 Holmess 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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. <sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New york 16 March 1776

Dear Sir

I had the pleasure of your favour of the 11 Inst which Conveyd 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<sup>m</sup> Lowther

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH. Joseph Hewes was a North Carolina delegate in the Continental Congress.



"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, MARCH 16." <sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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<sup>2</sup> 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:<sup>3</sup> no accounts of them since they Sailed. One of the French gentlemen of whom I wrote in my last is gone for France,<sup>4</sup> 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 SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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 COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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 geting 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<sup>m</sup> Lux depy Chn

John Boyd  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Merryman Junr  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Sterett.

Thomas Harrison  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Smith  
W<sup>m</sup> Buchanan

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

#### RECEIPT RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

[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, 1776<sup>2</sup>]

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 PARRY<sup>1</sup>

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 <i>Comite Packett</i> 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 <i>Falcon</i> <sup>2</sup> at 5 came in the brigt <i>Glasgow Packett</i> from Boston, with Soldiers,
Wednesy 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 <i>Mercury</i> 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 <i>Terrable</i> tender. Fresh breezes & Cloudy wear. came in the <i>Mercury</i> and <i>Falcons</i> tenders & a Sloop seiz'd by the <i>Mercury</i> <sup>3</sup>
Saturday 16th	A M came in the <i>Kitty</i> Transport with some troops.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

2. The sloop *Adventure*, Francis Boardman, master.

3. The sloop *Hope*, Andrew Brown, master.



WILLIAM EWEN TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., AND MAJOR  
JAMES GRANT <sup>1</sup>

[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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

[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;<sup>2</sup> 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 & loded a Sloop & from thence we sailed for New London." NLCHS.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK <sup>1</sup>

[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]
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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 Weater & 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 Carpenter Employd Corking Recevd on Bord 2 Cask of Weater [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*<sup>1</sup>

1st Gun

[New Providence, March 16, 1776]<sup>2</sup>

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	John Luton P.M. for	
1st & 2d Guns	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	John Powell P.M. for	
3d & 4th Guns—	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	Thomas Lyon Sta-	William Huddle
at the Starboard Side	tion'd on the Lar-	L[ieut]
the Forecastle—	board Side the Fore-	John Thompson
Matthew Brannon &	castle Barney Gaff	John Howell
Mathias Grimes	& John Stewart	Abraham Sing
		James Anslow

Joseph Evitts in his	Doctor [John] Wisen-	Benjamin Roberts
Slings	thall & Mate in the	at the Main Sheets
Nicholas Caldwell his	Cock Pitt—	
Mate		

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." <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>2</sup> – The Bearer will inform what intelligence 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 <sup>1</sup>

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