

# **Naval Documents of The American Revolution**

**Volume 6**

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

**Part 7 of 8**

**United States  
Government Printing Office  
Washington, 1972**

Electronically published by  
American Naval Records Society  
Bolton Landing, New York  
2012

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Harbour of Beaufort and for regulating the Pilotage of the said Harbour  
Read a Third Time in that House

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly Journals*, 109, 112.

13 Oct. (Sunday)

LIEUTENANT JOHN STARKE'S SKETCH OF THE WAR IN CANADA <sup>1</sup>

[Schooner *Maria*, October 11 to October 13]

. . . the Rebel Fleet was attacked and destroyed in the two different engagements, in the Lake Champlain, on the 11th and 13 of October 1776 — By this Victory the command of the Navigation of the Lake was regained; the Province of Quebec was secured from future invasions; and the Army whose operations had been impeded until this object was attained, had now scope to act — The Season of the year being far advanced, the expedition against Ticonderoga was postponed until the following year.

1. Lieutenant Starke's Narrative, NMM.

"A LIST OF HIS MAJESTY'S ARM'D VESSELS, GUN BOATS &c. SERVING ON  
LAKE CHAMPLAIN DURING THE CAMPAIGN 1776."<sup>1</sup>

How Rigg'd	No of Men	No of Guns	Wt of Metal				
			24 Ps	12 Ps	9 Ps	6 Ps	Swivels
Ship	120	17	<i>Inflexible</i>				
Schooner		14	<i>Maria</i>				
Schooner	45	12	<i>Carleton</i>				
Ketch	35		<i>Thunderer</i>				
Hoy	35	7	<i>Royal Convert</i>				
			Gun Boats				
	247						

1. Provincial Marine, 1764-1784 (RG 8, "C" Series, vol. 722A), DAC.

"A LIST OF THE NAMES &C OF REBEL VESSELS TAKEN BY HIS  
MAJESTY'S FLEET ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN OCTR 13TH  
IN THE YEAR 1776."<sup>1</sup>

How Rigg'd	No of Guns	Weight of Metal				
		18 P.	12 P.	9 P.	4 P.	2 P.

*Washington*

Galley	12	1	1	2	6	2
--------	----	---	---	---	---	---

*Lee*

Sloop	6		1	1	4	
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*Jersey*

Hoy	3		1	2		
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Remarks

The *Jersey* taken 12th Octr 1776

The *Washington* 13 " "

The *Lee* 15 " "

1. Provincial Marine, 1764-1784 (RG 8, "C" Series, vol. 722A), DAC.

DIARY OF JOSHUA PELL, JR.<sup>1</sup>

[Pointe au Fer]

13th October - On the appearance of our Squadron before Crown point, the Rebels destroy'd the works, and quit it with precipitation. General Carlton was on board the *Maria* during the whole action, and the whole behav'd with the greatest perseverance and magnanimity.

1. "Diary of Joshua Pell, Jr.," *Magazine of American History*, II, 46.

DIARY OF DR. LEWIS BEEBE<sup>1</sup>

[Ticonderoga] Sunday 13th [October] . . . This day a boat arrived express from the fleet: which informed, that our fleet was attacked by British Butchers on fryday 11th which continued the greatest part of the day, that on Saturday 12th our fleet retreated near split rock; where they lay in sight of the enemy; their army being a little in the rear in flat bottom Boats. This morning the fleets engaged the second time; as we heard an almost incessant fire from day break till afternoon. What damage is done on either side, we have as yet not heard.

1. "Beebe's Journal," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, LIX, 353, 354.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM HARLEM, OCTOBER 13."<sup>1</sup>

Yesterday morning about 4000 of the enemy landed at Fogg's or Frog's [Throg] Point, in the sound, about 6 miles above us: a detachment was im-

mediately sent to oppose them: The enemy got possession of the point, but as I was informed last night had made no farther progress. Our people, I am told, had taken up a bridge which was there, and felled trees across the road, to obstruct them till a reinforcement could arrive. In the afternoon 42 sail passed the mouth of Harlem river, in their way to the point; they consisted of sloops, schooners, brigs and 9 ships. I expect there will be bloody work there to-day. From the number of men landed and the ships which went up, I think this can be no feint, but that the main body of Howe's army must be there, and that there he intends to make his Coup-de-Main. This week will probably finish the campaign. — Upon the arrival of the ships at Dobbs' ferry they landed some men and plundered a store-house. I suppose those men who landed yesterday are to go across that country, and form a line from Frog's point to Tarrytown, 4 miles above Dobb's ferry, where the ships lie, but in this I expect they will be mistaken.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, October 16, 1776.

SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS  
TO BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS MIFFLIN<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philada October 13th 1776

Sir We have the pleasure to inclose you herein an Invoice of Some Cloths and Blankets lately imported into Rhode Island on Continental account<sup>2</sup> and the Congress have directed the whole to be applyed to the use of the Army, wherefore we also inclose herein an order to Messrs Nicholas & John Brown in whose care they are, to deliver them to your Order —

It is recommended to you by Congress to have the Cloths made up immediately into Soldiers Cloaths and you will consider whether it may be best to have them made in Rhode Island & Connecticut or by the Taylors in the Army or whether it may be best to employ all the Taylors at each place. . . .

1. *Continental Congress Miscellany*, 1775-79, LC.

2. *Ibid.*, the detailed invoice of goods imported from France on board the ship *Happy Return*, Captain Gideon Crawford, which were landed at Providence.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN NATHANIEL FALCONER<sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Philadelphia] October 13th 1776. —

We are in great want of Coals to make anchors and other Smiths work for the frigates here, and as you are going on public business into the States of Connecticut, Rhode Island Massachuset & New Hampshire you may probably meet with some Coals fit for Smiths use, that have been or may be taken on board some of the Prizes sent into those places. Should that happen we request you will purchase as many as will load two Schooners or Sloops and send them to us immediately For this purpose we desire you will buy two fast Sailing Marble head Schooners or Sloops that will sail and carry well, buy them cheap as possible and if you get coals send them here



directly. If you get the Schooners but cannot get the Coals, then put some Salt, Sugars, or rum on board as much in value as you think will pay for a load of Coals for each at about 2/ per bushel and dispatch them with the same immediately for James's River Virginia consigned to the Honble Benjamin Harrison Esqr inclosing him an Invoice of the Goods you send and advising him to sell those goods and load the Vessel with coals immediately dispatching the same to us. You will take care to procure active good Masters, Mates and men, and manage the whole to the best advantage for the public and as you have this and other business to transact we deliver you herewith Four thousand Dollars for which you are to account on your return. We also give you letters of Credit & recommendation to the Continental Agents in each state and a warrant authorizing you to survey the Continental Frigates at Rhode Island, but since this was agreed to, we have heard those frigates are compleated and ready for the sea which we hope may be true. We are Sir [&c.]

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 32-33, NA.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO THE CONTINENTAL  
AGENTS IN NEW ENGLAND <sup>1</sup>

Circular

To Nathl Shaw junr esq Danl Tillinghast. esq John Bradford esq John Langdon esq	}	[Philadelphia] October 13th 1776.
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Sir

This will be delivered to you by Nathaniel Falconer esqr a Gentleman in our service and who has in charge to execute some business for us in yours or the neighbouring States. Should he stand in need of your assistance we hope it will be readily afforded him, and if he wants money you may depend that his drafts will be paid. We recommend this Gentleman to your freindly attention and are Sir [&c.]

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 33, NA.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO THE RHODE ISLAND  
FRIGATE COMMITTEE <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

[Philadelphia] October 13th 1776

We fear our orders of the 9th Instant for sending aSet of Cannon from your State to New Hampshire may not be so proper as we thought them at the time of Signing, because we are since informed through several Channels [that your frigates] are quite or very near fit for the Sea, which is avery different account from that which caused us to send that order, therefore to prevent inconvenience or disadvantage to the public service we dis-

patch this immediately after the other and desire you may not forward the said Cannon to Portsmouth if your Ships are actually ready for service, for our view is only to get such of the frigates as are ready into action, and it matters not to us whether it be yours or the New Hampshire frigate that goes first, but you will still answer what we have said to Governor Hopkins respecting Cannon. We are Gentlemen [&c.]

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 33-34, NA.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO JOHN LANGDON<sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Philadelphia] October 13th 1776

Since sending you our Order of the 9th instant we are well informed that the Frigates at Rhode Island are ready for sea and if that is really the case it would be improper to strip them of the Cannon to send them to you. We have now wrote the Committee to keep their Cannon if their Ships are actually fit for service, for we did not mean by the former order to give a preference, it was our design only to prevent the Guns from lying useless there when you wanted them: but we desire them to tell us whether they will not cast another set and on what terms. We are Sir [&c.]

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 34, NA.

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

[Philadelphia] Octr 13th 1776

. . . the prize Ship<sup>2</sup> Coming thro' the chivea de frize Got hurt So as they were obliged to unload & keep the Pumps going till arrived in town then run her ashoar at Hodge wharffe, and were busie unloading her Cargo this day on the Sd wharves &c

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

2. The *Thetis*.

14 Oct.

CAPTAIN GEORGE COLLIER TO CAPTAIN HENRY MOWAT, R.N.<sup>1</sup>

By Sir George Collier Commander of  
His Majesty's Ship *Rainbow* and  
Senior Captain of His Majesty's  
Ships in the Harbour of Halifax.

In consequence of a Representation from Captain John Burr of His Majesty's Ship *Milford*, of his very bad state of Health rendering him incapable of going to Sea at present.

You are hereby required and directed to repair on board the said Ship and take upon you the Command of her 'till further Order; strictly charging and Commanding all the officers and Company of the said Ship to be-

have themselves with all due respect and obedience to you their said Commander: and you likewise to observe the General Printed Instructions as what orders and Directions You shall from time to time receive from me, or any other your Superior Officers, for His Majestys Service; for which this shall be your order.

Given on board His Majesty's Ship *Rainbow* in the Harbour of Halifax the 14th of October 1776 —

Geo Collier

To Captain Henry Mowat hereby appointed Acting Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Milford*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2124, 14, 4.

TRIAL AND VERDICT IN HALIFAX VICE ADMIRALTY COURT  
OF THE RECAPTURED BRITISH SHIP *Hester*<sup>1</sup>

Nova Scotia } Cause  
Court of Vice } Henry Bellew Esqr Commander of his Majestys Ship of  
Admiralty } War the *Liverpool* VS the Ship *Hester* & Cargo a Recapture —

Thursday } Libel filed and entre'd Order made thereon as on file  
Octr 3. 1776 }

Hugh Goold Purser of his Majestys Ship of War the *Liverpool* being Duly Sworne deposes that on or about the 20th of September last the Ship *Hester* whereof was one David Crombie Master was taken by the *Liverpool* Man of War on Georges Banks bound to New England that the said Ship had been before taken (as the Deponant was Informed) by a Privateer fitted out from the Colonies now in Rebellion calle'd the *Collumbus* mounting 32 Guns in the Lattitude 36° Longitude about 50" that the papers are in the possession of the Master David Crombie

Hugh Goold

5th Octobr 1776 Sworn to before me

Charles Morris junr

Monday 7th } Court open'd by makeing Proclamation as usual & ad-  
Octobr 1776 - } journ'd to thursday 10th Instant, no Claimant haveing appear'd

10th Octobr } Court open'd by makeing Proclamation as usual David  
1776 - } Crombie the Master appear'd & entre'd his Claim to the Ship *Hester* and Cargo as on file —  
Deposition of David Crombie taken before the Register read as follows.

Nova Scotia } David Crombie Master of the Ship *Hester* being Duly  
Court of Vice } Sworne Deposeth as follows that on or about the 28th of  
Admiralty } August last Lattitude 39°40" Longitude 48°45" he was taken by a Rebel Privateer from some of the Colonies now

in Rebellion call'd the *Collumbus* whereof was Master one Abraham Whipple mounting 28 Carrige Gunns. that they took out all his People and put on board 14 of the Privateers men that they then shap'd their Course for some Port in New England, that on or about the 21st of September the Deponant fell in with Captn Henry Bellew of his Majestys Ship *Liverpool* on Georges Banks who retook the said Ship *Hester* and brought her into this Port of Halifax —

David Crombie

Sworn to before me this 10th Day of Octobr 1776

Charles Morris junr Regr —

Octobr 14th 1776 — Court open'd by making Proclamation as usual  
The Libel Order and return thereon read  
The Depositions taken before the Register also read  
Then the Claim was read as on file  
The Warrant of Appraisement and return was also read  
William Nesbitt Esqr his Majestys Advocate General in this Court then move'd for a Decree in this Cause  
Which the Judge order'd to be Pronounc'd as on file  
whereby the Claimant was orderd to pay to Henry Bellew Esqr his Officers and Crew one neat eighth part of the true value of the Ship *Hester* and her Cargo in lieu of all salvage —  
Court adjourn'd without Day in this Cause —

1. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, N.S. Arch.

*Boston Gazette*, MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1776

Watertown, October 14.

The Cargo of the Prize Brig taken and sent into Marblehead by Captain [Jonathan] Greely (as mentioned in our last) is as follows, viz. 56896 wt. Bread, 8020 wt. Pork, 256 Bushels and 7 Gallons Pease, 257 Bushels Oatmeal, 16000 wt. Beef, 12000 wt. Flour, 4136 wt. Rice, 4101 wt. Raisins, 165 Gallons Oil, 437 d[o] Vinegar, 3500 do Spirits, 4645 wt of Butter, and 460 dozen Candles.<sup>1</sup>

Monday last was sent into Boston, a prize ship, upwards, 300 tons, from London for New York, with like articles above-mentioned, only with the addition of four 3 pounders & 6 swivels. Taken by Capt. Silas Atkins, jun.<sup>2</sup>

Same day Capt. Forrest [Simon Forrester] return'd to Salem from a cruize,<sup>3</sup> in which he has taken 5 prizes, one of which is of considerable value, as the bills of laden of her cargo that is come to hand amounts to £36,000 sterling. Capt. Forrest put his prisoners ashore at Cape Finister, where he was inform'd that the Spaniards had made a public Declaration of War against Portugal, and were ravaging the frontiers of that kingdom.

Capt. John Lee, of Newburyport, in a Schooner of 6 Guns, has taken

and sent into the Eastward, a Ship of 16 Guns, bound from London for New York. We have not heard the Contents of her Cargo.<sup>4</sup>

1. The snow *St. George*, taken by Greeley in the Massachusetts privateer brig *Speedwell*.
2. The ship *George*, taken by Atkins in the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Boston*.
3. Forrester commanded the Massachusetts privateer sloop *Rover*.
4. The ship *Nancy*, John Cowan, master, taken by Lee in the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Hawke*.

ACCOUNT BOOK OF WILLIAM SEVER<sup>1</sup>

Kingston October 14th 1776

Sloop <i>Elizabeth</i> to me as Agent <sup>2</sup>	Dr		
To Bill of Cost pr the Register	8.13.3		
advertising cargo for Sale	4.-		
Cash pd Isaac Bartlett for pilotage	3.18.-		
Portage Bill for Do Sloop	87.13.2	100..8..5	

1. Sever Account Book, 266. Courtesy of Captain and Mrs. Noel Sever O'Reilly, Glenview, Illinois.
2. The sloop *Elizabeth*, 30 tons burden, Thomas Ludlow, master, was libeled in the Maritime Court of the Southern District of Massachusetts on September 12 for trial October 1, 1776, *New-England Chronicle*, September 12, 1776.

DIEDERRICK WISE, MASTER OF THE BRITISH BRIGANTINE *Ann*,  
TO HIS OWNERS<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Swansy Octr 14: 1776 —

I make no doubt but before this you have heard [from] Mr Conningham of the Missfortune of our being taken by an American Privatier who I unluckily fell in with in the Latd of 35 No & Longd 53 Wt after having been three weeks at Sea from St Vincents the Privatier was a Sloop mounting ten Carriage Guns 14 Swivells & had 85 men on Board,<sup>2</sup> Since wich I have arrived at the above port & your Vessell & Cargo Condemn'd & Sold as a prize to said Sloop, for my own part am at Present under no Confinement & am used Verry well But Cant has yett form any Judgment when I shall gett Clear has all Masters of Vesells are kept to be exchang'd as Prisoners & no Carteell as yett settled nor any ways likely to be. they prizes come in here Dayley more or less not a petty seaport to the Northwd but has more or less but hope this will soon be put stop to. I send these few lines by a Capt Deane via Serranam wich he promises to forward to St Vincents Inclosed in a letter for Mr Barton you must [excuse] my not being Particular as We are Verry Cautious what we write I remain Gentlemen [&c.]

D Wise

1. Copy from log book of brigantine *Ann*, EI.
2. Sloop *Revenge* of Salem, Captain Benjamin Warren.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN HOYSTEED HACKER <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Newport October 14th. 1776

You are with the Brigantine *Ham[p]den* under your Command to go out on a Cruise, and endeavour all in your power to distress the Enemies of the United States of America – You are to Take all Vessels with Goods, bound to any of the Enemies Ports, and send such of them into Port for Tryal as you shall judge worth your while; and others you may Destroy, first taking the People out –

You may Cruise as Long as you can Conveniently keep your Vessel fit for that Service – I think you will do your Country most good by Cruising in such places as will be most likely to meet with the Store Ships bound to Newyork for the Supply of General Howes Army –

My Orders was to Send you to annoy the Trade at Newfoundland but I imagine that is too late – If you should think proper to go that way it will be best to Steer down in the Lattitude of about 30 or 40. which I think will be the likeliest to meet with Vessels bound to Newyork. I am Sir Your Friend

E. H.

To Hoysteed Hacker Esquire  
Commander of the Brigantine *Ham[p]den*  
in the Service of the United States of  
North America

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO DUNSCOME & FRAZER, NEW PROVIDENCE <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Newport Rhode Island October 14th 1776

The bearer Captn Israel Ambrose<sup>2</sup> who has a Letter of Credit, from Messrs Brown, Arnold, Salter and Wall – if it should Suit your Convenience to Supply the Captain with any Goods or money, you may depend, that the above Merchants are Men of Estate and Veracity, and you may Safely give them Credit for such Sum as they Require –

As to News there is none more than you will find in the Newspapers the Captain will have with him –

I flatter myself that I have been some Service to the Inhabitants of your Island, by getting your Vessels and Property left out of the declaration which the Congress made against the Property of British Subjects – I am with Esteem Gentlmn [&c.]

E. H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Ambrose commanded the Rhode Island armed sloop *Snowbird*, 4 guns and 20 men. She cleared for the Bahama Islands on October 17, 1776, with a cargo of flour, corn, onions, potatoes and butter. Account of Permissions granted by his Honor the Governor, R. I. Arch.

BARNABAS DEANE TO JEREMIAH WADSWORTH<sup>1</sup>

My Dear Sir

Wethersfield 14th Octor 1776

Your favr of 9th Inst is before me by which I find you have Your Share of Disappointments as well as my Self – my Own I will not mention Except the Loss of my Brig<sup>2</sup> with a fine Parcell of Molases Last Tuesday off Montock Point, the People got off in their Long Boat & Left the Brig for the Frigates – Simeon [Deane] is going to Phila he will Call on you & Inform you how matters go on with the Ship &c

I have wrote the Marine Comte[e] for 15 Tonn of the Cordage that was Sent up North River for the Frigates Building there, If he Can get the Order he will Take your Direction or Leave it with you to forward – Capt Mortimer is as Contrary as the Devil Can make him I Can do Nothing with him he now wants 2/ p lb for his Cordage & Will not hear Abt Any Agreement – I have a Number of Long Letters to Write & Can Only add That I am Dr Sir [&c.]

Bar<sup>s</sup> Deane

To Jerh Wadsworth Esqr Saw pitt Rye  
favd by Mr Sim Deane

1. Barnabas Deane Papers, ConnHS.
2. *The Batchelor*.

JOHN COTTON TO BARNABAS DEANE<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Middletown, Octbr 14th 1776

I Recd yours by Capn [Dudley] Saltonstall this Morning and a Greeable have waited on Capn Mortimer, his Ansr to Me is You Shall have the Riging att the Last price which is 1/6 p lb Capn Saltonstall has been with Capn Willis for the flour which I will Take to the Beaker and there have it Made into Bread Giving You the Invoice of What I Deliver him I am Sorrey the Ship is Detained by the Black Smith, as we Wait Very Much for him, I am Likewise Sorry for the Loss of yr Brig – Excuse My hurrey [&c.]

John Cotton

1. Barnabas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

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

[Extract]

Say Brook 14th Octr 1776.

Last Wednesday I had a Conference with Governour Trumbull at New Haven, I laid before him the Plan I had formed for our Expedition, which was as follows, we were immediately to engage fourteen Hundred Ton of Vessels, Seven Hundred of which, being Sufficient to carry our whole Detachment, were to be Stationed at Oyster pond Point, with Instructions to

wait till farther Orders from us unless disturbed by the Enemies Shipping, when that happened, they were to make some secure Port on the Continent; and whenever Danger disappeared they were to resume their Stations. the Other Seven Hundred Tons are to be Stationed at Satauket about Twenty Miles farther westward with the Like Instructions that in case we should be baffled at one Place we may proceed to the other we will have as I am informed by Governour Trumbull Ninety Whale Boats they will Land Nine Hundred Men at a Time, they are not yet arrived at New London but are expected in to Night. To morrow I fancy they will be here. they are to take in their Detachment and proceed for Fairfield from whence we are to land as many Men as we Conveniently Can on the west side of Huntington in order to cut off the Communication of Three Companies of Troops Stationed at that Place, as soon as this can be effected, the Whale-Boats are to Proceed to Mill Creek and Carry across into Southold Harbour where they are to wait for us unless Circumstances permit us with Safety and Secrecy to get them into South Bay, if that should be the Case they are to follow us as far as Huntington and take in our Baggage in Case Necessity should Oblige us to Make a Retreat, Head Quarters on Long Island are now made at Flushing about Twenty Eight Miles from Huntington where a Guard is kept; the Inhabitants are much Oppressed being Prohibited threshing their Grain or Selling their Hay, which Transports are now Loading with at Huntington all the Vessels they Could lay their hands on have been Taken up and ordered to Flushing where their Guard is kept no other part of the Island except that Place and Huntington being Guarded excep a few Men in the Forts Opposite the N York Major [Robert] Rogers is at Huntington tho I cannot hear that he has the Command. The Accounts I have now given You may be depended on, they are given by a Brother to one of our Lieutenants who has been Concealed among them for some time, but has at length made his escape with three others and got Safe to this side, the Enemy were in pursuit of him when he came away. . . . I expect it will be the latter end of the Week before our Desent will be made. I shall with all my Powers forward it — tho' Govr Trumbull is of Oppinion the force allowed is not adequate to the Undertaking tho' I cant help Differing from his Honour in this Particular. . . .

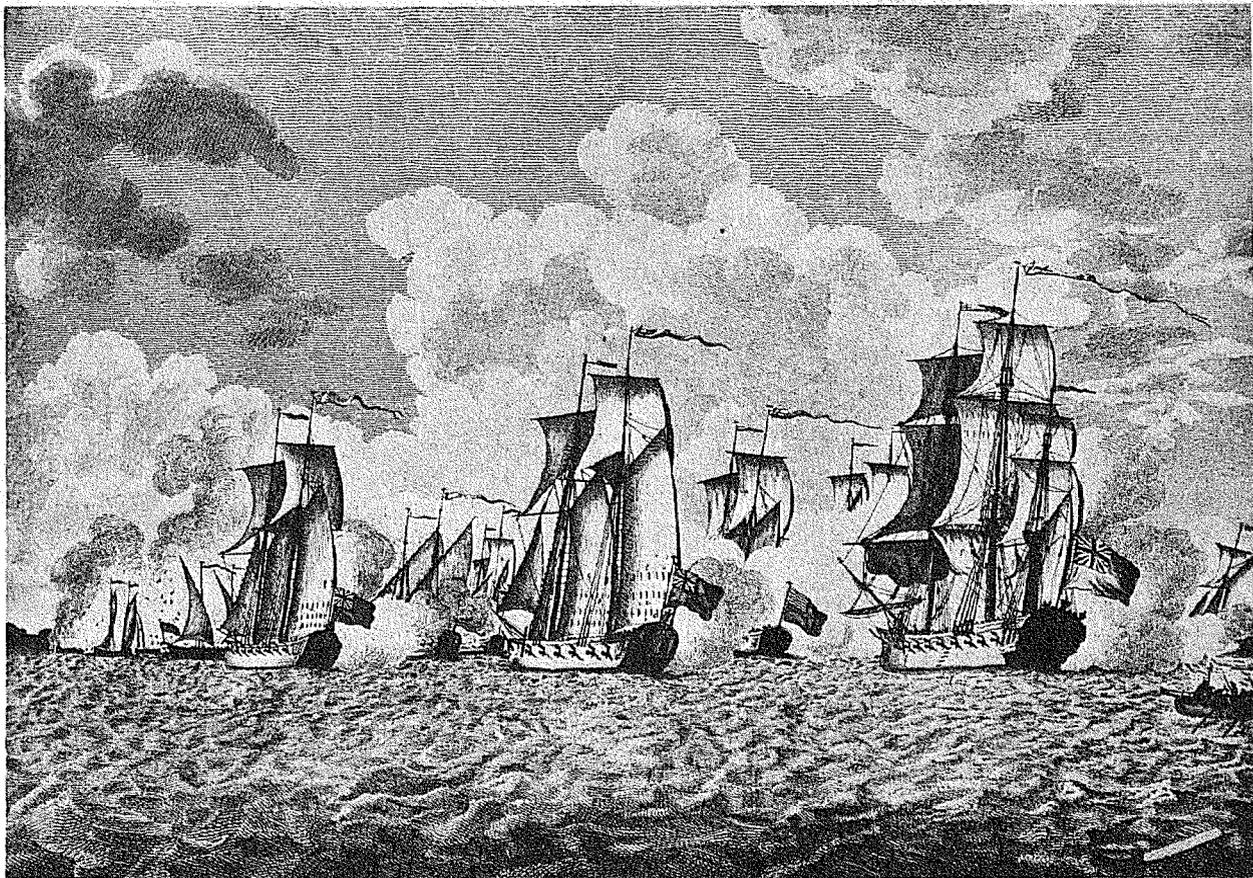
1. Washington Papers, LC.

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

Sir

New Haven October 14th 1776

By Capt [Jehiel] Tinker am informed of the misfortune and situation of the Row Galleys sent into the Continental service from this State; and as circumstances are altered respecting them since my last to you upon the subject of dismissing their Crews and Arms, must again request your attention to that matter — That the Crew of the *Crane* Capt Tinker, who escaped may be dismissed, and admitted to return to the employment of this



REFERENCES.

*N<sup>o</sup>. 1. Anthony's Ship. 2. Carlton Schooner. 3. Maria Schooner. 4. George's Galley run a Shore with other Vessels blowing up. 5. Washington Galley striking. 6. Gun Boat sinking up.*

*Battle of Valcour Island.*

State, and that if the Crews of the other two Galleys can be of no further service to you they may likewise be dismissed, of one or both, as you see fit, as we can employ them to advantage on board our armed vessels fitting out, into which Service they are desirous of entering. The Galleys being employed in the service of the Continent, are esteemed to be at the Continental care and risque. This State readily submit to Your Excellencys direction what is requisite and proper relative to the Men and their Arms — I am with Esteem and Regard Sir [&c.]

J - T — 1

1. Trumbull Papers, XXIX, Letter Book IV, 368, ConnSL.

GOVERNOR SIR GUY CARLETON TO CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS, R. N.<sup>1</sup>

[No.] 197

Off Crown Point 14th October 1776

Sir It will no doubt give you pleasure to learn, that the armament, to the fitting out of which you so much contributed, has answered so well the end for which it was intended by having already given the Rebel fleet a total defeat. The 11th Instant we found fifteen sail of them behind the Island of Valcour, not expecting our visit so soon, our attack, that day, was only with a part of our force, the *Carleton* and the Gun boats, and tho we had as we thought cut the enemys retreat off, they nevertheless gave us the slip in the night; but on the 13th we got up with them again, and from the effects of both days, for the particulars of which I refer you to Lieutenant [James Richard] Dacres, only three of their vessells, have escaped, the rest being destroyed or taken.

The Gallant behaviour of Lieutenant Dacres induces me to beg you will permit him to go home with my dispatches both to Lord Sandwich and Lord George Germaine. I am &c

1. Guy Carleton Letter Book, Haldimand Papers, Additional Ms. 21699, BM. A copy which Captain Douglas forwarded to the Lords of the Admiralty is erroneously dated October 15, 1776, PRO, Colonial Office, 5/125, 81d.

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

On Board the *Maria* off Crown Point,

October 14, 1776.

My Lord,

The Rebel Fleet upon Lake Champlain has been intirely defeated in two Actions; the first on the 11th Instant, between the Island of Valcourt and the Main; and the second on the 13th, within a few Leagues of Crown Point.

We have taken Mr. Waterbury, the Second in Command, One of their Brigadier Generals, with Two of their Vessels, and Ten others have been burnt and destroyed; only Three of Fifteen Sail, a List of which I transmit, having escaped. For farther Particulars I refer your Lordship to Lieutenant Dacres, who will be the Bearer of this Letter, and had a Share in both

Actions, particularly the first, where his gallant Behaviour in the *Carleton* Schooner, which he commanded, distinguished him so much as to merit great Commendation; and I beg to recommend him to your Lordship's Notice and Favour; at the same Time I cannot omit taking Notice to your Lordship of the good Service done, in the first Action, by the spirited Conduct of a Number of Officers and Men of the Corps of Artillery, who served the Gun Boats, which, together with the *Carleton*, sustained for many Hours the whole Fire of the Enemy's Fleet, the rest of our Vessels not being able to work up near enough to join effectually in the Engagement.

The Rebels, upon the News reaching them of the Defeat of their Naval Force, set Fire to all the Buildings and Houses in and near Crown Point, and retired to Ticonderoga.

The Season is so far advanced, that I cannot yet pretend to inform your Lordship whether any Thing farther can be done this Year. I am, &c.

Guy Carleton.

List of the Rebel Vessels on Lake Champlain, before their Defeat.

Schooners.	{	<i>Royal Savage</i> , 8 Six-pounders and 4 Four-pounders — went on Shore, was set Fire to, and blown up.
		<i>Revenge</i> , 4 Six-pounders and 4 Four-pounders — Escaped.
		A Sloop of 10 Four-pounders — Escaped.
Row	{	<i>Congress</i> , 2 Eighteen-pounders in the Bow, 2 Twelve and 2 Two-pounders in Stern, and 6 Six-pounders in the Sides — Blew up.
Gallies.		<i>Washington</i> , same Force — Taken.
		<i>Trumble</i> ditto — Escaped.
		The <i>Lee</i> , A cutter, [1] Nine-pounder in the Bow, 1 Twelve pounder in the Stern, and 4 Six-pounders in Sides — Run into a Bay, and not known whether destroyed.
Gondolas	{	<i>Boston</i> , 1 Eighteen-pounder in the Bow, 2 Twelve-pounders in Sides — Sunk.
		<i>Jersey</i> — Ditto — Taken.
		One, Name unknown, same Force — Run on Shore.
		Five, Ditto, Ditto — Blown up.

Other Vessels in the Action

A Schooner, 8 Four-pounders — Sent from their Fleet for Provisions.

A Galley, said to be of greater Force than those mentioned above — Fitting out at Ticonderoga.

G. C.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN GEORGE PAUSCH<sup>1</sup>

[Windmill-Point, Lake Champlain]

11th [October] We raised our anchor, and, with a favorable wind, got very early under sail. At 5 o'clock in the morning, we received orders to get in readiness for an engagement. About half after ten, we heard the sound of artillery; and soon after, under a splendid and auspicious wind, all the batteaux met the enemy's ships in a bay behind an island. The first sight, encountered by our advance guard, was a frigate of the enemy stuck fast on a stone cliff or island and abandoned; and soon after we saw two other frigates sending forth a lively fire. Besides this they had several armed gondolas, which, one after another, emerged from a small bay of the island firing rapidly and effectively. Every once in a while they would vanish in order to get breath, and again suddenly reappear.

Our attack with about 27 batteaux armed with 24, 12, and 6 pound cannon and a few howitzers became very fierce; and, after getting to close quarters, very animated. But now our frigates approached. One of them, the "*Maria*," having His Excellency; von Carleton on board, advanced and opened a lively cannonade. This one was replaced by the frigate "*Carleton*;" and as she in turn retreated, the "*Inflexible*" took her place only to retreat as the others had done. One of the enemy's frigates two of which were at echelier, or rather at echelon, one behind the other, began to careen over on one side, but in spite of this continued her fire. The cannon of the Rebels were well served; for, as I saw afterwards, our ships were pretty well mended and patched up with boards and stoppers.

Close to one o'clock in the afternoon, this naval battle began to get very serious. Lieut. Dufais came very near perishing with all his men; for a cannon ball from the enemy's guns going through his powder magazine, it blew up. He kept at a long distance to the right. The sergeant, who served the cannon on my batteau, was the first one who saw the explosion, and called my attention to it as I was taking aim with my cannon. At first, I could not tell what men were on board; but directly, a chest went up into the air, and after the smoke had cleared away, I recognized the men by the cords around their hats. Dufais's batteau came back burning; and I hurried toward it to save, if possible, the Lieutenant and his men, for, as an additional misfortune, the batteau was full of water. All who could, jumped on board my batteau, which being thus overloaded, came near sinking. At this moment, a Lieutenant of artillery by the name of Smith, came with his batteau to the rescue, and took on board the Lieutenant, Bombadier Engell, and one cannonier. The remainder of Dufais's men, viz: nine cannoniers and nine sailors remained with me; and these, added to my own force of 10 cannoniers, 1 drummer, 1 Sergeant, 1 boy and 10 sailors — in all 48 persons — came near upsetting my little boat, which was so over-loaded that it could hardly move. In what a predicament was I? Every moment I was in danger of drowning with all on board, and in the company, too, of those I had just rescued and who had been already half lost! It being, by this time, nearly eve-

ning, the batteaux retired. The Radeau arrived at dusk because, although we had a favorable wind, it was light, and it made, in consequence, but little headway. Any way, the two 4 pounders did their best, in firing at the frigates of the enemy. The distance, however, was too great, so that no ball was effective, and the approach of night prevented our advancing nearer. This night a chain was formed of all the batteaux; and every one had to be wide awake and on the alert. The Captain's frigate, which had run aground, was set on fire at dusk by the orders of his Excellency; and her ammunition, blowing up, caused a fine fire lasting all night. Up to this time, nothing more occurred; for the enemy's frigates remained in the same place where they had acted on the defensive.

[12] Toward morning, however, it was clear that they had escaped. A pursuit was begun and some vessels were captured. Five large and small vessels, which had entered a bay on the left shore were set on fire and abandoned by the enemy.

[13] The following night, my batteau, together with some other armed English batteaux, lost sight of the fleet on the Lake; and we were thus forced to continue rowing by guess-work the entire night that we might not be left behind. The next morning at day-break, we were lucky enough to meet a few English vessels which had met with the same experience as I had. Others followed in my rear, so that I arrived in time (ahead of some and behind others) at 9 o'clock A.M. at Crown-Point.

During our last engagement, Lieut. Dufais lost one cannonier named Rosemer, who was shot dead, and the drummer Pillant, and the pilot, who were burned up. A sailor, also, lost his leg by the same ball that killed the cannonier, and which dug a hole under the gun-carriage three inches above water mark. During this time all ate and drank rum and water together — officers as well as men; and for a change, water and rum! Salt meat and Zweibach, continued to be our food.

1. *Journal of Captain Pausch Chief of the Hanau Artillery During the Burgoyne Campaign.* Translated and Annotated by William L. Stone (Albany, 1886), 82-85.

#### DIARY OF DR. LEWIS BEEBE <sup>1</sup>

[Ticonderoga] Monday 14th [October] Last evening about sunset two Schooners, one shallop, 1 Gundalo and one Row galley; being the whole of our fleet which remained out of 16 sail that were not destroyed or taken by the enemy, arrived at the Garrison. Several of our vessels were obliged to strike to them, some being disabled by their shot made for the shore, ran aground, set fire to their vessels and made their escape, and this evening upwards of 160 have arrived safe in Camp. A flag, from the enemy is now here, of 150 men, with whom came Genl Waterbury, the contents are not yet known.

1. "Beebe's Journal," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, LIX, 354.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF COLONEL JOHN TRUMBULL<sup>1</sup>[Ticonderoga, October 14, 1776]<sup>2</sup>

Early in October our naval preparations were completed, and our little fleet, composed of a brig, several galleys and gun-boats, mounting altogether more than one hundred guns, commanded by Generals Arnold and Waterbury, proceeded down the lake to look for the enemy. His preparations were completed about the same time, and on the 11th of October the two fleets met, engaged, and we were defeated with total loss. Gen. Arnold ran the galley which he commanded on shore, and escaped with the crew; the other vessels were either taken or destroyed, and their crews, (with the exception of some who got on shore and straggled up to the army,) with Gen. Waterbury, remained prisoners of war.

On this occasion Sir Guy Carleton, who commanded the hostile fleet and army, behaved with a degree of humanity, as well as policy, which, if it had been generally employed by other royal commanders, might have exposed to great hazard the success of America. As soon as the action was over, Sir Guy gave orders to the surgeons of his own troops, to treat the wounded prisoners with the same care as they did his own men. He then ordered that all the other prisoners should be immediately brought on board his own ship, the *Royal Charlotte*, where he first treated them to a drink of grog, and then spoke kindly to them, praised the bravery of their conduct, regretted that it had not been displayed in the service of their lawful sovereign, and offered to send them home to their friends, on their giving their parole that they would not again bear arms against Great Britain until they should be exchanged. He then invited Gen. Waterbury to go below with him to his cabin, and requested to see his commission, — the moment he saw that it was signed by the governor of Connecticut, (my father,) he held out his hand, and [s]aid, "General Waterbury, I am happy to take you by the hand, now that I see that you are not serving under a commission and orders of the rebel Congress, but of Governor Trumbull. You are acting under a legitimate and acknowledged authority. He is responsible for the abuse he has made of that authority. That which is a high crime in him, is but an error in you; it was your duty to obey him, your legitimate superior."

A few days after this defeat, a number of row-boats approached our advanced post, and there lay upon their oars with a flag of truce. I was ordered to go down and learn their object. I found Capt. [James Henry] Craig, with Gen. Waterbury and the other prisoners who had been taken in the recent action; dismissed, as Sir Guy had promised, upon parole. The usual civilities passed between Sir James and me, and I received the prisoners; all were warm in their acknowledgment of the kindness with which they had been treated, and which appeared to me to have made a very dangerous impression. I therefore placed the boats containing the prisoners under the guns of a battery, and gave orders that no one should be permitted to land, and no intercourse take place with the troops on shore until orders should be received from Gen. Gates. I hurried to make my report to

him, and suggested the danger of permitting these men to have any intercourse with our troops; — accordingly they were ordered to proceed immediately to Skeensborough, on their way home, and they went forward that night, without being permitted to land.

1. Theodore Sizer, ed., *The Autobiography of Colonel John Trumbull* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1953), 32-34.
2. Date based on contents of entry.

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

[Manor of Livingston] 14t Octr

I dined at the Mansion House. A large Quantity of Ball Chain Shott and Grapeshot lay on the Wharg [*sic*] for the Forts at Tcononderoge and several Tons of Iron Bars ordered for the intended Chain across the River in the High Lands, long since reported to have been constructed. My Brother [Peter R.] L[ivingston] writes to his Wife, 12 Inst. that the Ships are before Haverstraw and Money demanded by Colo. [A. Hawkes] Hay for the Support of the River Guards which the Convention not having a Demand is made upon the Cont: Congress for One hundred Thousand Dollars. How astonishing the Confidence of the Public in the Obstruction of the River below! — Boards & Provisions must now pass by Land from Fishkill to King's Bridge — but how can Bricks be transported for the Chimneys and Hearths of the Hutts? — They ought to have been made near the Bridge instead of Albany. The Ships have taken 2 American Row Galleys in ascending the River, and I did not percieve but one Fireship in the Highlands — Colo. [Robert] Livingston assures me, that a Ship can find 5 Fathoms of Water up [to] this Place. There must be great Consternation below —

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, II, 17-18.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Perseus*, CAPTAIN GEORGE KEITH ELPHINSTONE <sup>1</sup>

October 1776

[New York Narrows]

Monday 14

At 6 [A. M.] weighed and run up the River. At 8 Anchored at Staten Island in 7 faths found here the *Greyhound* and *Orpheus* Frigates. Employed watering. Modt and fine Wear Employed Watering on Shore. In the Night a Party of Rebels came to the Watering Place and destroyed many of our Casks.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/688.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Brune*, CAPTAIN JAMES FERGUSON<sup>1</sup>

October 1776

Moor'd off Morrisena [Morrissania]

Monday 14

A M sent the Boats to endeavour to purchase the Stream Anchor, but imagine the Long Boat sunk not being able to find her, Lost with her the Stream Anchor & Cable, Masts,

Sails, Oars, Grapnel & rope, 4 Swivel Guns & some other Gunners Stores

Light Airs & Variable P.M. Clear'd hawse, sent the Cutter to assist a Tranpt that was near the Rebel shore in returning 5 of the Crew put the other two on the North Brother & deserted with the Cutter to the Rebels, lost with the Cutter every thing belonging to her with an Arm Chest with 8 Black & Bright Musquets 9 Cartridge boxes with Ammunition 9 Cutlasses with belts Frogs &c.<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/117.

2. *Ibid.*, the cutter was recovered the next day "but the Rebels had taken every thing out of her."

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

[On board H.M.S. *Eagle*, New York]

Monday 14th. October.

On this Day, the *Perseus*, Capt. Elphinstone, with eleven Sail of Transports, having on board Troops & Provisions, arrived in Port, after a Passage of 11 Weeks from Portsmouth. She came out with 20 Sail, but lost the rest of her Convoy in a Fog upon the Bank of Newfoundland. She also took two of the Rebel Privateers, and brought one in & sunk the other.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 123, 124.

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

[Philadelphia] Monday, October 14, 1776 .

The committee appointed to hear and determine upon the appeal brought against the sentence passed on the libel, Joshua Wentworth *vs.* the ship *Elizabeth*, reported as follows:

Joshua Wentworth Esq. for and in behalf as well of the United States of America, as of John Manly, Daniel Waters and John Ayres, commanders of the officers, marines and mariners, of the three armed vessels *Hancock*, *Lee* and *Lynch*, in the service of the said states, having exhibited a libel before Joshua Brackett, Esq. judge of the court maritime of the state of New Hampshire, against the brigantine *Elizabeth*, commanded by Peter Ramsay, and her cargo, and Richard Hart, of Portsmouth, in New Hampshire, owner of the said brigantine, and William Jackson and others, of Boston, in the state of Massachusetts bay, owners of sundry goods and merchandise on board of her, having put in their several claims thereto, and the said judge of the court aforesaid, having, on the 21 day of August, in the year of our Lord 1776, decreed and ordered the said brigantine, and so much of her cargo as was claimed to be restored to the respective claimants, and that the claimants recover their legal costs of court, from which decree and sentence the said Joshua Wentworth appealed to Congress.

The committee of Congress, to whom it was referred to hear and determine the said appeal, have diligently inspected the proceedings, and heard the parties by their counsel, and it appearing that on the 1st day of October, in the year of our Lord 1775, General Gage, commander in chief of the British forces, then in Boston, in the state of Massachusetts bay, by his commission to Crean Brush, Esq. directed him to receive into his care, all such goods, chattels, and effects of the inhabitants of that town, some of whom had departed from it, as might be voluntarily delivered into his charge by the owners, or by other persons with whom they were left, giving his receipts for them and to deliver them to the owners, when he should be required; that, on the 10th day of March then following, General Howe, who had succeeded General Gage in the command of the British forces, by his commission to the said Crean Brush, reciting, that as he was informed there were large quantities of goods in Boston, which, if in the possession of the rebels (as he termed the Americans) might enable them to carry on war, and that he had given notice to all loyal inhabitants to remove such goods from thence, and that those who should not remove them, or deliver them to the care of the said Crean Brush, would be considered as abettors of rebels, required him to take into his possession all such goods as answered that description, and give certificates to the owners that he had received them for their use, and would deliver them to the owners, unavoidable accidents excepted, and to seize any such goods, as, upon enquiry, should be found secreted, or left in stores, and to put them on board of the *Minerva* ship, or brigantine *Elizabeth*. That, thereupon, the said Crean Brush, assisted by other persons, took into his possession the goods of the claimants, amongst others, and put them into the said brigantine *Elizabeth*, and other vessels in the harbour of Boston, without the knowledge of some of the owners, and without the consent of all the others, unless it be William Jackson and James Jackson, of whose consent, however, there are no other proofs, than that one of them went with his goods, and watched there on the wharf from whence they were shipped, and that the other was a passenger in the said brigantine *Elizabeth*, in her voyage towards Halifax. That the said Crean Brush, by certificates under his hand, acknowledged several parcels of the said goods to be in his custody, and engaged to preserve them safely, to make up exact invoices thereof, and, with the approbation of the commander in chief, to return them to the owners. That, on the 29th day of March afterwards the said Peter Ramsay, by orders from Admiral Shuldham, of the British fleet, given about eight days before, went on board the said brigantine *Elizabeth*, into which some of the claimants' goods had been shifted from the other vessels; and the same day, between the hours of three and four o'clock in the afternoon, sailed with her, under convoy of the British ship of war *Niger*, for Halifax, in Nova Scotia, and that, on the Tuesday following, the said John Manly, in the *Hancock*, coming up with the said brigantine *Elizabeth*, which had, in the mean time, parted from her convoy, fired a broadside at her, which was returned by a volley of small arms; when the said Daniel Waters, in the *Lee*, and the said John Ayres, in

the *Lynch*, joining the said John Manly, the said Peter Ramsay struck, it being about four or five of the clock in the afternoon, and the said brigantine was seized and carried into Piscataqua river in New Hampshire; whereupon, the committee, after mature deliberation, are of opinion, that the said brigantine *Elizabeth* is not comprehended in the description of vessels, which, with their cargoes, by the resolutions of Congress of the 25th day of November last, may be forfeited, not being an armed or a transport vessel employed in the present war against the United States, nor carrying provisions, or other necessaries, to the British army or navy, within any of the United Colonies: and that the cases of re-captures, mentioned in the resolution of Congress of the 5th day of December last, adjusting the proportions of salvage, those cases only were intended, in which the vessels and their cargoes remaining in possession of the enemy, might, by the law of nations, be condemned as prize, which is conceived not to be the case of the said brigantine *Elizabeth* and her cargo; but, that notwithstanding it was the duty of the re-captors to recover the said brigantine and her cargo, and that the owners, who otherwise might, and probably would, have lost their whole property, ought to make a reasonable satisfaction; and that, therefore, the said sentence is erroneous, and ought to be reversed and annulled: That the said brigantine *Elizabeth*, and such parts of her cargo as were claimed in the said court maritime, be restored to the respective claimants, upon their paying, to the United States, and the recaptors,  $\frac{1}{12}$ th part of the value thereof, to be determined by the appraisement of appraisers on oath, appointed by the judge of the said court: That the residue of the cargo be sold, and the proceeds, after deducting the like proportion and for the same uses, retained for the persons who shall hereafter prove their right to the same; that William Burk, commander, and the marines and mariners of the *Warren*, an armed vessel in the service of the United States, who claimed a part of the said brigantine *Elizabeth* and her cargo, as being joint captors, are not entitled to a share of the salvage, it not appearing that they were present, or in sight, at the time of the recapture: And that the appellants recover against the claimants their costs as well in the said court maritime, as in the prosecution of their appeal here; and that the cause be sent back to the said court maritime, for that court to proceed in carrying this sentence into execution.

*Resolved*, That Congress agree to the said report.

*Resolved*, That such part of the twelfth, adjudged in the foregoing report to be paid in lieu of salvage, as belongs to the United States, be released, and given up to the owners of the goods.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed, to consider what is to be done with negroes taken by vessels of war, in the service of the United States:

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Wilson, Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee, and Mr. [Samuel] Huntington.

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

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia], October 14th, 1776.

Mr. Nesbitt was directed to pay Doct'r Dunlap £ 15 9 3, for medicines Purchased for the Use of the Fleet.

An order was drawn on Mr. Nesbitt in fav'r of Capt. Wm Brown for £ 100, on acco't of Inlisting men for the floating Battery, to be charged to his acco't.

Mr. Nesbitt was directed to pay Edmund Beach £ 11 0 6½, for Pine Boards for the use [of the] *Convention* Armed Boat.

2 o'clock afternoon

The Council having received from Congress a Copy of Letter from General [Charles] Lee, informing that the Hessians had embarked from Staten Island, & did not doubt but that they intended a visit to this State, whereupon a Letter was wrote to the Commodore, directing him to get the Fleet in a proper state of defence; likewise a letter to Sam'l Morris, jun'r, Esq'r, requesting him to send up the Amunition Sloop, & supply himself with a shallop in her stead, to assist in sinking the Chevaux de Frize at Billingsport; also an Express was dispatched with the Intelligence to Mr. Henry Fisher at Lewis Town, directing him to dispatch two fast sailing Boats to go as far as Egg harbor, & in order to give Intelligence of the movements of the enemy, & if any discoveries were made, to forward the same to this Council, & to direct the signals be attended to.<sup>2</sup>

The Council adjourned to 7 o'Clock;

*Resolved.* That a Bounty of Ten Dollars be given to every able Bodied Man who shall enter to serve during the War, on board the Fleet belonging to this State; And that Commodore Seymour be directed to take the most effectual measures for manning the Fleet to its full Compliment.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 752-53, 754.

2. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 42.

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

[Annapolis] Monday. - Octr - 14th 1776

The Council of Safety appointed Captain [John] Keltie to rigg and get the Schooner *Ninety two* fit for Sea, she being bought of Cravath and Dugan for eight hundred Pounds Currency. -

Ordered That Western shore Treasurer pay to John Keltie fifty Pounds, to be accounted for.

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

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

[Williamsburg] Monday October 14th 1776

A Permit granted to the Sloop *Eagle* Captain Lennis to proceed on her Voyage to Saint Croix. Also to the Sloop *John's Relief* Ephraim Gilbert Master to proceed on her Voyage to Bermuda. Manifests of both Cargoes filed and Bonds executed, acknowledged and ordered also to be filed.

A Permit granted to the Schooner *Fanny* Captain Darrell to proceed on her return to Bermuda. Manifest of her Cargo filed Bond executed acknowledged and ordered also to be filed.

A Permit granted to the Boat *William* Captain Mallory to proceed on her Voyage to Martinico. Manifest of her Cargo filed and Bond executed acknowledged and ordered also to be filed.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, 195, 196, 197.

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

[Williamsburg] Monday 14th October 1776. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Josiah Foster for Fifteen pounds, on Account, to Purchase Necessaries for Building a Boat for the Transportation of Troops. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Josiah Foster for the use of Joel Foster for Fifteen pounds, upon Account, to Purchase Necessaries for Building a Boat for the Transportation of Troops. –

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt Richard Taylor fifteen Yards of Cloth, three Pieces of Stripes and one pound of Thread. – And that Colo William Finnie deliver unto the said Taylor fifteen flannell Jacketts for the use of the Schooner *Hornett*. –

1. Navy Board Journal, 77, VSL.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY<sup>1</sup>

[Charleston] Monday the 14th day of October 1776.

Mr [John] Neufville reported from the Committee to examine the Public Treasury accounts and to report to the House an exact and circumstantial Account of the state of the Treasury what sums have been issued and for what particular Service arranging under distinct Heads the particular Services for which the monies have been expended, And he read the Report in his Place and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table where the same was read and is as followeth

That the Commissioners of said Treasury have paid the following Sums on the accounts and to the several Persons under mentioned viz

Brigantine <i>William</i>	1167..10..	6
Schooner <i>Islington</i> & her Cargo	21865..17..	5

Cargo per the Brigantine <i>Notre Dame</i> } and Disbursements for the vessel	29656..10.. 6
Voyage per the <i>Rebecca</i> from George Town	2687.. 4.. 4
Naval Department	101544.. 8.. 1
Cargo per Schooner <i>Peggy</i> at George Town	12737..11.. ..
Peter Lepoole and John Burnley for Rice } shipped on the Brigantine <i>Liberty Philip</i> } Conway master	5227..13.. 4
Voyage for the schooner <i>Little Thomas</i> } Captain Nelmes to Bermuda	548..11.. 9
Commissioners for laying Obstructions } on the Bar	£5646..12.. 6
Naval Department at George Town	5722.. 6.. —
Edward Darrell Commissary to the } Naval Department	3000.. .. ..
Paid John Scott the Balance on a Cargo } per Schooner <i>Polly</i>	2695.. .. —
Cargo per the <i>Constitution</i> and Purchase } of the said Vessel	9262..14.. —
Indico per the sloop <i>Swift</i> Captain } [Charles] Morgan	16862..12.. 4
Cargo per Schooner <i>Polly</i> John Besnard master	11643.. .. —
The Commissioners of the Treasury have received the following sums	
viz	
For Sugars per the ship <i>Port Henderson</i>	46,217..18.. 2
of George Abbot Hall from the Custom House	2606.. 2.. 6

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly Journals*, 113, 114, 115, 116.

### 15 Oct.

#### SIR GEORGE COLLIER'S INSTRUCTIONS TO THOMAS STONE<sup>1</sup>

[Halifax, October 15, 1776]<sup>2</sup>

Instructions for the Commissary appointed to settle the Exchange of Prisoners at Newbury Port

- 1st — You are to Hoist a White Flag at the Mast Head of the Sloop *Pacific* & to continue it abroad Night and Day 'till you return again to this Port
- 2d — You are to be particularly careful that no Cannon, Musket, Pistol, or Fire Arm of any kind be receiv'd into the Vessel whilst she is consider'd as a Cartel a Violation of this Order may possibly occasion the detention of the Sloop, and furnish a pretence to an Act of Violence under the Assertion that the Vessel is fitted for War
- 3d — The Prisoners are to be Victualled at two thirds Allowance
- 4th — A Quiet peaceable demeanour towards the Prisoners is particularly

recommended & to avoid all dissention on board, You are enjoind not to make the present unhappy dispute the Subject of your Conversation with them

5th — On Your Arrival at Marble Head You are to Write the following Letter to Mr Nathl Tracey at Newberry Port

Sir I am to inform you of my arrival at this Port in the *Pacific* Cartel Sloop with 96 American Prisoners, and as I understand you are empower'd to receive them, and to treat for an equal Number & Rank of His Majesties faithful Subjects now confin'd in this Province I shall be glad to meet you as soon as possible for so Salutary a Purpose I am Sir [&c.]

Tho<sup>s</sup> Stone

6th — It will be difficult on many Accounts to lay down the exact Mode you are to follow in the Exchange the Commander of the *Yankee Hero* is to be given up for Lieutenant [John] Knight late of His Majesties Schooner *Diligent*, particular Circumstances respecting the Exchange must be left to your own Judgment, which that you may exert for his Majesties Service in this Business entrusted to your Care & Discretion, I shall certainly if you execute it properly recommend you to the Notice of Lord Howe, who is ever ready to pay attention to all appearance of Merit

7th — You are to make all the Dispatch that the Nature of the Service will permit of, returning to this Port with those faithful Subjects of the King whom you may receive in Exchange, and exacting a Written Promisary Obligation from Mr Nathl Tracey, that in case there are not Sufficient Loyal Subjects at present Prisoners in the Northern Provinces, he will cause a Number equal to the deficiency in Rank & Numbers to be releas'd in future, in case it shall please the Ruler of all Human Events to permit so many more of His Majesties faithful Subjects to be at the Disposition of the Colonists —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 160–61.

2. The date is approximated through contemporary accounts including Ethan Allen's narrative.

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

[Watertown] Tuesday October 15th 1776.

Whereas this Court on the ninth instant appointed Ephraim Spooner Esqr in conjunction with Capt Clouston to see that the Masts Sails, and Rigging belonging to the Brig *Rising Empire* be taken out of her, and forthwith applied to Equip the Sloop *Freedom* as a Brig: — And Whereas it appears to this Court necessary that some person acquainted with building, & rigging Vessels should be upon the sd Committee — Therefore Resolved That William Drew Esqr be added to the Committee aforesaid he to repair forthwith to Plymouth, and advise, and direct in performing said business. —

Resolved, that the Honble Richard Derby Esqr be, & he is hereby directed, to discharge the Sloop *Machias Liberty* from the Service of this State, and to take into his possession all the Cannon & other Stores, which are on board said Sloop, and are the property of this State. And the said Richard Derby Esq is hereby further directed to discharge Capt Jeremiah Obrien, and the Officers, & Men under his Command from the Service of this State.

Resolved that the Commissary General of this State be, & he hereby is directed to deliver to Alexander Shepard Junr or his Order Ten pieces of small damag'd Cannon, if not already otherwise engag'd – also four Swivel Guns to be used on Board a Vessel designed to cruise against the Enemies of America, he the said Shepard obliging himself to repair said Cannon, & Swivels at his own Expence, & return the same after the first cruize and in case he has any further Occasion for them then to make a fresh application to this Court for that purpose.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 36, 19, 20, 22, 24.

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

[Watertown] Tuesday Octr 15th 1776.

In Council. The Committee of both Houses appointed to take into Consideration a resolve of the Continental Congress of the 6th of March last, recommending the appointment of proper Officers to take bonds for the Observing the regulations of Congress concerning trade, And to report what steps are proper for this Court to take thereon – have attended that Service, and are of Opinion, that it will be necessary for this Court to appoint a Naval Officer in the several Ports of Boston, Salem, Newbury port, Gloucester & Marblehead, Plymouth, Ipswich, Falmouth in Casco Bay, Dartmouth, York, Pownalboro, and the Island of Nantucket, whose Business shall be, to take bonds in adequate Penalties, for Observing the regulations made by the General Congress or General Assembly of this State concerning Trade and take Manifests of all Cargoes exported, and imported, and keep fair Accounts, and Entries thereof give bills of Health when desired, 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 this Court, and that a bill be brought in for the above Purposes.

all which is humbly Submitted  
Moses Gill p order

In the House of Representatives. Read, & Concurr'd.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 36, 19, 26-27.

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

Sir

Boston Oct. 15. 1776

I am in want of Two Cables for the Continental Ships & hear there are some to be sold at Providence should be glad you would Inform me

whether You Can obtain same 2 of abt 15½ Inches. pray let me know by the first opportunity — be pleased also to Inform me whether either of your Cables for either of the Continental Ships at Providence are a Double Shot or abt 20 [illegible] fathom long — Yr [&c.]

Thomas Cushing

pray let me know whether there is any Light Duck to be had at Providence

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Newport October 15th 1776 —

I receiv'd yours of the 11th Instant, and can assure you that there is no sort of Shōt to be had in this State, as they Sent to Boston and could get but a bare Sufficiency for the New Ships — have Order'd the *Hamden* out to gain Intelligence — the *Columbus* is now a Graving — the new Ships and *Alfred* are ready, all but Men, which we must have three hundred at least for them — and one hundred for the *Columbus*, before we are able to Engage Ships of equal Force — and it will be with difficulty the Officers can be got willing to go out, without being full Mann'd and I see but little Encouragement of getting them Mann'd in this State.

If you will use your Influence that we may get some Men out of the Army soon, as we wait for nothing else, it will be of great Service. — I have been down here ten days in Order to Enlist Men out of the Forces here, and have not been able to get more than about One hundred and twenty — nor don't see any possibility of getting many more. — Mr [Nathaniel] Shaw [Jr.] will be able to give you any further Information as to the Circumstances of the Ships here — and when the present appearance alters, shall acquaint you. — I am with great Regard Sir [&c.]

E H. —

pr Mr Shaw — at Lebanon —

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE<sup>1</sup>

Sr

New-Haven Octobr 15th 1776

in Answer to yours of the 21st Ultmo with Respect to the Cannon Foundery att Salisbury in this state; — have to Inform you that this furnace has been in Use for the Casting of pig Iron &c for many Years past, when first set up it was surrounded with large quantitys of wood, Yet by the Land round about being of good soil and much Cleard up for Use and the great Consumption by the furnace it is much Exhausted and now become Very scarce & dear; and we shall soon be Oblidged to goe 8 or 10 miles for Coal —

This Furnace was last the property of one Mr Smith now Absconded & gone to England leaving the Furnace in good Order. This State took it up

last spring for the purpose of Casting Cannon. The Ore is extremely good perhaps no better in America and in great plenty, We have had great Success in Our Operations & have Cast to the Number of about 120 Cannon from six to 18 pounders about 50 Swivel beside a large quantity of Shot the 12 pounders Wt 23 or 24 hundred they are short & fit only for Ship Cannon. they will bear the highest proof, have all been tried by double quantity of powder & Shot we mean to persue the Casting of Cannon to the Utmost of our power and are in hopes of ariving to 24 pounders, tho it will be expensive & the Cannon turn out dear by reason of the Scarcity of Wood, tho we Imagine they are of the best quality & proof, we find it will by no means answer to build another Stack at that place as the Water will now but just Answer and must be Content to make the best of the Works we now have there, which we shall persue with the greatest Attention there may possibly be some other place not far Distent and where wood is much more plenty which may Answer to Erect works for the largest Cannon And shall make further enquiry and let you know as soon as I am properly Informed –

We have supplied Mr Dean [Barnabas Deane] with the full Compliment of Cannon for the Continental Ship built on Connecticut River<sup>2</sup> am Sir With great Truth and Regard [&c.]

Jon<sup>th</sup> Trumbull

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

2. Frigate *Trumbull*.

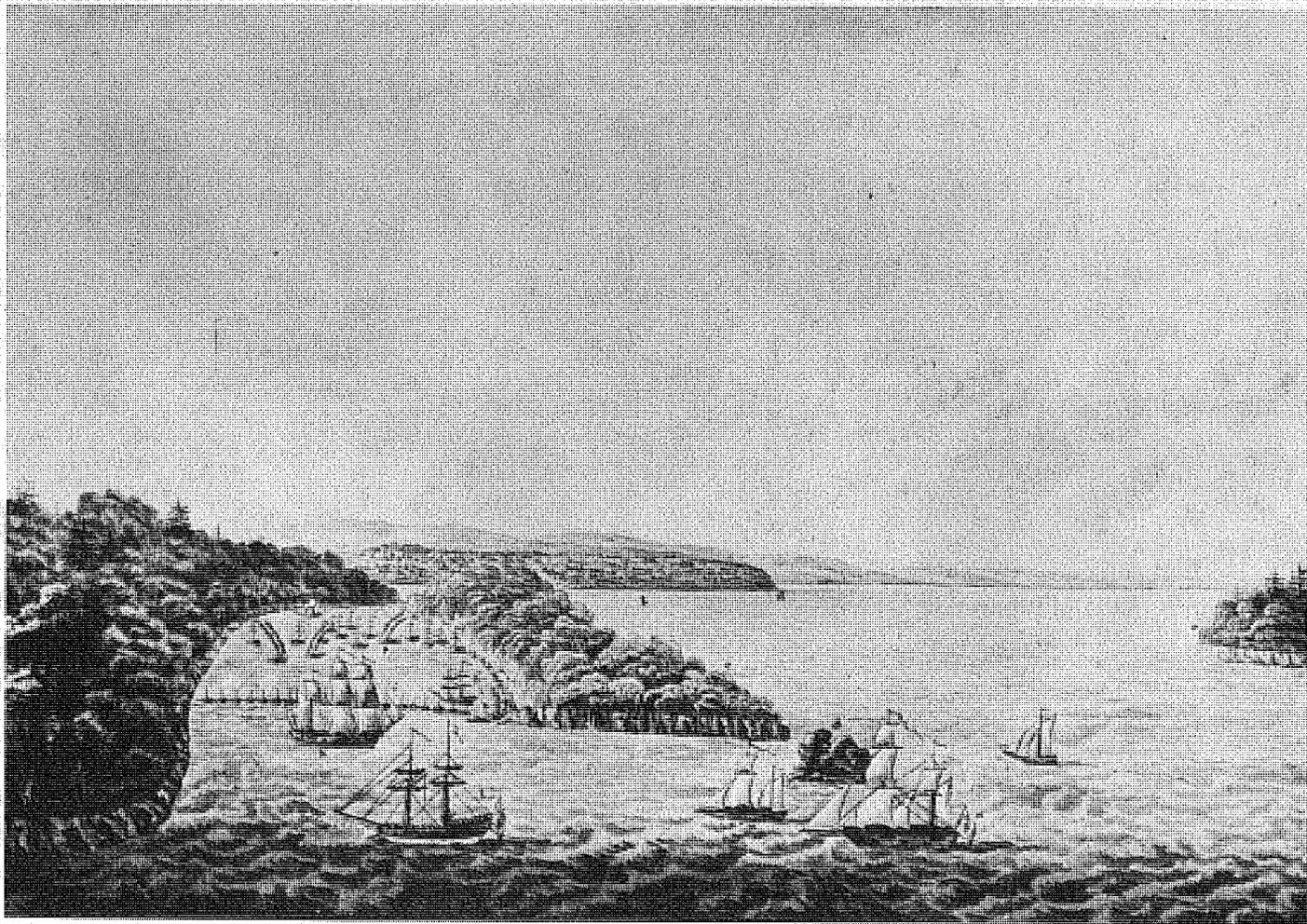
GOVERNOR SIR GUY CARLETON TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOHN BURGOYNE<sup>1</sup>

[No.] 198  
Sir

On Board the *Maria* off Isle Valcour October  
[October 12 to October 15]<sup>2</sup>

We found the Rebel fleet Yesterday morning behind the Island of Valcour apparently, and as we hear since from Prisoners, unaprized either of our force or motions. One of their Vessells perceived us only a little before we came abreast of the Island, and our van got to the Southward of it time enough to stop them just as they were making off. They then worked back into the narrow part of the passage between the Island and main, where they anchored in a line. Their principal vessell, the *Royal Savage*, one of the first endeavouring to get out, in her confusion, upon finding our ships before her, ran upon the south end of the Island, and our Gun boats got possession of her. Upon finding she could not get off she was afterwards set fire to, and she blew up. Her crew except Twenty who were made prisoners, got on shore.

After we had, in this manner, got beyond the enemy and cut them off, the wind which had been favourable to bring us there, – however entirely prevented our being able to bring our whole force to engage them, as we had a narrow passage to work up, Ship by Ship, exposed to the fire of their whole line. The Gun boats and *Carleton* only got up, and they sustained a very unequal cannonade of several hours, and were obliged to be ordered to



*General Arnold's Squadron Engaged at Valcour Island.*

fall back, upon our finding that the rest of the fleet could not be brought up to support them, We then Anchored in a line opposite the Rebels within the distance of Cannon shot, expecting in the morning to be able to engage them with our whole fleet, but, to our great mortification we perceived at day break, that they had found means to escape us unobserved by any of our guard boats or cruizers, thus an opportunity of destroying the whole rebel naval force, at one stroke, was lost, first by an impossibility of bringing all our vessels to action, and afterwards by the great diligence used by the enemy in getting away from us.

We have been attempting to get up with part of them, which is still in our sight, this morning, but the wind blowing very strong from the southward we have been obliged to give over the chase for the present: The Enemy however is retarded as well as us.

We have had one Gun boat which was served by the Hessian Artillery, sunk; and about thirty men sailors and Artillery have been killed and wounded.

14th Octor just as I had finished the above, and I could not but be very dissatisfied, the wind sprung up fair and enabled us, after a long chase, Yesterday to get up to the Rebels, and, in our second action, we have been much more successfull; only three of their Vessels, as you will see by the list enclosed having escaped. Their second in command Mr [David] Waterbury struck to us in the *Washington* Galley, But Arnold run that he was on board of on shore, and set fire to her and several others of his Vessels.

This succes cannot be deemed less than a compleat victory; but considering it was obtained over the kings subjects, that, which in other circumstances ought to be a proper cause of publick rejoicing, is, in these, matter only of great concern; and therefore tho' it may be right to communicate it to the Troops, yet I dare say they think with me, that we should suppress all signs of triumph on the occation.

The Rebels upon the approach of the shattered little remains of their fleet, set fire to all the buildings in and about Crown point, abandoning the place and retired precipitately to Ticonderoga.

The sooner Frasers Brigade with all the matter I wrote about yesterday arrive the better; I shall then be able to see what is to be done. I am &c

1. Guy Carleton Letter Book, Haldimand Papers, Additional Ms. 21699, BM.

2. Content makes it clear that Carleton began this letter on October 12. And, here in his last paragraph he notes: "all the matter I wrote about yesterday." Carleton had written to Burgoyne on the 14th, *ibid*.

#### CAPTAIN THOMAS PRINGLE, R. N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS<sup>1</sup>

Copy of a Letter from Captain Thomas Pringle, on Board the *Maria*, off Crown Point, the 15th of October, 1776.

It is with the greatest Pleasure that I embrace this opportunity of congratulating their Lordships upon the Victory completed the 13th of this Month, by His Majesty's Fleet under my Command, upon Lake Champlain.

Upon the 11th I came up with the Rebel Fleet commanded by Benedict Arnold: They were at Anchor under the Island Valicour, and formed a strong Line, extending from the Island to the West Side of the Continent: The Wind was so unfavourable, that for a considerable Time nothing could be brought into Action with them; but the Gun Boats, the *Carleton* Schooner, commanded by Mr. [James Richard] Dacres, (who brings their Lordships this) by much Perseverance at last got up to their Assistance; but as none of the other Vessels of the Fleet could then get up, I did not think it by any Means adviseable to continue so partial and unequal a Combat; consequently, with the Approbation of his Excellency General Carleton, who did me the Honor of being on Board the *Maria*, I called off the *Carleton* and Gun Boats, and brought the whole Fleet to anchor in a Line as near as possible to the Rebels, that their Retreat might be cut off; which Purpose was however frustrated by the extreme Obscurity of the Night; and in the Morning the Rebels had got a considerable Distance from us up the Lake.

Upon the 13th I again saw Eleven Sail of their Fleet making off to Crown Point, who, after a Chace of seven Hours, I came up with in the *Maria*, having the *Carleton* and *Inflexible* a small Distance a-stern; the rest of the Fleet almost out of Sight. The Action began at Twelve o'Clock and lasted two Hours; at wick Time Arnold, in the *Congress* Galley, and five Gondolas, ran on Shore, and were directly abandoned and blown up by the Enemy, a Circumstance they were greatly favoured in, by the Wind being off Shore, and the Narrowness of the Lake. The *Washington* Galley struck during the Action, and the rest made their Escape to Ticonderoga.

The Killed and Wounded in His Majesty's Fleet, including the Artillery in the Gun Boats, do not amount to Forty; but from every Information I have yet got, the Loss of the Enemy must indeed be very considerable.

Many Particulars which their Lordships may wish to know I must at present take the Liberty of referring you to Mr. Dacres for; but I am well convinced his Modesty will not permit him to say how great a Share he had in this Victory, give me Leave to assure you, that during both Actions, nothing could be more pointedly good than his Conduct. I must also do the Justice the Officers and Seamen of this Fleet merit; by saying that every Person under my Command exerted themselves to act up to the Character of British Seamen.

1. *London Gazette*, November 19 to November 23, 1776.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP  
SCHUYLER<sup>1</sup>

Dear General

Ticonderoga 15th October 1776

I made no Doubt before this you have recd a Copy of my Letter to Genl Gates of the 12th Inst dated at Schuylers Island advising of an Action between our Fleet and the Enemy the preceding day in which we lost a

Schooner and a Gondola. We remained no longer at Schuylers Island than to stop our Leaks and mend the Sails of the *Washington*. At 2 O'Clock P. M. the 12th weighed Anchor with a fresh Breeze to the Southward. The Enemy's Fleet at the same time got under Way, our Gondolas made very little way a Head. In the Evening the Wind moderated and we made such Progress that at 6 O'Clock next Morning we were about off Willsborough 28 Miles from Crown Point. The Enemy's Fleet were very little way above Schuylers Island, the Wind breezed up to the Southward so that we gained very little by beating or rowing, at the same time the Enemy took a fresh Breeze from the N.E. and by the time we had reached split Rock were along Side of us. The *Washington* and *Congress* were in a Rear, the rest of our Fleet were a Head except two Gondolas sunk at Schuylers Island. The *Washington* Galley was in such a shattered Condition and had so many Men killed and wounded she struck to the Enemy after receiving a few Broad-sides. we were then attacked in the *Congress* Galley by a Ship mounting twelve Eighteen Pounders, a Schooner of fourteen Sixes and one of twelve Sixes, two under our Stern and one on our Broadside within Musquet Shot. They kept up an incessant Fire on us for about five Glasses with Round and Grape Shot, which we returned as briskly — The Sails Rigging and Hull of the *Congress* was shattered and torn in Peices, the first Lieutenant and 3 Men killed, when to prevent her falling into the Enemy's hands, who had seven Sail around me, I ran her ashore in a small Creek ten Miles from Crown Point on the East Side when after saving our small Arms, I set her on Fire with four Gondolas, with whose Crews I reached Crown point thro' the Woods that Evening, and very luckily escaped the Savages who way laid the Road in two Hours after we passed. At 4 O'Clock Yesterday Morning I reached this place exceedingly fatigued and unwell having been without Sleep or Refreshment for near three days.

Of our whole Fleet we have saved only two Gallies, two small schooners, one Gondola and one Sloop. General Waterbury with One hundred and ten prisoners were returned by Carleton last Night. On Board of the *Congress* we had twenty odd Men killed and wounded. Our whole loss amounted to Eighty odd. The Enemy's Fleet were last Night three Miles below Crown Point, their Army is doubtless at their Heels, we are busily employed in compleating our Lines [&] Redoubts which I am sorry to say are not so forward as I could wish. We have very few heavy Cannon, but are mounting every piece we have. It is the Opinion of Genl. Gates and Sinclair [Arthur St. Clair], that Eight or ten thousand Militia should be immediately sent to our Assistance if they can be spared from below. I am of Opinion the Enemy will attack us with their Fleet and Army at the same time, the former is very formidable, a List of which I am favoured with by Genl Waterbury and have inclosed. The Season is so far advanced, our people are daily growing more healthy. We have about Nine thousand Effectives and if properly supported make no doubt of stopping the Carrier of the Enemy. All your Letters to me of late have miscarried. I am extremely sorry to hear by Genl Gates you are unwell.

I have sent you by Genl Waterbury a small Box containing all my public and private papers and Accounts with a considerable Sum of hard and paper Money, Which beg the favr of your taking Care of. I am Dear Genl [ &c.]

B Arnold

List of the Enemys Fleet on Lake Champlain.

1 Ship	18 — 12 ps.	
1 Schooner	14 — 6	
1 do	12 — 6	
1 Rediaux	6 24	} Brass
	12 — 12	
	4	8 Inch Howitz

28 Gondolas with one Gun each 12 18 & 24 pounders and one 8 Inch Howitz

2 Gondolas 3 Guns each 12 pounders

N.B. Two of the above Gondolas sunk by our fleet the first day and one blown up with 60 Men —

Copy.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 453-56, NA.

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

Dear Genl

Ticonderoga 15th October 1776 —

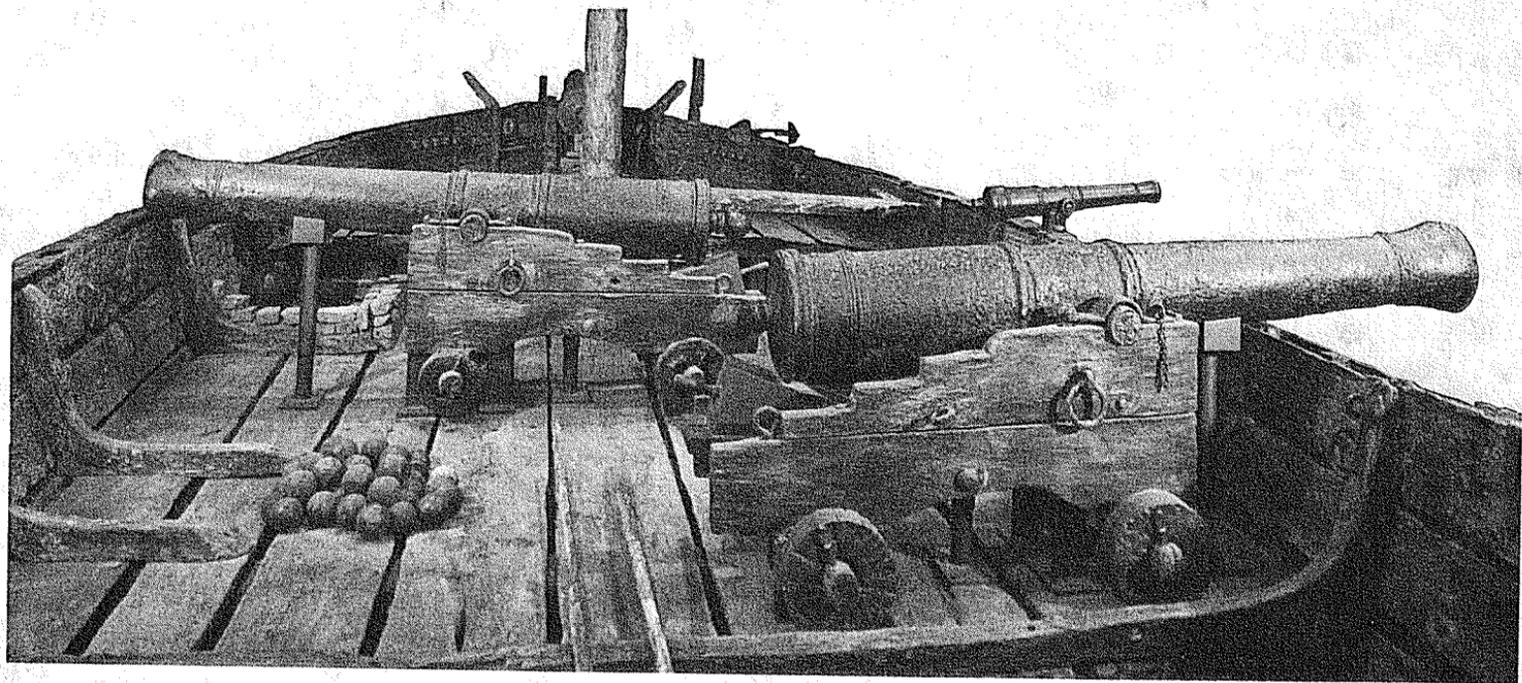
You will herewith receive Genl Arnolds Account of the Defeat and almost total Ruin of our Fleet Yesterday Morning. It has pleased providence to preserve Genl Arnold. Few Men ever met with so many hair Breadth Scapes in so short a space of time. Except the Capture of Genl Waterbury and those with him I do not think we shall lose a great many Men. Upwards of 200 with their Officers escaped with Genl Arnold. The Ammunition &ca I so long [illegible] for is much wanted here. I am distressed to the last Degree till it arrives. This Moment your favr from Saratoga of Yesterday Afternoon is put in my Hands. Part of the Lead about three Tons is arrived, and you make me happy in acquainting me the other tons are so near at hand. The Guard you mention and the wise Caution you give shall be carefully attended to. I am in haste [ &c.]

Horatio Gates

P.S. I beg you will send me all the Spades you can collect as fast as possible

Copy

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 457, 458, NA.



*Looking Forward on Gun Deck of Continental Gunboat Philadelphia.*

DIARY OF DR. LEWIS BEEBE<sup>1</sup>

[Ticonderoga] Tuesday 15th: [October] The flag, mentioned yesterday, came only to transport the prisoners, which they took, in the late engagement, to this place; who were permitted to return to their several places of abode on parole, that they would not take arms against them during the present contest; and would return to them whenever called for; the number taken was 104. one of which was Genl Waterbury. Carl[e]ton was with the fleet, which we expect to visit us every hour; for which reason our works go on day and night without any intermission.

1. "Beebe's Journal," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, LIX, 354.

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

Octbr 1776 at Anchor in the East River  
 Monday 14 at 4 A M weigh'd and turnd into the Sound at 6 past by his Majs Ship *niger* ½ past came on Bd a Cutter man'd and Arm'd from her Stood across the sound at 11 Came too in 5 fm Water to the NoW of Marroneck Harbour Kept all Hands at Quarters all night  
 Tuesday 15 at 5 AM weighd and came to Sail and stood into the Entrance of the Harbour a privateer Lying there fired 5 guns at us at 7 TKd and stood to the Sowd to Join the *Niger* at 8 fired a Swivel at a Sloop at 11 past by the *Niger* at 1 P M came too in 6 fm water near his Majs Ship *Carrysfort*. Frogg Point EBS 1 Mile

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

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

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, October 15, 1776

The Secret Committee having, agreeable to the order of Congress, taken into consideration how to make the best distribution of the cargo lately arrived at Providence, Rhode Island, in the brig *Happy Return*; brought in their report; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That a copy of the invoice of the cloths and blankets be sent to General [Thomas] Mifflin, quarter master general, with an order to Messrs. Browns, of Rhode Island, to deliver the whole to his order, and that it be recommended to the said quarter master general, to have the cloths immediately made up for the soldiers, either in Rhode Island, Connecticut, or by the taylors in the army, as may be thought best by General Washington and himself:

That Messrs. Browns be directed to deliver to the continental agent, at Rhode Island, the remaining part of the cargo, with orders to apply the lead, bullets, flints, muskets and powder, to the use of the continental frig-

ates and cruisers, or such part thereof as may be wanted for that service, and the rest to remain for future orders:

That the said agent be directed to buy as much good fat beef and pork, as can be cured by the salt in his possession, for the use of the navy:

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, 875, 878-79.

PENET & PLIARNE TO THE "COMMITTEES OF RHODES ISLAND"<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Philadelphia 15th 8re [October] 1776

We have Established in france a house destined only for the Correspondance with the united States. the honorable Continental Congress have been Supplied there already & they will take for the future all the Articles they Shall want for the army & other purposes. we believe Necessary to inform you that it is upon the Encouragement & the assurances we have Receiv'd from the Congress we have Got in Magazines in France a Very Large quantity of Goods & other Articles of Every Kind Suitable to the present Circumstances the States are in.

In Consequence of that, Gentlemen, we flater ourselves you will adress your Vessels to that house & you may depend upon this you will find immediately there Every thing you will want.

but there is an other advantage you Must be acquainted with. the Comitees & the Merchants Meeting with Great Difficulties to send Money to Europe, our house has taken that in Consideration, & you may have bills upon our house & we will take here the Continental Money.

Our house is at Nantz in Brittany, & we have Chosen that port, because it is the best situated for the Business of this Continent. if you send your Cargoes from here to the other ports, Nantz is in the Center & out of the Channel; & after your Capts will have Sold the Cargoes in the other ports, they May Go immediately to Nantz to be Loaded. So Beleave the honorable Congress, & that speculation you will find advantageous because from bordeaux, Rochelle, L'orient & other Ports in one, 2, 3 Days you Get to Nantz and your Capts will not stay there as in other Ports one month to Expect their Loading.

you will find too the Articles Cheaper there, because our Great Consumption with the Continent will Determine our house to Give the Greatest satisfaction to the honorable Congress, the Comitees & the Merchants.

Add to these Reasons, the Market of Nantz is Extremely Good, because there is a very Large River passing through different Cities.

this is the Direction of our house in france

à Messieurs

Messieurs Pliarne Penet & Compe

Maison de M. Gruel, Negt Armateur

Isle Feydeau A Nantes

In Philadelphia

To Messrs Pliarne Penet & Compe,  
In Philadelphia<sup>2</sup>

We pray you to inform the Commitees & the Merchants in your state  
of our dispositions

We have the honor to be with Respect Gentlemen [&c.]

Pliarne Penet & Compe

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 8, R. I. Arch.
2. The Philadelphia resident partner of the house was M. Pliarne.

WILLIAM RICHARDS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF  
SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia, Octor 15th, 1776.

Gentl'n: The Commodore was with me this morning, and says the Fleet has not any Colours to hoist if they should be called on Duty, it is not in my power to get them done, untill there is a design fix'd on to make the Colours by.

Directed The Hon'ble Council of Safety, Pres't.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 46.

MAJOR THOMAS PROCTOR TO THOMAS WHARTON, JR.<sup>1</sup>

Mr President,

Fort Island, Octr 15th, 1776.

I would beg leave to offer my oppinion on a few particulars which Occur, to be necessary for our present safety.

First, That the floating Chevaux du freese's be brought and moored at their proper place, fit for sinking.

Secondly, The boom which at present is in a useless state, to be fix'd to the Piers as intended for service.

Thirdly, As the distance between the Eastmost pier and the west part of the Sunk Chevaux du freeze, admitt large Ships to pass with ease, whether it ought not to be properly secured, as the Chevaux du freese's for that purpose are floating along side the Fort Wharfe.

Fourthly, Having observed a Large Brigg under the care of Mich. Dorsey, to pass through the East Channell with safety, whether it might not be proper to move the Chevaux du freese's prepared at Gloster, to prevent the passing of any vessels at so great a distance from the Fort, which vessels are seldom, if ever, examined by the fleet, and might, through the means of subtile persons, pass Troops to the City undiscover'd, till too late.

Fifthly, As the 18 P'rs on board the Province Ship are too long to be work'd to any degree of advantage for action, if it would not be Expedient imediately to change them for Cannon, more suitable, and the present Cannon on Board to be mounted at Billingsport, to form a defence for, and with the Chevaux du freese's, and to send the six Gunns w'ch lays useless [on]

Mr. Morriss's Wharfe, to suitable places here I have to mount them on, until they are wanted for other Service. I remain, Sir, [&c.]

Thos. Proctor.

Directed to the Hon'ble Council of Safety, Philadelphia

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 45-46.

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

[Williamsburg] Tuesday October 15th 1776

Ordered that the Commissioners of the Navy Board be requested to order down to Portsmouth all such Row gallies and other Vessells that in their opinion can be best spared for the purpose of assisting the Transportation of the Carolina Troops to the Head of Elk on their way to New Jersey.

A Permit granted to the Sloop *Olive Branch* Captain Baine to proceed on her Voyage to Saint Eustatia. Manifest of her Cargo filed. Bond executed acknowledged and ordered also to be filed.

Upon Information given to this Board by Benjamin Harrison Junior Esquire of his preparing to fit out a Continental Vessell on a Trading Voyage and being in want of some Articles for that purpose applied for the Loan of some Canvas, Twine and a few Needles without which the said Vessell could not be completed so as to proceed on her intended Voyage. In consequence of which Application a Letter was wrote to Thomas Whiting Esquire first Commissioner of the Navy Board requesting him to order to be delivered out of the Publick Store to Mr Harrison such a quantity of the said Articles that he wants provided that the same can be conveniently spared from the Public Service.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 197-98.

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

[Williamsburg] Tuesday 15th October 1776.-

Pursuant to request of the honble the Council — Ordered that the following Captains, to wit, Celey Saunders of the *Lewis* Galley, James Markham of the *Page* Galley, George Elliott of the *Safeguard* Galley, Robert Conway of the *Protector* Galley, George Muter of the *Hero* Galley and Lieut Harris of the *Manley* Galley do Proceed immediately with their said Vessels from their present stations to Portsmouth in Order to Assist in Transporting the Carolina Troops up to the Head of Elk who are on their March to New Jersey, and return again to their Respective Stations as soon as possible — Capt Thomas Lilly of the Brig *Liberty* having been summoned to appear before the Board on this day to Answer the Complaint of Alexander Massenburg, Joseph Willson, John Chick, Thomas Coleman, Thomas Bailey & John Royston lately exhibited against him appeared accordingly, whereupon sundry Witnesses being sworn and examined On Consideration whereof It is

the Opinion of the Board that the Allegations setforth in the said Complaint have not been sufficiently Proved. It is therefore Ordered that the said Lilly be acquitted of the said Complaint and that he discharge such of the Complainants as are desirous of Quitting the Service. —

1. Navy Board Journal, 78-79, VSL.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY<sup>1</sup>

[Charleston] Tuesday the 15th Day of October 1776

Message to the Legislative Council  
Honourable Gentlemen

On the 11th Instant we sent you for your Concurrence therein a Resolution "That the Commissioners of the Treasury as a further Encouragement to the Commander and marines belonging to the Vessel called the *Revenge* do pay and advance to the said Commander and men out of the amount of the sales of the Cargo taken from on board the transport Brigantine called the *Glasgow Packet* One Sixth of the neat amount of sales of the said Cargo" And we now desire to know if your Honours have concurred accordingly and if you have, that you will please to order the same to be sent to His Excellency for his assent

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly Journals*, 120, 122.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY BOARD<sup>1</sup>

[Charleston] Tuesday 15th October 1776.

The Board met according to Adjournment

Present: Edward Blake Esq: First Commissioner

Geo: Abbott Hall, Josiah Smith Thos. Savage Thomas Corbett

George Smith Esquires

Read the Minutes of the last Meeting

Ordered, That the following Advertisement be inserted in the *Gazette* & that three Hundred Handbills be struck off & dispersed in the Country

The Commissioners of the Navy are in want of a quantity of Salted beef and Pork in barrels. Any persons inclined to furnish them therewith are desired to send proposals in writing to the subscriber, mentioning the quantity of salt required for each barrel of Beef and Pork; (which the Commissioners will supply the contractors with upon their entering into contract with them,) and the price they will deliver the Beef and Pork at in Charlestown, the same being properly cured and packed in tight barrels, weighing two hundred pounds neat weight. They are also in want of a quantity of Ship Bread and Flour, for which they will give the market price, or enter into contract with any person inclined to supply them.

Edward Blake, First Commissioner.

Returns were received from the officers of the Brigantine *Comet* and the Brigantine *Defence*.

Orders were given to Captain Edward Allen to get his Water, Provisions, and other necessaries on board, ready to proceed to sea as soon as possible, and to report when he is ready.

Orders were given to Captain Thomas Pickering to apply to the Commissary to furnish him with such Sails as are wanting for the Brigantine *Defence*, and other Necessaries to get her ready for Sea.

Alexander Horn the Public Boat keeper was ordered to attend the next Meeting.

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina Navy Board*, 7.

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

October 1776                      At Single Anchor in St Augustine Bay  
 Tuesday 15                      at 8 AM swayed up the Lower Yards Do saw a sail in  
    the NE Qr at 11 the *Raven* fired two Shot at the above  
    Vessel brot her too and Detained her She proved to be the  
    Brig *Friendship* – Townsend Master from Sayannah Laden  
    with rice

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM KINGSTON, JAMAICA, DATED OCT. 15."<sup>1</sup>

We are all very quiet at present, and have been so for some time past. Martial law has been suspended about a month; but parochial guards were kept throughout the island, till within this fortnight. The militia is now restored to its former state, and I hope there will be no further occasion for martial law being established here.

A few weeks ago the French frigate *L'Hermione*, commanded by Mons. Demonteil, Brigadier-General and knight of the order of St. Louis, came in here from St. Nichola Mole in Hispaniola, to demand a small American schooner which had been taken by the *Squirrel* a few days before. He alleged that the schooner was taken nearer the land than was permitted by treaty between the two courts. The Admiral answered, that Capt. [Stair] Douglas knew his duty, and if he had acted wrong, must answer for it; that he deemed the schooner a lawful prize, and would not deliver her up; but that if there were any differences to be adjusted, they must be settled by the two courts. The French frigate did not remain here 48 hours. It is reported that the admiral further told the captain, that he need not salute his ship when he went away, as he had omitted it when he came in; for that consequently the compliment should not be returned. There have been five or six prizes brought in here within these three weeks.

1. Almon, ed., *Remembrancer*, IV, 158.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Antelope*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM JUDD<sup>1</sup>

October 1776                      The West end of Tortuda ESE 6 Leags  
 Tuesday 15th                    AM light Airs and fair, at 6 saw A Sail to the Westwd gave  
 Chace, at 10 hoisted the Boats out sent them Arm'd at  
 11 they Boarded the Chace found her to be a Brigg from  
 Philadelphia, took possession of her<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/39.
2. James S. Biddle, ed., *Autobiography of Charles Biddle . . . 1745-1821* (Philadelphia, 1883), 90-93, contains an account of the capture of *Ranger*.

**16 Oct.**

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA<sup>1</sup>

At a Council holden at Halifax  
 on the 16th October 1776

Several depredations having been Committed on the Coast of this Province, by Vessels Armed and Mann'd by the Rebels of New England. -

The Lieutenant Governor Asked the Advice of the Council as to the expediency of fitting Out two Arm'd Vessels of proper Burthen to pursue such Pirate Vessels into Shoal Water and Creeks, and thereby defend the Coast from any further Insults and depredations. -

On which the Council were Unanimously of Opinion, that such Vessels shou'd be provided as the only Means to protect the Navigation on this Coast, and to prevent any Outrages being Committed on Shore.

1. N. S. Arch.

RICHARD BULKELEY TO THE JUSTICES OF THE PEACE OF  
LIVERPOOL, YARMOUTH AND BARRINGTON<sup>1</sup>

(Circular)  
 Gentlemen

Secy's Office

Halifax 16th October 1776

I am to inform you from the Lieut Governor that His Majesty's Ship *Albany* is sent to Cruise on the Coast between this Harbour and Cape Sable, and to look into every Port, and that she will be followed by other Ships and Armed Vessels in order to secure you from such Insults and depredations as have been lately committed, and to protect and defend His Majesty's Loyal Subjects. - I am Gent Your &c

Sign'd                      Rich<sup>d</sup> Bulkeley

To Elisha Freeman Simeon Perkins and  
 William Johnstone Esqr's Justice of the  
 Peac for Queen's County or either of  
 them at Liverpool

John Crawley, Phinehas Durkee and  
 Ephraim Cook Esqrs Justices of the



Prizes on your Cruize — order them to Boston — or some nigh Port — be Carefull in maning your Prizes; put Plenty of men on board to secure the same — if you shoud come thought [athwart] any Vessel that is not rich, take out what you can of her goods and let her go — when you get a good Prize, secure her well with men be carefull not to take any Vessel belonging to any inhabitant of the States of America for the rest act discretionally — Yours &c

Elijah F. Payne

[Endorsed] Boston March the 17th 1777 —

The within written Orders sign'd by Elijah F. Payne was at the date of said Orders deliver'd to me by said Payne for my directions at sea while in and commander of sd Schooner *Eagle* for four months cruize

Test. Barzilla Smith

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 197, 255-55a.

LIBEL OF COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS AGAINST THE PRIZE  
BRIGANTINE *Kingston Packet*<sup>1</sup>

State of Rhode Island & Providence Plantations ss To The Honorable John Foster Esq. Judge of the Court of Justice erected for the Tryal of Prize Causes in and throughtout the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations —

Esek Hopkins Esqr Commander in chief of the Fleete fitted out by the most Honbl the Continental Congress for the protection of the united States of America comes into this Honorable Court and gives your Honour to understand and be informed that John P. Jones Commander of the Sloope of War called the *Providence* being one of the Squadron under his command and duely commission'd to cruise against the Enemies of the united States of America on the Twenty fifth Day of September AD. 1776. being on a Cruise at a place call'd Narrowshock Harbour in the Island of Cape Bretton together with his officers, Marines and Mariners belonging to said Sloope took and captured the Brigantine *Kingston Packet* with her appurtanances commanded by one Samuel Ingersoll together with her Cargo consisting of dry Fish, pickled Fish and Skins and which said Brigantine and Cargo before and at the Time of Capture belonged to and were the property of some of the Inhabitants of the Island of Jamaica Subject to the King of great Brittain or to some other of his Britannick Majesties Subjects not Inhabitants of the Island of Bermuda or New Providence or the Bahama Islands which said King of Great Brittain's Fleets and Armies are now acting against the United States of America — And the said Esek Hopkins further informs your Honor that the said John Jones hath sent the said Brigantine with her appurtinancies and Cargo into the Port of Providence within your Honors Jurisdiction for adjudication Wherefore he prays that your Honor would take the Premisses into consideration and grant out the

proper process & monitions in such Cases by Law required and further  
proceede as to Right and Justice appertaineth

John Cole for Libellant.

[Providence, October 16]

1. Revolutionary War Prize Cases, No. 6, Court of Appeals, 1776-1787, NA.

### INTERROGATION OF JOHN GORDON<sup>1</sup>

Interrogatories answered by John Gordon late Mate of the *Kingston Packet*.

Interrog. When and where did you enter on Board the said Brigantine, and  
who are the Owners of the said Brig and her Cargo.

Answer I entered on Board as Mate of the said Brig at Gaspee in the  
Province of Canada in the Month of July AD 1776 — the said  
Brig and Cargo are Owned by Richard Derby and Haskel [Elias  
Hasket] Derby of Salem in the State of the Massachusetts Bay as  
I was informed by the Captain.

Interrog Who was Master of the said Brig at the time you entered on  
board as Mate, and where was she bound, and where has the Brig  
been since you entered on board to the time She was taken by  
Capt John Jones?

Answer Samuel Ingersol was Master, the Said Brig was bound from Gas-  
pee to Canso to purchase Fish and from thence to Cape Francois.

Interrog. Did Capt Ingersoll inform you where he had been with Said Brig  
from Salem before he came to Gaspee.

Answer He told me he had been to Jamaica & Dominica and was return-  
ing from thence and came within 12 Hours Sail of Marble Head  
and was chased by a Man of War and Obligated to go to Canso, and  
from Canso he went to Gaspee to sell the remainder of his Rum  
and Molasses which he brought from Dominica —

Interrog Do the Skins now on board the Said Brig belong to her Cargo?

Answer No. — they were put on board the Brig by Capt Jones's  
orders they took them out of a Store in Narrow Shock. the said  
Store belonged to one Roebin of the Island of Jersey in the Cha-  
nel of England.

John Gordon.

NB he says He was to have }  
8 Dollars pr Month Wages }

Sworn to in Providence Octor 16 1776 Before me

John Foster Judge in Prize Causes

1. Revolutionary War Prize Cases, No. 6, Court of Appeals, 1776-1787, NA.

### INTERROGATION OF ABEL COFFIN<sup>1</sup>

Interrogatories answer'd by Able Coffin Prize Master of the Brigantine  
called the *Kingston Packet*.

Interrog. When where and by whome was the said Brigantine taken what is her Tonage, who was the Master of the said Brig taken, from whence and to what Port was She Bound, what are the Contents of her Cargo; and are the papers you now present all the papers you received belonging to said Vessel

Answr The said Brigantine and her Cargo upon or about the Twenty fifth Day of September AD 1776 in Narrowshock Harbour in the Island of Cape Briton was taken by John Jones commander of and his officers and men belonging to the Continental Sloop of War called the *Providence*, the Masters Name I cannot tell. the People on said Brig say she was bound to Cape Francois her Cargo Consists of Dry Fish, about 35 Barrels of Pickled Macker[el] some Dear Skins and Moose Skins, the papers now Presented are all the papers which were delivered to me by Capt Jones. The said Brigantine is of the Burthen of about 110 Tons

Abel Coffin

Sworn to in Providence Octo 16. 1776 before me

John Foster Judge in Prize Causes

1. Revolutionary War Prize Cases, No. 6, Court of Appeals, 1776-1787, NA.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN HOYSTEED HACKER<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Newport October 16th 1776 —

Upon receipt of this you are to go up Swansey River, and Take the Privateer Sloop Captn [Joseph] Dennis,<sup>2</sup> who I have Intelligence has got some of our Men belonging to the Fleet — and bring the Sloop and all the Men you find onboard of her in to Newport harbour — and for so doing this Shall be your sufficient authority

E. H. Cr in Chief

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Commander of the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Fair Lady*, Mass. Arch., vol. 5, 286.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Saratoga Octr 16th 1776

Since the Letter from General Arnold of the 12th Instt which General Washington has doubtless transmitted to you, I have not heard a Word from the Fleet or Tyonderoga.

I am preparing to build Barracks for three Thousand Men at this Place and Stillwater.

If we do not quite lose the Lake this Campaign, it will be necessary to employ Four Hundred Carpenters all Winter in constructing a strong Naval Force; Cordage, Sails, Oakham, and Anchors must be provided somewhere below, and the whole brought up in Winter. Fifty whip Saws

will be wanted, and should be sent immediately, they are not to be had in this Quarter.

I wish a Quantity of Crocus, or any coarse Linnen, to be sent up for Sacks for the Soldiers' Bedding & Bolsters, it will be best to have them made up at Philadelphia, large enough for two Men.

A great Quantity of intrenching Tools must be provided, and such a Quantity of Ammunition sent next Winter to Tyonderoga, as will suffice for the Campaign, some should be sent immediately.

Cannon of the largest Size should be Cast in every Quarter, and sent up in Winter.

The Paymaster advises me, that his Chest is reduced to less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars, a Supply should be sent in Time. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 459-62, NA.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO THE COMMITTEE OF  
BERKSHIRE COUNTY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Saratoga Octo 16th 1776

Our Fleet which suffered severely in an engagement on the 12th instant with the Enemy has been still more severely handled in a subsequent [one] — insomuch that the Enemy are left masters of the Lake and are now coming on to attack our Army at Ticonderoga —

In this situation of affairs it is of the utmost importance that the Militia of your State should immediately march to sustain the Army — Such as can most expeditiously come by the way of Albany should do so, and the others take the Route to Skeensborough — Each man should come provided with as much provision and ammunition as possible — The commanding Officer must send me information of his number and the progress in his march from time to time — I shall be either at Fort George or at Skeenesborough, but as I cannot determine which, it will be proper to send expresses to both places — Please to forward Copies of this to Governor Trumbull and to every Committee in your State in a situation of affording assistance, as also to the neighbouring Counties in the State of Connecticut. I must repeat Gentlemen, that it is of great importance that I should be duly furnished with an account of the movement and number of the Militia — I am Gentlemen [&c.]

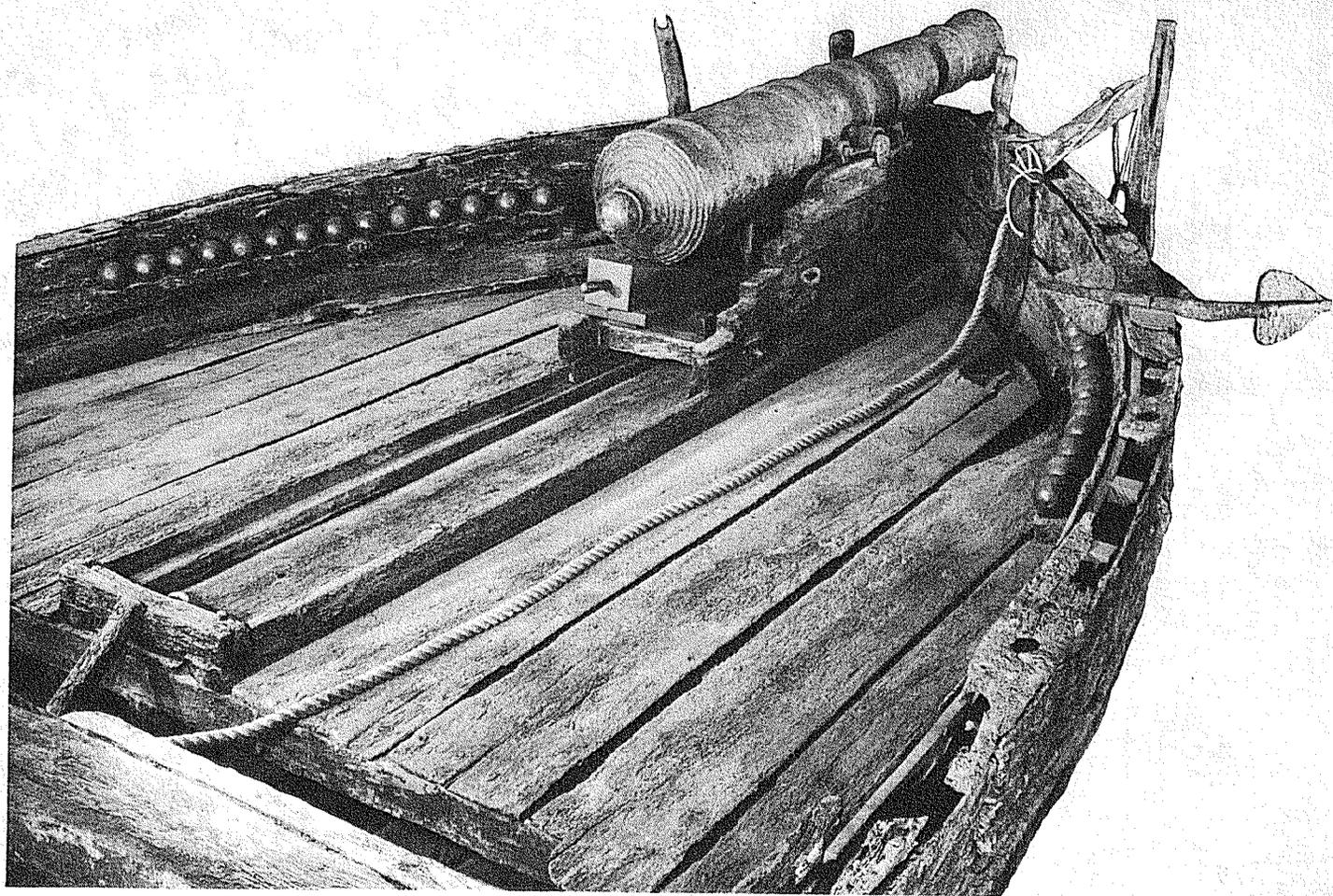
Ph: Schuyler

1. Trumbull Papers, XXVI, Letter Book I, 95, 96, ConnSL.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Fishkill] Wednesday Afternoon, Octor. 16th, 1776.

A letter from John Sloss Hobart, Esqr. dated at Fairfield, Octor. 8th, 1776, setting forth the state and circumstances of the sloop *Montgomery*,



*12 Pound Bow Gun of Continental Gunboat Philadelphia.*

and of the sum of money necessary for paying off the wages of the crew, and other expenses. Thereupon,

*Ordered*, That the sum of £800 be transmitted by Mr. Gelston to Mr. Hobart at Fairfield, or such other person as Mr. Gelston may think safe and prudent, in the absence of Mr. Hobart, to be advanced to Capt. [William] Rogers for defraying the expenses of fitting out and paying off the wages of the officers and crew of the sloop *Montgomery*.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 680.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HUGH MERCER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Amboy October 16. 1776 –

General Green [Nathanael Greene] has informed your Excellency that a party pass'd over last night to Staten Island with a view to attack the Enemy, at the east end near the Watering Place – as we advanced towards Richmond Town information was given, that some Companies of British & Hessian Troops were stationed there – surprising them was therefore the first object, which was effected this morning at break of day – Well disciplined Troops would have taken the whole without the loss of a man – but we only took about twenty prisoners, partly Hessians & English – eight Hessians & nine British, one of those wounded, & besides these two mortally wounded left at Richmond Town – We lost two men in the Action –<sup>2</sup> What we have collected of intelligence from the Prisoners, is enclosed –

Your Instructions of October the 15th I shall immediately set about, observing with the utmost diligence and Punctuallity – Col Griffin received a Wound in the Heel in the Action of this Morning & Lt Col Smith of the flying Camp slightly wounded in the Arm – I shall send the Prisoners on to Philadelphia. I have the honour to be Sir [&c.]

H Mercer

[Enclosure]

Head Quarters 16 October 1776 So Amboy

The Examination of two Regular Soldiers & one Hessian taken Prisoners on Staten Island this Morning at the Church –

Robt Holbrook – says he belongs to the 14th Regiment – Commanded by Colnl Dalrimple – 20 Regulars & 45 Hessians were at the Church, – & there were about 1500 on the Island at first – about 10 days ago the greatest part of the Hessians embarked – Capt Stanton Commanded this Morning – & fled – Genl How has 22000 including Hessians & all other Troops – Some new Troops landed last Monday – the Army in good Health & plenty of Provisions – all Salt on the Island – they expect 15000 Hessians every day – but no English Troops – the only reinforcement is the 6th Regiment about 150 – Hessians in the Army supposed to be 15000 –

Peter Gee of the 6th Rt Colr Boothby says – 150 of them landed on Staten Island last Monday from the *Chambury*, Transport – left England the 3d July 20 Sail Came out with them 2 Men of War & 18 Provision Vessels

— they were making great preparations at England recruited very fast — but expected the Press to breakout — about 700 Hanoverians came out, as many more expected — some of them lay at Plymouth — the greatest part of the Hessians left the Island — a great many Sick in the Island — the number in the Fort not known — supposed about 600 — only two pieces of cannon in the Fort — expected a reinforcement of the regulars —

Christian Guiler a Hessian Private — says tis 8 Years since he left his own Country allmost all their Troops is with Genl How — 12000 of them have come, expect more — expected if taken Prisoner to have Mercy shewn him if we were a Christian People — that he was brought from his Country by force, that detachments were sent through thier Country & if thier Parents interferd were put into Jail — were told they were to be Garrisond in England — but after 3 days arrival in England were orderd to embark for America to their great disappointment, & against thier Will were guarded to thier Ships — they saw no papers of any kind among them from us — if they knew that they would be well treated by us, would if all lay down thier Arms — have no desire to Return to thier Ridgment again — are much pleasd & happy with the treatment they have receivd — and are very thankful for the same —

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. "By the accounts from Staten Island, the Rebels have landed near 1200 men there, have burnt some houses, and done other damage. Captain Stanton of the 14th Regt who was posted at Richmond with a Detachment of about 60 men, has, it is said, been obliged to retire from thence with some loss." *Mackenzie's Diary*, October 16, 1776, I, 80.

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

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, October 16, 1776

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the general court of Massachusetts bay, to give the continental agent the full weight of their influence to make the frigate *Hancock* ready for sea immediately; that whatever expence shall accrue to the state of Massachusetts bay, either for procuring guns or other stores for fitting the said frigate, shall be reimbursed on demand; and that, in directing the cruise of the said frigate, the Congress will pay all the regard to the protection of the commerce of Massachusetts bay, that the zeal of that state, in the common cause, justly entitles it to.

Whereas sundry prizes have been heretofore taken by the cruisers fitted out by General Washington, at the continental expence, and on continental accounts, and no accounts thereof have yet been rendered by the agents who received and sold the said prizes; and, whereas, a just distribution of such shares of the said prizes as are due to the officers and men, agreeable to the rules and regulations of Congress, ought to be made;

*Resolved*, That the Marine Committee be empowered to order such distribution of the said prize money amongst the parties interested therein; and that they recover from the said agents the continental share of all the said prizes:

That the present continental agents do account with the Marine Committee, from time to time, for the continental share of all prizes received and sold by them, and that they pay the amount of such prizes to the order of the said committee:

That the said agents make just distribution of the shares in all prizes that appertain to the officers and crews of the continental ships of war, agreeable to the rules and regulations of Congress, as soon after the sales of each prize as possible:

That the Marine Committee apply all the prize money they receive from the agents, to the service of the marine department, and hereafter render accounts thereof to Congress:

That the Marine Committee report, from time to time, all sums of money they received for prizes to the treasury, in order that the same may be charged to their account in the treasury books.

The Board of Treasury reported, that there is due,

To Captain Sion Martindale and Lieutenant Moses Turner, for their pay and rations from the 1st of January to the 14 October, 1776, the sum of 572 76/90 dollars.

*Ordered*, That the said account be paid.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 879, 881-83.

WILL OF JOHN HARPER, MASTER OF THE CONTINENTAL SHIP *Reprisal*<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia, October 16]

I John Harper of the City of Philadelphia Master of the Ship *Reprisal*, Lambert Weeks [Wickes] Commander being bound on a Cruize considering the Uncertainty of this transitory Life, do make and declare these Presents to contain my last Will and Testament: that is to say, I give and bequeath unto my Loving Brothers James Harper and Ruben Harper all my Prize Money due me from said Ship and Wages & Prize Money that hereafter may become due Also all my Prize Money that is due me from the *Hornett* Sloop of War William Stone then Commander — and all the rest of my Estate, real & Personal, wherewith at the Time of my Decease I shall be possessed or invested, or which shall belong, or of Right appertain unto me, I do give, devise & bequeath unto my said Brothers James Harper & Ruben their Heirs & Assigns for ever to be equally divided between them Share & Share alike — And I do hereby nominate and appoint my Trusty & loving Friend William Davis of the said City Merchant to be the Executor of this my last Will & Testament, hereby revoking all former Wills and Testaments by me made, and do declare this to be my last Will. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand & Seal, this Sixteenth Day of October Annoque Domini, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

John Harper

Signed, Sealed, & Declared to be the last Will and Testament of him the said John Harper in the presence of Lambt. Wickes — Allen Moore —

1. Will Book R, No. 186, 179, Register of Wills Office, Philadelphia.

*Pennsylvania Journal*, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1776.

Philadelphia [October 16].

Saturday last arrived here the ship mentioned in our last, taken by the brig *General Montgomery*, she proves to be the ship *Thetis*, Capt. [Hezekiah] May, with 310 hogsheads of sugar, 90 puncheons of rum, &c. from Montego Bay for London, and belonged to a fleet of near 200 sail, who left Jamaica in August last, under convoy of two men of war.<sup>1</sup> The above ship, in coming up, touched on the Cheveaux de Frize, where she would have, in all probability sunk, had it not been for the timely assistance she received from the Row-Galley-Men.

Yesterday arrived from a cruize the continental schooner *Wasp*, Capt. [John] Baldwin, and brought in a large Guinea ship, bound from Jamaica for Liverpool, with 305 hogsheads of sugar, 55 puncheons of rum, &c. part of the Jamaica August fleet. —<sup>2</sup> This is the third of that fleet sent in here.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, October 16, 1776, contains libel filed against the *Thetis* in the Pennsylvania Court of Admiralty.
2. The ship *Leghorn Galley*.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen,

Lewis, Oct'r the 16, 1776.

I Rec'd your letter per Express, last night at half-past Eleven o'clock, wherein you order me to send two Pilot boats to Cruise to the Eastward, I must acquaint you that there is no boats here that can be got, that is any ways fit for the Service, they being all bought up by your Merchants to send to sea. You likewise desire me to keep a strict look out, which you may depend upon that I shall, as my Character is at stake, though but trifling to your City. I must acquaint you that I have placed a very good and trusty hand at the light house, to give me the Earliest Notice of the Approach of any of the Pyrates, and you may Relie upon it that my Whale boat and Express horse is all Ready at a moments call. I should have answered your Letter by the Express horses, but I did not know the moment that I might want them, as the wind has been Eastwardly for this several Days. Haveing no more to add at this time, I Remain [&c.]

Henry Fisher.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 47.

GEORGE WELLS TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Baltimore October 16th 1776

As I expect to Launce one of the Row Gallies in about 18 Days I Should be oblidgd to You to let Me Know per Bearer Mr John Barry how the Row Gallies Should be Masted & Rigged, or Whether Y[ou]'ll leave

that Matter to Capt [James] Nicholson & Self. Please Alsoe, to let me know, Who is to be the Sail Maker & Who is to find the Cordage Who am Gentlemen [&c.]

George Wells

P.S. Please to let me know What Weight of Mettal they are to Carry

1. Red Book, XI, Md. Arch.

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

Gentell Men

[Wood Yard] October 16 1776

as Captain Paterson [William Patterson] boat is So Near Redey to Sail I thought it Would be as Well for him to Com up In hir Redey to Receive your orders Which will be tomor[ro]w as the Larg Schooner Culd be got Redey In a fue Days With Six Careg guns If you Would Consent to swap two feild Pises Which you have In anaplois for two heve Pises that I tuck out of the *Reselution* the Large Schooner is Persed [pierced] for ten three and two Pounds[r]s but as wee are oblige to Put In fore Pounders six will be near Equal In wait of Mett[a]l (the Schooner is a fine vesell) thare is sum Vesells on the sea shore to sell If you ware to Buy one of them and load them whare they are the danger would be Considrebell less to git them out th[a]n giting them out of the Bay – My Son will Inform you what sitiwat[io]n the vesell ar hear In I hope you will not think me forward In ateming to dictate for you as I Raley Do not Intend it but am Redey to oblige you In Evrey Employemen you Can set me about and am [&c.]

Stephen Steward

1. Red Book, XI, Md. Arch.

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

[Williamsburg] Wednesday 16th October 1776. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Mr Patrick Lochart for five hundred and forty three Pounds five shillings and eleven pence for Hemp furnished Capt Charles Thomas for the use of the Rope-Walk. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to John Bolling for the use of Daniel McCallum for seven pounds seventeen shillings for Rugs furnished Lieut Henry Stratton for the use of the Marines. –

The Board having had under Consideration a Letter from Colo George Mason directed to the honble John Page Esq. also a Letter from the said Mason to Messrs Stival & Son Merchants in Dunkirk respecting a Voiage to be made by the Brig *Adventure* at Present lying at Portsmouth loaded with Tobacco under the Command of Capt Sansford are of Opinion that the said Brig Proceed immediately to Dunkirk agreeable to the Orders of Messrs Mason & Dalton. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Capt James Barron for two hundred and forty seven Pounds eighteen shillings and three pence for Disbursements and pay of his Company on Board the Boat *Liberty* from the twenty fifth day of June 1776 to the 25th Septr following. –

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt Lawrence Sanford three pieces of Thick and six pieces of thin Sail Cloth for the use of the Tobacco Brig at present Ordered to Dunkirk –

1. Navy Board Journal, 80–81, VSL.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY<sup>1</sup>

[Charleston] Wednesday the 16th Day of October. 1776

Resolved That it is the Opinion of this House That the Commissioners of the navy do forthwith furnish and supply Colonel [Christopher] Gadsden with all the assistance of vessels and Hands in their power to Procure to carry on the Public Work he is now about And that a copy of this Resolution be served on the said Commissioners

Message from the Legislative Council by their Clerk

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen

In answer to your message of yesterdays Date desiring to be informed if this House had agreed to the Resolution of your House of the 11th Instant “That the Commissioners of the Treasury as a further Encouragement to the Commander and the marines belonging to the Vessel called the *Revenge* do pay and advance to the said Commander and men out of the amount of the sales of the Cargo taken on board the Transport Brigantine called the *Glasgow Packett* One sixth of the nett amount of sales of said Cargo” we acquaint you that this House upon considering the said Resolution thought proper to reject the same

In the Legislative Council  
the 16th Day of October 1776  
By Order of the House  
Thomas Shubrick Speaker

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly Journals*, 130, 131–32.

17 Oct.

DAVID SMITH TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

To the Honorable the Council & the Honorable the House of Representatives of the State of Massachusetts Bay

The Petition of David Smith humbly sheweth That your Petitioner has been lately taken in the Schooner called the *three Brothers*, whereof Your Petitioner was Master & part owner, by Capt Fisk, in the *Tyrannicide*, an Armed Sloop in the service of this State, & carried into Dartmouth – half of said Schooner & Cargo have been decreed by the Maritime Court for-

feited to this State as Nova Scotia property, whereby Your Petitioner suffers the loss of a Quarter part of said Vessel & Cargo, which, with his private Adventure, being all your Petitioner had to depend on for the support of a large Family with six young Children & an Aged Father & Mother. Your Petitioner prays the Honoble Court would extend the favor that has been granted unto others under similar circumstances, & order that his private adventure be restored to him, & would also pray for the same indulgence to the Sea-men belonging to said Schooner — And Your Petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray.

John Pitts for and in behalf  
of David Smith —

[Endorsed] In Council Octr 17 1776 Read & Comitted to Moses Gill Esqr with such as the Honble House shall join to take the above Petition under Consideration — Sent down for Concurrence

John Avery Dpy Secy  
In the House of Represent[ative]s Octr 17, 1776 Read and Concurred and  
Colo Sartell & Majr Eppes are joined

J Warren Spkr<sup>2</sup>

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 3,4.

2. *Ibid.*, 2. Smith's petition was approved on November 4, 1776.

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

[Watertown] October 17th 1776.

Application from the Committees of South Hadley representing. That Whereas Lieut John Knight a Prisoner on Parole is destin'd to reside at South Hadley, and the Committee found in his possession a Box containing sundry Surveys of the Coast of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New England, including the Harbour of Boston, & Isles &c wch Box of Surveys they took from him, least they might in future prove prejudicial to the Interest of America. And he the said Knight urges that said Surveys may be returned to him again alledging that they are certainly no other than Copies taken from Capt Cook, Mr De Barras, Capt Holland &c published in London — That Genl Washington inspected them at Cambridge, and suffer'd him to retain them, That it cost him much time to copy them, and supposes them to be his own private property —

The Committee upon Consideration judged proper to refer the matter to the consideration of the General Assembly — praying that the Hon: Court would signify their pleasure touching the premises by some early opp[ortunit]y as there is a prospect that said Knight may soon be Exchanged, &c

In Council, Resolved that the Committee of Correspondance Inspection & Safety of the Town of South Hadley be, & hereby are directed to transmit to the Secretary of this State the Box mention'd in said Committee's Letter containing the sundry Surveys therein referred — also any Minutes of sur-

veys that Lieut Knight may be possessed of the said Surveys, & Minutes to be deposited in the Secretary's Office until the further Order of this Court.

1. *Mass. Arch.*, vol. 36, 34-35.

*Independent Chronicle*, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1776

Boston, October 17.

Monday last was sent into Salem, by Captain [Simon] Forrester, a Prize Brig, with a large Quantity of Sea-Coal, and 1600 Pieces of Woolen Cloth.<sup>1</sup>

Same Day, a Prize Schooner was sent into the same Place, laden with Fish, &c. — She was taken by Capt. Carlton [William Carleton], in a Privateer fitted out from Salem.<sup>2</sup>

On Wednesday, last week, was sent into Falmouth, Casco-Bay, a large Prize Ship, with 16 Carriage Guns, and 10 Swivels; her Cargo consists of Beef, Pork, Butter, Pease, Bread, Oatmeal, Flour, 20 Casks and 2 half Ditto Powder, and 207 Casks Nails. Capt. English, the Prize-Master, took two Brigs, with Raisins, Beef, Pork, Butter, and Rice; but was obliged to dismiss one for Want of Hands.<sup>3</sup>

[Advertisement]

By Order Of The Agent. On Thursday, 24th October, At Ten in the Morning, Will be sold by Public Auction,

On Mr. [Tristram] Dalton's Wharf, Newbury-Port, In Time, the Ship *Batchelor*, burthen about 180 Tons; together with her Appurtenances and Cargo, consisting of

260 Hogsheads Muscovado Sugar,	35 Puncheons Rum
20 Hogsheads best clayed Sugar	2 Pipes Madeira Wine,
and 4 Casks Coffee.	

The Ship will be put up at XII o'Clock precisely.

John Warden, Auctioneer.

1. Brig *Good Intent*, prize of the Massachusetts privateer sloop *Rover*.

2. Schooner *Dragon* taken by the Massachusetts privateer schooner *General Gates*.

3. Ship *Nancy* taken by the Massachusetts schooner *Hawke*, Captain John Lee. See also *The Freeman's Journal*, October 12, 1776.

JOSEPH & WILLIAM RUSSELL TO BARNABAS DEANE<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence Octob: 17. 1776

Your Favour requesting us to procure You an Iron Hearth or Cabose for the Ship of War under Your Care<sup>2</sup> also requesting us to inform You whether You could be supplied with 12 lb Shot and what Price we gave the Riggers for Rigging the *Warren & Providence* we received and it has not been in our Power to reply thereto until now by Reason of Mr Mumford (who is the only Person who undertakes Iron Caboses) being at Warwick and his Workmen at Warren & the great Difficulty in obtaining Bar Iron & Iron Plates; the latter must be plated at Pawtucket — Mr Mumford has

agreed to make this Cabose at the same Rate he has ever done only being allowed the Difference in the extraordinary Rise of the Material which was the Way the Naval Committee agreed with him for the two for the *Warren & Providence*: The *Warren's* was done first & weigh'd 10½ Cwt for which we paid him 12d per Pound; that for the *Providence* was done next and weighed 19 Cwt and odd for which we paid him 13½d per lb. The Reason of the latter's weighing so much more than the former was because she had Iron Pots & the *Warren* a Copper Cook Kettle; but before Mr Mumford can begin upon Your Cabose You must send Answers to the following Questions Do You propose having a Copper Boiler or Iron Pots? If a Copper then the Blacksmith must have the exact Dimensions of its Length, Breadth & Depth from outside to outside; if Iron Pots it will then be best that they be sent to the Smith at Warren if it can be done as the Cabose may be more certainly made to fit them without Loss of Weight; But if they cannot be sent conveniently, the Diameter over the biggest Part of the Pots & also the Height of them as they stand on a Floor: If the Cabose is to stand under the Forecastle it will then be necessary to know the Height from the Deck to the Carlines of the Forecastle that Room may be left for cleaning the Pots &c.

As soon as Your Answer to the foregoing is received we will immediately forward it to Mr Mumford who has promised that no Time shall be lost: But You must expect the Price will be much more than our last cost us owing to the very great Scarcity and Demand for Iron. Any Quantity would sell for Forty eight Pounds per Ton: It is with great Difficulty any can be got —

The Price we gave our Riggers for working on the Continental Ships was from 5/ to 6/ pr Day; but all Labour of every Kind has greatly advanced here since and we think You had better agree with Your Riggers on the best Terms You can. In Regard to the 12 lb Shot we have advised with our Naval Committee & they think they shall be able to supply You with what You may want — You mention having sent Part of the Spars by Capt \_\_\_\_\_ who is arrived & has lost in the Sound two of the largest of them, he says his Cable broke; we know not how it was but think he was not so careful as he ought to have been or that his Cable was rotten & good for Nothing. This is a very unlucky Affair; we hope better Luck will attend those You have to forward — We are [&c.]

(Copy)

Jos & Will<sup>m</sup> Russell

1. Barnabas Deane Papers, ConnHS.
2. The *Trumbull*.

ACCOUNT OF MONEY DISBURSED BY COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS <sup>1</sup>

[1776]

October 8th Paid Captn Hacker to pay Men belongg to the *Hamden*  
One hundd & forty Dolls

- th 10 paid Sundry Men belonging to the *Columbus* on accot  
 Wages - Vizt John Lowder One dollar  
 Thomas Cox One dollar  
 William Hamilton twenty one dolls  
 John Clark two dollars  
 Nine Men - 7 dolls ea - Sixty three dolls
- 11 - paid Ezra Winslow A months pay to go onboard the *Alfred*  
 Seven dollars -
- 10 Joshua Fanning Master of *Columbus* an Order on D<sup>r</sup>  
 Tillinghast for Six pounds twelve Shillings  
 Penn Curry ball. of half his Wages - & discharge -
- " John Rogers Mate of *Columbus* an Order on ditto for two  
 pounds 8/ penn Curry ball. of Wages - and discharge -
11. James Pearce belongg to the *Fly* or *Hamden* an Order on  
 ditto for twelve pounds 16/11½ Penny Curry ball. of  
 Wages -
- " Joseph Hardy Clerk of *Columbus* an Order on ditto for  
 thirty dollars
- 12 paid Captn Hacker to pay Men belong to *Hamden* One  
 hundd & forty dollars -
- " Pearce Donovan *Columbus* an Order on Mr Manly [John  
 Manley] for four dollars -
14. Jonathan Lewis Pilot of the *Alfred* an Order on ditto for  
 a mo pay twenty dollars -
- " John Robinson Sloop *Providence* an Order on ditto for  
 Six & 2/3 dollars -
- " Elias Carr Gunner of *Alfred* an Order on ditto for fifteen  
 Dollars -
- " James Rankin Yeomn ditto an Order on do for nine dollars -
- Octr 14 - Mathew Parke Captn Marines *Columbus* an Order on Mr  
 Manley for twenty Six and two third Dollars -
- " John E. Kesler Doctor *Columbus* an Order on Mr Manley  
 for twenty four Dollars
- " Michael Knies Midshipmn ditto an Order on ditto for  
 twelve Dollars
- " Charles Bulkley Midshpn *Alfred* } an Order on ditto  
 " Walter Spooner Master ditto } for twenty dollars  
 Alexr Nelso[n] Lt Marines ditto } each
- " Esek Hopkins junr Midsh. ditto - an Order on ditto for  
 twelve Dollars -
15. Thomas Burns } Marines belongg to the *Alfred* an Order on  
 Edwa Hagan } do for Six & 2/3 dolls each -
- " Edward Belangee } Gr Mates - *Alfred* an Order on ditto for  
 Edward Bowen } ten & 2/3 dollars each -
- " Lawrence Ash - Sloop *Fly* - an Order on D. Tillinghast for  
 four pounds 7/5 PC. ball. Accot

- “ Order on Mr Manley to pay Men who have Enter'd onboard the *Alfred* One hundred and forty dollars –
- “ paid John Nowell belong to the *Columbus* – two dollars –
15. Joseph Lanahan belong. to *Columbus* an Order on Manley for Eight dollars –
16. Samuel Tiley Carpr of *Alfred* – an Order on ditto for fifteen Dollars –
- “ John Scott – Surgeons Mate *Columbus* an Order on ditto for thirteen &  $\frac{2}{3}$  dollars –
17. Martin Ingle Marine ditto an Order on D. Tillinghast for four Pounds  $\frac{9}{4}$  P Curry ball. of his Wages –
- “ David Norton an Order on Mr Manley for Piloting Ship *Lowther* Prize taken by Captn [Elisha] Hinman –

## 1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO ROBERT MORRIS<sup>1</sup>

*Providence* Sloop of War at Newport

Rhode Island 17th Octr 1776

Honoured Sir

I wrote to you at Sea 4th Ulto by the Brigtine *Sea Nymph* my Second Prize. I have taken Sixteen Sail – Manned and Sent in Eight Prizes and sunk, burnt, or destroyed the rest. –

The list of Prizes is as follows.

- |   |                                     |                         |                                 |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | The Brigantine <i>Britannia</i> ,   | A Whaler –              | } Manned & sent in              |
| 2 | “ Brigtine <i>Sea Nymph</i> ,       | West India-Man          |                                 |
| 3 | “ Brigtine <i>Favourite</i> ,       | – Do                    |                                 |
| 4 | “ Ship <i>Alexander</i> ,           | Jersey Newfoundland-man |                                 |
| 5 | “ Brigtine <i>Success</i> ,         | – Do                    |                                 |
| 6 | “ Brigtine <i>Kingston Packet</i> , | – Jamaica do            |                                 |
| 7 | “ Brigtine <i>Defiance</i> ,        | Jersey do –             |                                 |
| 8 | “ Sloop <i>Portland</i> ,           | – Whaler.               |                                 |
| 1 | “ Ship <i>Adventure</i> –           | of Jersey               | } Burnt or otherwise Destroyed. |
| 2 | “ Brigtine <i>Freindship</i> –      | Do                      |                                 |
| 3 | “ Schooner <i>John</i> –            | London                  |                                 |
| 4 | “ Schooner <i>Betsey</i> –          | Jersey                  |                                 |
| 5 | “ Schooner <i>Betsey</i> –          | Hallifax                |                                 |
| 6 | “ Schooner <i>Sea Flower</i> –      | Canso                   |                                 |
| 7 | “ Schooner <i>Ebenezer</i> –        | Do                      |                                 |
| 8 | “ Schooner <i>Hope</i> –            | Jersey                  |                                 |

I have written from time to time to the Marine Board and furnished them with Particular Accounts of all my Poceedings [*sic*] and I now send Copies of my former letters. – I arrived here 7th Curr – I would not have lost a day without writing to you and to the Board – had not the Commo-

dore Proposed to me to Take Command of an Expedition — with the *Alfred*, *Providence* and *Hamden* to Destroy the Fishery of Newfoundland — but Principally to relieve an Hundred of our fellow Citizens who are detained as Prisoners and Slaves in the Coal Pits of Cape Briton — All my humanity was Awakened and called up to Action by this Laudable Proposal and I have been successfully Employed in refitting and getting the *Providence* in readiness — but am Under the greatest Apprehension that the Expedition will fall to nothing as the *Alfred* is greatly Short of Men. — I found her with only about thirty men and we have with much Adoe enlisted Thirty more — but it seems Privateers entice them Away as fast as they receive their Months Pay.

— It is to the last degree distressing to Contemplate the State and Establishment of our Navy. — The common Class of mankind are Actuated by no nobler principle than that of Self Intrest — this and this Only determins all Adventurers in Privateers; the Owners as well as those whom they Employ. And While this is the Case Unless the Private Emolument of individuals in our Navy is made Superiour to that in Privateers it never can become respectable — it never will become formadable. — And without a Respectable Navy — Alas America! — In the Present Critical situation of Affairs human Wisdom can Suggest no more than one infallable expedient. — Enlist the Seamen during Pleasure and give them all the Prizes — What is the Paltry emolument of two thirds of Prizes to the Finances of this Vast Continent! — If so poor a Resourse is essential to its Independency, in sober sadness we are involved in a Woeful Predicament, and our ruin is fast Approching —

— the Situation of America is new in the Annals of Mankind — her Affairs Cry haste — and Speed must Answer them — Triffles therefore ought to be wholly disregarded as being in the Old Vulgar Proverb “Penny Wise and Pound Foolish” — Your Enemies, with the best established and most formadable Navy in the Universe, have found it expedient to Assign all Prizes to the Captors — how much more is such Policy essential to our infant Fleet, but I need Use no Arguments to convince you of the necessity of making the Emoluments of our Navy equal if not Superiour to theirs. — we have had Proof that a Navy may be Officered almost on Any terms — but we are not so sure that those Officers are equal to their Commissions — nor will The Congress ever Obtain such certainty Untill they in their Wisdom See Proper to Appoint a Board of Admiralty compitent to determin impartially the respective Merits and Abilities of their Officers and to Superintend regulate & Pointout all the Motions & Operations of the Navy. —

Govr [Stephen] Hopkins tells me that he Apprehends I am Appointed to the *Andrew Doria* — She is a good Cruizer and would in my Judgement Answer much better were She mounted with 12 six-pounders than as she is at Present with 14 fours. — An expedition of Importance may be effected this Winter — on the Coast of Africa. — with part of the Original Fleet — either the *Alfred* or *Columbus*, with the *A. Doria* and *Providence* would I am persuaded carry all before them and give a Blow to the English African

Trade which would not soon be recovered by not leaving them a Mast Standing on that Coast. — this Expedition would be Attended with no great Expence besides the Ship and Vessels mentioned are Unfit for Service on a Winter Coast — which is not the Case with the New Frigates — the Small Squadron for this Service ought to Sail early that the Prizes may reach our Ports in march or April. — If I do not succeed in manning the *Alfred* so as to proceed to the Eastward in course of this week the season will be lost — the Coal Fleet will be gone to Halifax and the Fishermen to Europe. — I will not however remain inactive but Proceed to Cruise in the Sloop near Sandy-Hook. — Three of my Prizes have Arrived here and one or two more to the Eastward. I am &c.

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6495-6496, LC.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO DANIEL TILLINGHAST<sup>1</sup>

Sr/

Newport Octor 17. 1776

The Barer is a Lady on Bord the *Cabits Prize Lowther*<sup>2</sup> Should be glad you will take Care to Provide hur Such Logings as are Sutable to hur and See that Shee is treated Every other ways as a womon of Caractor and you will oblige yous at Command

E H

To Daniel Tillinghast Esqr  
Aguent for the Contentell fleet

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. Mrs. Mary Briggs, who addressed an undated note to "Admiral Hopkins" which reads:

Mrs. Briggs Presents her most respectful Compliments to Admiral Hopkins, returns him her best thanks for his Polite Offer of providing her a Lodging — but being a little Indisposed; and Captn Hamilton proposing to sail with the first fair wind thinks it best to go up with him, as he has behaved in the kindest maner. Mrs. Briggs will be much Oblig'd to Admiral Hopkins if he will take the trouble of writing a line with her to Providence — Thursday afternoon.

*Ibid.*

JOHN MANLEY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE PRIZE SHIP *Alexander*<sup>1</sup>

Newport Octobr 17. 1776

Recd from Bedford out of the Ship *Alexander* Taken by Capt [John Paul] Jones & ship'd from thence by Ephraim Spooner & Wm Watson Agents

dld to fleet 4 quoils Cordage 4c weight a 120/	24..--
1 Sale to Brig 2 Sales Value £ 6 and £ 13	19..--
Expences pd bringing round	8..--
	£ 43..8..--

4 bolts to *Warren* Recd out of the Ship *Alfred*

3 to *providence* 8 boults of Duck

1 to Mandley Carting of Do

8

1. John Manley's Account Book, NHS. This John Manley was Deputy Continental Agent at Newport, and is not to be confused with Captain John Manley of the Continental Navy.

ORDER OF SUBCOMMITTEE OF NEW LONDON AND GROTON <sup>1</sup>

New-London, 17th, Oct. 1776.

Whereas the frequent passing of Vessels, Boats, and other Water Craft, between this and the Neighbouring States and Towns, may serve the Purpose of conveying Persons Inimical, and Intelligence and Effects Detrimental, to the United States of America, unless Care is taken to prevent it.

For which Purpose, the several Committees of Correspondence and Inspection, for the Towns of New-London, and Groton have directed, that no Owner, or Master of any Vessel, Boat, or other Water Craft, shall convey any Persons, Effects, Letters or Intelligence, to any other State, or to any other Town in this State, without first applying to, and receiving a Permit from two or more of us the Subscribers, a Sub-Committee appointed for that Purpose, of which this Notice is given, by Order of said Committees, that all concerned, may take Notice thereof, and conform thereto, as on failure, they will be treated as Persons inimical to the United States of America.

Nathaniel Shaw, jun.  
Marvin West,  
Robinson Munford,  
Thomas Harris,  
Griswold Avery,

William Ledyard,  
Thomas Munford,  
Daniel Avery,  
Joseph Parker.

} Committee.

1. *Connecticut Gazette*, October 18, 1776.

LIBEL IN CONNECTICUT ADMIRALTY COURT AGAINST PRIZE  
SHIP *John* AND CARGO <sup>1</sup>

State of Connecticut, ss.

New-London County, Oct. 17, 1776.

A Libel is filed in the County Court for the County of New-London, against the Ship *John*, and her Cargo with all her Boats, Sails, Rigging and Appurtenances, James Dunbar, Master, the Property of the Subjects of the King of Great Britain, and not Inhabitants of Bermudas nor the Bahama Islands, being taken on the high Seas by the armed Brig *Defence*, belonging to the State of Connecticut, manned and set forth by said State and commanded by Seth Harding, Esq; and by him brought into the County of New-London, for Trial, praying for condemnation of the same as lawful Prize, to be disposed of for the Benefit of said State and Captors as the Law directs. This is therefore to give publick Notice to all Persons having any Claim or Demand on said Ship *John*, of her Appurtenances, or on the Cargo taken on Board, or any part thereof, that said County Court will sit in Norwich in the County of New-London, on the 7th Day of November next for the Trial of said Capture, when and where it is expected that all Persons

having any lawful Claim or Demand on said Ship, &c. will appear and make the same good, or be forever debarred. Per Order.

Wint. Saltonstall, Register.<sup>2</sup>

1. *Connecticut Gazette*, October 18, 1776.

2. Other libels carried in this newspaper issue included another of Harding's prizes, the ship *Sally*.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON<sup>1</sup>

Dear Colonel

Saratoga Octr 17th 1776

Our Fleet has been engaged with the Enemy and they have obliged us to quit the Lake with the Loss of the greater part of our Vessels — The Militia is ordered up to support the Communication: but the Tardiness of their Motions gives me great and just Cause to apprehend that the Enemy will interrupt our Supplies — It is therefore of the greatest Moment that you march with all Dispatch to Fort George and only to bring on your Tents.<sup>2</sup> I am Dear Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler.

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

2. Dayton's regiment was stationed at Fort Schuyler, protecting the settlers in the Mohawk Valley.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN AT ALBANY,  
DATED OCTOBER 17, 1776."<sup>1</sup>

You doubtless have heard of the engagement between our fleet on the Lake, and the enemy, on the 11th instant. Our advice left them the 12th, our fleet then at anchor near Schuyler's Island, in a Battered and leaky condition; the enemy just appearing in sight, beating up with a light southerly breeze. Events since have been very unfavourable: Our fleet made but little tarry at anchor, only to stop their leaks &c. and proceeded with all the dispatch their condition would admit of, towards Crown Point. A favourable northerly gale assisted the enemy to run up with the fleet when a second engagement commenced, which lasted five glasses, most of the time in musket shot, very warm and sharp, in which our men conducted with inimitable spirit and bravery, but were obliged to submit to superior strength. In this affair our fleet is almost totally ruined; only one galley escaped, with sloop *Enterprise*, and two small schooners, and one gondola. — the rest all taken, burnt and destroyed. General Arnold fought as long as possible in the galley *Congress*, when he was obliged to run her ashore, burn her, and escape by land to Tyconderoga, having lost 20 of his men. General Waterbury in the *Washington Galley*, fought till he was so shattered that the galley was sinking under him, and was obliged to strike; this is the only vessel that the enemy possessed themselves of. Col. Wigglesworth, in the *Trumbull galley* is arrived at Ticonderoga. — In both engagements we have lost a large schooner — three galleys burnt and taken, 8 gondola's burnt also; — have remaining a sloop 12 guns, 6 schooners, 8 guns each, 2 galleys 1 gondola.

The enemy's fleet is amazing – one ship 18 twelve pounders, 1 schooner, 14 six pounders, 1 ditto, 12 ditto, 3 large radeaux 6 twenty four pounders – 12 twelve pounders – 4 eight inch howitzers, all brass; 28 gondola's, 1 gun each, twelve, eighteen and twenty-four pounders, 1 eight inch howitzer; our people are all [returned] to Ticonderoga, where they may very soon expect an attack.

1. *Connecticut Courant*, October 21, 1776.

JOSEPH WILLIAMS TO WILLIAM COIT, NORWALK MERCHANT <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Camp Nigh Kingsbridge Octr 17th 1776 –

. . . we Expect a general battle here within a few days, As the Enemy have been Landing on frogs Point Ever Since Last Saturday from Long Island, & from the s[h]ipping which came through hell gate on Sunday, Supposed to be About 40 Sail, Part of which has Since returnd – on Monday a Number of boats with cannon & other warlike Stores, on board, were Lost in hell gate – tis supposed the Enemy's Plan is to Strike Across from the Sound, to the North river, & Shut our Army in – they have Advanced up frogs [Throg] Neck About 3 miles from where they first Landed, toward Eastchester – this frogs Neck is An Island at high water, & at Low water they can Cross the marsh in Severall Places – it is about five Miles from the Point where they Landd to Eastchester, where tis Supposed they will come across on to the Main, & it is Eight Miles from Eastchester to the North river, where tis Supposed they Mean to strike Across, & it is about 6 miles from Eastchester to the Bridge – Since they began to Land there, Our troops have been continually marching out, toward the Enemy, 3 Brigades under Command of the Honle Majr Genl [Charles] Lee, 3 under, Majr Genl [John] Sullivan, 3 under command of Majr Genl [William] Heath, & 3 under Genl [Joseph] Spencer, have Already came this Side the bridge, Exclusive of twelve regiments of New draughted men from the Massachusets, & Genl Saltanstalls [Gurdon Saltonstall] brigade of Militia from Connecticut – Genl Lee says we Shall work them if they came out; As the Land is very uneven & commodeous for forts, which our People Are very buisy in building – by Severall deserters we Learnd, that the Enemy have about 16000 men, on frogs Neck, & that Genl Howe, is on their himself, & is determined to carry his Point I believe it will be the greatest battle that has been yet, & tis most Likely a desisive one for this Season. . . .

1. Trumbull Papers, YUL.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE <sup>1</sup>

[New York] 17th Octr – The Recruits lately arrived for those Regiments which are with the Army under General Howe, went through Hellgate this morning in Flatboats.

The ships with the Hessians cannot go through for want of a proper wind. Several ships with Horses and Waggons are detained for the same reason.

The *Senegal* Sloop of War got through this Morning with much difficulty; she touched the Shore several times, but at last effected the passage with much labor and danger.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 81.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO JOHN LANGDON<sup>1</sup>

In Marine Committee

Sir

Philadelphia October 17th 1776

Capt John Roche having laid his plan before Congress they have referred the same to this Committee with power to carry it into Execution, and as we are of opinion the publick Service of America will be promoted by it We hereby authorize and require you to have built with the utmost Expedition a Brigantine calculated for a Vessell of War a fast Sailer and of strong Construction to carry Eighteen Six Pounders and about 120 Men<sup>2</sup> as both Capt Roche and you are well acquainted with Warlike Vessells we think it best to leave the dimensions to be fixed by you with the advice of the Carpenters &ca We Expect this business will be conducted on the best terms for the Publick Interest and that you will not lose one Moments time untill compleated. You will take proper Measures for procuruing Guns and all other Stores necessary and Capt Roche will attend and assist in this Business, inform us from time to time what occurs as necessary for us to be acquainted with in this business and in proper Season we shall direct further what is to be done, You are to pay for this Vessell out of the Continental Share of Prize Money in your Hands — We are Sir [&c.]

John Hancock	W <sup>m</sup> Ellery
Rob <sup>t</sup> Morris	Sam <sup>el</sup> Huntington
Geo Walton	Richard Henry Lee
Fra <sup>s</sup> Hopkinson	Will Hooper

1. USNAM.

2. The Continental sloop of war *Ranger*.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN ISAAH ROBINSON<sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Philadelphia] October 17th 1776

The Honorable the Congress having ordered that you should make avoyage under direction of the Secret Committee therefore you will receive their Instructions and comply with them — Those fulfilled you must give us notice that we may again direct your further proceedings, and during your present voyage we expect you will transmit us any useful or important intelligence that comes to your knowledge — that you take good care of the *Andrea Doria*, her Stores provisions and materials that you maintain proper discipline amongst your officers & men at the same time using them well. We dare say you will treat all such as become your prisoners with tenderness and humanity and on your return lodge Coppies of your log book & Journal in this office. We are sir [&c.]

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 34, NA.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE  
BRIGANTINE *Andrew Doria* <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia, October 17, 1776]<sup>2</sup>

The Brigte *Andrew Doria*

Isaiah Robinson Commander  
To the Commissioners of Naval Stores

Dr.

— For his First Cruise —

1776 —	c	qrs	lb		£	
September 24	To	1	Pair of Swiftern wt 1..3..26	@ 90/		8.18..4
October 7	"	"	Cash paid for days Labour		2..0..0	
	"	"	" " for a suit of Colours		6.10..—	
	"	"	" " for sawing & splitting 3 Cords wood		1..7..—	
	"	"	" " for 40 Barrels Bread		39..8..4	
	"	"	" " for days labour P Capt Locktons Bill		3..6..3	52.11..7
12	"	2	Iron Musquettoons	@		
"	"	"	Cash paid for 150 Cutlasses & for 100 Poleaxes			105..0..0
17	"	40	Hammocks			
21	"	"	Cash paid William Shute for 1 Box Candles		3..8..0	
"	"	"	" " Benja Condys Bill 32/ & William Rigdens	}	2.12..9	
	"	"	Bill 20/9			
"	"	"	" " Levi Budd for Boards		4..5..0	
"	"	"	" " James Allenby Cooper's Bill		2..2..6	12..8..3
23	"	46	yds French Canvass E @ pr yd & 20 Hammocks			
28	"	"	Cash paid Mrs Richardson for mending a Jack & for days Labour			1..4..0
31	"	2	Harness Tubs @ 25/			2.10..—
November 6	"	"	Cash paid Philip Halls Bill			47..9..2
9	"	do	" " James Fultons Bill			1..8..8
23	"	"	" " Anthony Morris Brewers Bill			11..2..—

OCTOBER 1776

1309

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE  
BRIGANTINE *Andrew Doria* Continued

[1777]

January	4	"	"	"	John Elmslie's Bill		12..-
	18	"	"	"	Arthur Donaldsons Bill	1..3..5 $\frac{1}{2}$	
		"	"	"	Joshua & Caleb Ash for fresh Beef	16..3..4	17..6..9 $\frac{1}{2}$
February	7	"			Sundry Ship Chandlery P Chandlery Book	93.12..2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
		"			Sundry Cordage p Book of Issues	161.16..9	255..8.11 $\frac{1}{2}$
	10	"			Cash paid Samuel Robbin's Bill		6..1.10
March	17	"	"	"	for sawing 2 Cords of Wood		1..-..-
	22	"	"	"	for Hydes		2..5..-
April	28	"	"	"	for 2 Rigging Hydes		4.10..-
May	10	"	"	"	Abraham Masons Bill	3..-..-	
		"	"	"	James Allenby Coopers Bill & for a Coopers Inshave	1.19.11	
		"	"	"	Wm Perkins Blacksmiths Bill	8..-..- $\frac{1}{2}$	
		"	"	"	Hercules Courtenay's Bill	12..5..-	25..4.11 $\frac{1}{2}$
	7				32 yds french Canvass equal to No 7 English		

1. Woodhouse Collection, Box 5, HSP.

2. The approximated date used is that of the Marine Committee order to Captain Isaiah Robinson. See preceding entry.

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

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] October 17th, 1776.

Mr. Nesbitt to pay Little & Owner £ 9 7 0, for making Ammunition Chest for Five Guard Boats.

Mr. Nesbitt to pay George Graham £ 3 3 0, for Wharfage of the Armed Boat *Convention*.

*Resolved*, That no persons be permitted to view the Fortification or go on Shore at Fort Island, unless they are employed in our Service, or have permission from the Committee for Fort Island or this Board.

A letter was wrote to Commodore Seymour, directing him not to Suffer any person (but such as are employed in the Service of this State) to Sound the Channell through the Chevaux de Frize, or take any measures to gain information of our Works of Defence, & if any such should be discovered, to apprehend them & inform this board thereof.

3 o'Clock, afternoon

*Resolved*, That Jonathan Cowpland be appointed Captain of a Guard Boat in the Service of this State.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 758, 759.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GEORGE WELLS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

We send you by Mr [John] Barry the £ 400, you desire may be transmitted by him, and will write you fully about the Masts, Sails, Rigging, and Cordage, also the weight of Metal of the gallies as soon as we see Mr Stewart [Stephen Steward], who has proper Drafts of those vessels &c, and has engaged the necessary Cordage. We are &c:  
[Annapolis] Octr 17th 1776

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 2, Md. Arch.

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

Gentel Men/

[Wood Yard] october the 17 1776

This will be handed to you by Mr John David he I think is a verey fitting Man for first Leftenant of one of the galleys he is a brisk active Man he likewise Sailed along time In one of the french galleys If you shuld think well of giving him a Comition he may be Recruiting till the galley is Redey to shipp which will be In a few Days – I am gentell men [&c.]

Stephen Steward

1. Red Book, XI, Md. Arch.

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

[Williamsburg] Thursday October 17th 1776

Ordered that the Boat with all her Tackle and Furniture that was taken at Gwynns Island by some of the Provincial Officers from Thomas Ohanow be redelivered to the said Owner he having been tried by the Court of Commissioners for Gloucester County on suspicion of being inimical to the Rights and Liberties of America but acquitted by the said Court.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 201.

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

[Williamsburg] Thursday 17th October 1776. —

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to William Brokenberry for the use of Archibald Ritchie for four pounds sixteen shillings and nine Pence for necessaries furnished Capt Robert Tompkins for the use of the *Henry Galley*. — Also for Thirteen pounds nineteen shillings and three pence for the use of Doctr John Brokenberry for Medicine furnished Capt Gabriel Jones's Company of Marines. — Also for Ten pounds thirteen shillings and six pence for the use of the said Doctr John Brokenberry for Attendance & Medicine furnished Capt Alexander Dicks Company of Marines.

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Colo Benjamin Harrison for Thirty five Pounds for two Cannon and a Quantity of Shot furnished Capt [James] Cocke of the Brig *Raleigh*. —

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt Cocke five hundred eight Penny nails five hundred ten penny Nails three handsaw files eight Bolts of light Canvas eight pounds of Twine, one Dozen Sail needles, one Dozen Shirts or Stripes or Chex to make them and one Dozn pr of Shoes for the use of the Brig *Raleigh*. —

Ordered that Colo William Finnie deliver unto Capt Cocke twenty Waistcoats for the Men on Board the Brig *Raleigh* —

Pursuant to a Resolution of Convention — It is Ordered that Capt James Cocke Enlist any four of the Seamen that were lately taken prisoners on Board the Ship *Oxford* provided they are willing to Engage in the service — Ordered that Mr James Hunter deliver unto Colo Southy Simpson or Order three Ton of Iron for the Purpose of Building the two Gallies on the Eastern Shore. —

Ordered that the two Gallies now Building on the Eastern Shore under the direction of Colo Southy Simpson be five feet & a half from the Top of the Ceiling to the lower part of the Beam —

1. Navy Board Journal, 82-84, VSL.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

Navy Board [Charleston] Thursday 17th October 1776.

The Board met according to Adjournment

## Present

Edward Blake Esq: First Commissioner

Thomas Savage, Thomas Corbett

Geo: Abbott Hall Josiah Smith

George Smith, Roger Smith

} Esqrs:

Read the Minutes of last Meeting

The following Letter was agreed to be sent to Mr. Anthony Bonneau, at George Town

Navy Office Charlestown, October 17, 1776.

Mr. Anthony Bonneau

Sir Capt. Seymour having represented to the Commissioners of the Navy, the Necessity of having a proper person at Georgetown to furnish Provisions &ca. for the armed Schooner *Rattlesnake* stationed there, they will be glad if it should suit your Convenience, to transact that business; and in order that you may be acquainted with the Nature of it, you will find enclosed an indent of such provisions as the Seamen in the Navy are allowed daily; also a form of a Return to be made & signed by the Purser monthly, when your accounts ought to be made out and transmitted to this Board, for the amount of which they will pay your order, upon the account being separately certified by the Purser and yourself. Captain Seymour is to send to you for provisions as they are wanted; for which purpose the Board recommend that you buy a good canoe and oars for the schooner, to be used only as a harbour boat; and whenever she may be ordered to sea, the canoe to be left in your or some other person's custody, to be taken care of until her return. The Commissioners will be glad to know on what terms you will transact the above business, to which they will give you an immediate answer.

By order of the Board:

Edward Blake, First Commissioner.

The following Letter was wrote to Captain John Copithorn:

Captain John Copithorn:

Sir: The Commissioners of the Navy request that you do immediately make use of your utmost endeavours to procure as many Schooners as you can hire for the service of the publick, & inform me as soon as possible of your success I am Sir [&c.]

Edward Blake, first Commissioner

The following Letter was wrote to Alexander Horn

Navy Board Chas. town 17th Octor. 1776

Mr. Alexander Horn

You are hereby required to hire a sufficient number of Negroes to cleanse the entrance at the Flood Gate, of the stones & rubbish now lying there, in Order to make it convenient to receive the Boats belonging to the Public, & you are likewise required to have them moved immediately there, as the place is made convenient, & where, after being at any time employ'd they are to be put until a more convenient place for their reception is fixed upon You are also to take particular care that all the Boats are kep't in good order & constantly supplied with Oars, Rudders, & Tillers.

By order of the Board:

Edward Blake, first Commissioner

The following Letter was wrote to Edward Darrell Esqr.

Edward Darrell Esqr,

Sir The Commissioners of the Navy Board require that you will, with all possible dispatch, Furnish Capt. Edwd. Allen of the brigantine *Comet*, and Captain Thos. Pickering of the Brig. *Defence*, with all such stores as are necessary to complete said Vessels for Sea I am [&c.]

Edward Blake first Commissioner

October 17, 1776.

The following Letter was wrote to Captain Stephen Seymour:

Navy Board, Charles Town 17th Octobr 1776

Captain Stephen Seymour

Sir An Act having passed the General Assembly the 9th April Last, For the more effectual prevention of the Desertion of the Soldiers & Sailors in the service of this state, The Commissioners of the Navy now Furnish you, with some Copies of the same, for your guide, at the station where your Vessell is, & you are hereby required to give your utmost assistance, for the apprehending, securing & sending to their respective Vessells, or Regiments, such Deserters as may be taken at or about George Town, & that you Furnish the Keeper of the George Town Ferry, with one Of the Acts, that he may be assisting therein, Also that you desire the attention of the Majistrates & others to the same, — The Commissioners have wrote a Letter to Mr. Bonneau, desireing him to furnish you with the necessary Provisions for the *Rattle Snake*, and in Order that there may be proper regulations observed, Mr. Bonneau is desired to purchase a

Canoe, for the purpose of carrying the provisions, which you are to send for as often as they are wanted, The Daily allowance of which for each man is inclosed with a Form for your purser or other Officer appointed for that purpose, who is to give an Accot. to the Commissioners what time the provisions are wanted, when they are to be punctually sent for; & your self, your Purser, or person appointed for the purpose, are to make a Monthly Return upon Oath, of the provisions, which shall be received, & the Expenditure thereof, which you are to Transmit to us, that the Commissary's Accots. may be Examin'd –

You will also direct your Boatswain, Carpenter & Gunner, to make a quarterly return of their Stores to you, which you are to sign & forward to this Board

By Order of the Board  
Edward Blake – first Commissioner

The following Letter was wrote to Capt Edward Allen

Capt. Edward Allen

Sir The Commissioners of the Navy have thought fit to appoint, Nathaniel Havens to be Purser of the Brig. *Comet*, & desire that you will receive him to Act in that station, & put all such stores as are now on board belonging to his Department into his Charge –

Octr. 17th. 1776 Edward Blake first Commissioner

The following Advertisement was Ordered to be given to Mr. Samuel Prioleau Junr –

To be sold at Auction on Thursday the 24th Instant, before the Exchange, Two Schooners One Lying at Colo [Christopher] Gadsdens wharf, the other in the Marsh near thereto, with their furniture and Tackle as they now Lye – By Order of the Commissioners of the Navy

Octor. 17th. 1776 –

Samuel Prioleau Junr & Co –

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina Navy Board*, 8–10.

*South-Carolina and American General Gazette*, WEDNESDAY,  
OCTOBER 9 TO THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1776

Charlestown, October 17.

We are well informed, that the Men of War have left North Carolina, and gone to New York. Previous to their Departure, they burnt the *Cruizer*, being unfit for Service, and several Prize Vessels. It is more than probable, that there is not at present one British Ship of War on any Part of the American Coast between Pennsylvania and East Florida.

18 Oct.

PETITION OF THE NEWBURYPORT COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE,  
INSPECTION AND SAFETY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

To the Honble the Council And House of Representatives of the State of the  
Massachusetts Bay  
The Memorial of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety,  
for, the Town of Newbury port,  
Humbly Sheweth,

That there are now in this Town, a Number of the Subjects of the King  
of Great Britain, who were Taken & Sent into this port in Vessels, Either  
Employ'd in his Immediate Service, or by the Inhabitants of his  
Dominions, As at present We have no Authority to Restrain those People,  
they have been down to our Fort, Viewed the Entrance And Every other  
part of our Harbour, and Daily Visiting our Wharfs Frigates and Armed  
Vessels, now Laying here; By Indulging them in these Libertys, We Con-  
ceive they will be able, When they Return to England, to Give our Enemy,  
Some Interesting Intelligence, — We Would further Represent to your  
Honrs that by their taking Lodgings in Different parts of the Town, they  
have Contracted an Acquaintance with many of the Inhabitants, to whom  
they Represent Our Situation, in the Darkest Colours, and the Enemy we  
are now Contending with as Invincible, We therefore Beg your Honrs  
would Order, that those who are not Willing to Enter on Board the Conti-  
nental Frigates, or Privateers, may be Removed to Some Inland Town, till they  
are Exchanged or otherwise Released.

In Behalf & pr Order of the Committee

Newbury port 18th October 1776

Jacob Boardman Chairman. P.T

[Endorsements]

In Council Octr 25, 1776.

Read & Ordered that Danl Hopkins Esqr with such as may be joined by the  
Hon House be a Committee to take the above Memorial into consideration,  
and to consider the matter at Large.

Sent down for concurrence

John Avery Dpy. Secy

In the house of Representa[tives] Octr 25 1776

Read and Concurred and Mr Murray and Mr Cooper are joined

J Warren Spkr

Colo Orne is added to the Comte

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 40.

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

Sir

Newport October 18th 1776 —

The Owners of Captn [Joseph] Dennis's Sloop have deliver'd two of  
the Men which Sign'd their Articles, and have given sufficient Security that

they will not carry away any of the Men belonging to the Fleet – If you find any Men onboard that do belong to the Fleet take them out and then discharge the Sloop, as there are some of the Owners<sup>2</sup> that are Men of honour & will not do any such thing it will be hard that they should Suffer for one Man who has behaved out of Character – So that upon the whole think it best to let the Sloop and her people go – I am Your Friend &c.

E H –

To John P. Jones Esqr Commr of the *Providence*  
 or  
 Hoysteed Hacker Esqr Commr of the *Hamden* –

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.
2. The owners of Captain Dennis's Massachusetts privateer sloop *Fair Lady* were listed in the bond as Nathaniel Farley, Jacob Treadwell and others, all of Ipswich. Mass. Arch., vol. 5, 286.

*Connecticut Gazette*, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1776

New-London, October 18.

The *Montgomery* Privateer, belonging to Providence, has taken and sent into this Port, a Schooner from Cape Nichola Mole, bound to Halifax, having on board 9000 Gallons of Molasses and 6000 Wt. of Sugar. The Privateer had been out but 24 Hours when she took this Vessel.

We hear that the Continental Brig *Cabot*, Capt. Elisha Hinman, has taken seven Prizes, one of which, a Ship, is arrived at Rhode-Island.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL<sup>1</sup>

Sir

The very critical state of our Army and frequent movements of the Enemy render it almost impossible for the General to write himself without neglecting more important duties. He therefore directs me to answer your letter of the 14th and to say that the Captains of the Galleys from your State have misbehaved invariably from the first moment they came to the time of their departure from hence about a week ago – That the accumulation of business and a hope that they would retrieve their reputation prevented your having an earlier information of their behaviour. They are now under the sentence of a Court Martial for misbehaviour in the first attack made on the Ships in the North River, and on every other occasion since have manifested such want of Spirit and Judgment as to be despised by the whole Army. In the late affair Capt [John] McCleave must be excepted from the general censure, as he managed with prudence and propriety – But Capt [Jehiel] Tinker,<sup>2</sup> with the wind at South and on the Tide of Flood when the Ships could move, left his vessel, though stationed as a guard, to go up to Kingbridge after some cloaths as he pretended. The consequence was, that in the hurry and confusion & long before they were in danger they left the Galley aground, tho' they might have burnt or bilged her – The Enemy

took possession of her in half an hour; and, she with the other left under the like circumstances will probably prove the most formidable Force they can have to oppose us on the River — There was a place of safety provided for the other Galleys which they might have got into as well as McCleave, but they passed it in their hurry — I am Sir by his Excellency's Command [&c.]

Joseph Reed Adj't Genl

Head Quarters Octor 18th 1776

Agreeable to your request the Genl has dismissed Capt McCleave and his Crew. The other is up the River —

1. Trumbull Papers, XXIX, Letter Book IV, 368-69, ConnSL.

2. McCleave and Tinker commanded the Connecticut galleys *Whiting* and *Crane*.

CAPTAIN ANTHONY HUNT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL  
RICHARD LORD HOWE<sup>1</sup>

Copy

My Lord, I beg Leave to acquaint You that in Consequence of your Lordship's Directions signified to me of the 1st of September last; and finding His Majesty's Sloop *Cruizer* to be in a worse Condition than represented by the several Surveys held on her; (as will appear by Captain [Francis] Parry's Report of the 27th September here inclosed) I gave the necessary Directions for her Stores, Ammunition and Furniture remaining on board, to be taken out and put on board the *Active*, *Falcon* and *Scorpion*; the Officers Company to be accomodated on board the said Ships, and the Sloop to be hauled on Shore & burnt, which was accordingly done on the 2d instant. Captain Parry will lay before Your Lordship, an Account of the distribution of her Stores, Ammunition, &c. and the Accomodation of her Officers and Company for a Passage to this Port. I am, with great Deference, My Lord [&c.]

Anth<sup>y</sup> Hunt

*Active*, off New York, Octr 18th 1776.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

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

[On board H. M. S. *Eagle*, New York]

Friday 18th. October.

Early this Morning the great Fleet, with the second Division of the Hessians, Waldeckers, & British Recruits on board, appeared in the offing: about Noon, five or six Transports came up to the Town, the rest not being able to pass by the Hook through the contrary Wind. The *Active* Frigate of 28 Guns, Capt. [Anthony] Hunt, and the *Cruizer* Sloop of 8, also came into Harbor from the Southward.<sup>2</sup> The Intelligence of this Fleet arriving was good news indeed, and especially as a North West Wind has

been expected almost every Day, which might have blown them so far off the Coast, as to have prevented their reaching it again all the Winter. It began to blow very fresh to-day. The Fleet had no sooner come under Land, but the Wind changed from S.E. wch was favorable to the N.W. and came on very strong.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serie's Journal*, 125.
2. This statement is in error regarding the *Cruizer* which, being no longer seaworthy, was dismantled and destroyed.

#### DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE <sup>1</sup>

[New York] 18th Octr — The *Rose* of 20 Guns went through Hellgate this Morning without any difficulty, having a fine wind, & favorable tide. The transports with the Hessian brigade, from Staten Island, which have waited so long for a favorable opportunity, went through without any accident, and proceeded to join the Army.

A Signal this morning at Staten Island for a fleet, supposed to be that with the Hessians. In the Evening 7 ships came up to New York, in one of which arrived Major Donkin of The Welch Fusileers, who confirms the account of its being the fleet so long looked for, with about 7000 troops; out 14 weeks, & all arrived safe, under Convoy of The *Diamond*, *Ambuscade*, and another Frigate.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 82.

#### CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN JAMES ROBINSON, CONTINENTAL SLOOP *Sachem* <sup>1</sup>

Sir [Philadelphia] October 18th 1776

The honorable Congress having directed that you should make a voyage under orders of the Secret Committée you are therefore to receive their Instructions and comply with them giving us notice when the service by them required is performed that we may direct your future operations. During the present voyage we expect you will transmit us any useful or important intelligence that comes to your knowledge. You are to take good care of the *Sachem* her Stores provisions and materials — preserve good discipline amongst your officers and men, but use them well, treat any that become your prisoners with humanity and in due time return Coppies of your Journal and Log Book into this office. Wishing you success we are Sir [&c.]<sup>2</sup>

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 35, NA.
2. *Ibid.*, similar orders were issued this date to Captain William Hallock of the brig *Lexington*.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE SLOOP  
*Sachem*<sup>1</sup>

The Sloop *Sachem*Isaiah [*sic* James] Robinson Commander

1776	For Second Cruise. – [Philadelphia, October 18, 1776] <sup>2</sup>		
Sept	30.	To Cash paid days labour p Locktons Bill & Carlisle for 3 h[i]des	£ 12..1..–
October	3.	“ 7 Bolts Russia Duck a£7.10 p	52.10..–
	7.	“ Cash paid days labour p Locktons Bill & for sawing 2 Cord Wood	24..2..6
	12.	“ “ 8 Bushels of Potatoes	1..8..–
	17.	“ 15 Hammocks	
	21.	“ 15 ditto	
	“	“ Cash paid Wm Shute for 1 Box of Candles & A. Donaldson for Boards	14.10..6
	“	“ “ Henry Lisle for 14 Bbs Ship & 2 Bbs of Pilot Bread	14..9..6
	“	“ “ hauling 5 Bbs & 1 Keg of Powder	4..4
	“	“ “ Benja Condys Bill 14/ – Wm Rigdens do 30/9 & Alenbys do 30/8	3.15..5
			<u>32.19..9</u>
	23.	“ 4 Bbs Country Rum q[quantity] 132 Ga @ 5/	
	“	1. do West India do q. 33 Ga @	
	“	1. do Bread @ 21/4	
	“	1. do do 40/9	
November	6.	“ Cash paid Philip Hall & Co's Bill	24..0..3
“	9.	“ “ Jas Fulton's Bill	1..4
“	23.	“ “ Anthony Morris Brewers Bill	3..8..–
December	3.	“ “ Thos Cliftons Bill	7..6
1777			
January	18.	“ “ Arthur Donaldsons Bill	12..3
February	1	“ Sundry Chandlery as p Chandlery Book	62.17.10½
		“ Sundry Cordage as p Book of Issues Wt 12..2.6 @ 69/5 pC	43.12..9
			<u>106.10..7½</u>
May	10.	“ Cash paid Jas Allenbys Bill	2..6

1. Woodhouse Collection, HSP. Isaiah Robinson had been appointed to the *Andrew Doria* on September 20, 1776, FDRL.
2. The approximated date is that of the Marine Committee order to Captain James Robinson. See preceding entry.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO ALL CONTINENTAL AGENTS<sup>1</sup>

(Circular)

Sir

[Philadelphia] October 18th 1776

Herein you will find two Resolves of the Continental Congress<sup>2</sup> of which we have the honor to be members, whereby you'll observe you are ordered to account with us from time to time for the Continental Share of all Prizes received and sold by you as Agent and to pay the amount thereof to our order. In obedience to this Resolve we think proper to lay it down as a Rule, that you State your accounts every three Months crediting therein the Continental Share of every Prize whose accounts can be settled and included within that quarter of a year, and that you add thereto a Schedule containing an exact account of all the prizes that then remain in your care whose accounts are unsettled, and we desire that you will constantly remit us undoubted good bills on this place as you can meet with them which will save the trouble and risque of sending money, in taking drafts prefer those of the Continental Agents, Paymasters & Commissarys to any other provided they are drawn on the President of Congress, this Committee or any other public Board for public Service — Next to these undoubted good private Bills but none others. When neither One or the Other can be met with, inform us and of the sums you have, that we may give particular Orders respecting the Remittance or application thereof.

By the other Resolve you will find yourself under orders of Congress to make a just distribution amongst the officers and men concerned in taking each Prize as soon after the sales as possible agreeable to the Rules and Regulations made by Congress in this respect, and it is our duty to see this punctually complied with as the Service has already suffered by delay — therefore you will always make the said distributions as soon as can be after the Sale and transmit us duplicates of the accounts and your proceedings therein. We shall allow all your just expenditures on account of the Continent to be charged against their share of Prize Money but those charges must be supported by vouchers. We are Sir [&c.]

To

John Langdon Esqr	Continental Agent.	Portsmouth	New Hampshire
John Bradford Esqr	Do	Boston	Massachusets
Daniel Tillinghast Esqr	do	Providence	Rhode Island
Nathl Shaw jr Esqr	do	New London	Connecticut
Jacobus Vantzantz Esqr <sup>3</sup>	do		New York
John Nixon & John Maxwell Nesbitt Esqrs		Philada	Pennsylvania
William Lux Esqr		Baltimore	Maryland
John Teazwell Esqr <sup>4</sup>		Williamsburg	Virginia
Robert Smith Esqr		Edenton	} No Carolina
Richard Ellis. esqr		Newbern	
Corneilus Harnet esqr <sup>5</sup>		Wilmington	

Livinus Clarkson & John Dorsius esqrs  
John Wereat Esqr

Chs Town So Carolina  
Savannah Georgia

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 35-36, NA.
2. See Journal of the Continental Congress, October 17, 1776.
3. Jacobus Van Zandt.
4. John Tazewell.
5. Cornelius Hartnett.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO THE PRIZE AGENTS APPOINTED  
BY GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

[Circular]

[Philadelphia] October 18th 1776.

Sir We have the honor to inclose herein a Resolve of the Continental Congress<sup>2</sup> of which we are members whereby you will see we are empowered to order a proper and just distribution of all Prizes taken by the Cruizers Genl Washington caused to be fitted out on Continental Account, and also that we are authorized or rather Ordered to receive from the Agents who received and sold the said Prizes, the Continental share thereof, and as we find you have been employed as an Agent in this business, we desire that you will immediately send us an Account of the Prizes that have been put under your care, with Coppies of the decrees of the Court of Admiralty, Inventories of Ships and Cargoes, with Copys of the Accounts Sales properly Authenticated, an Account Current for each Prize wherein you Credit the Neat Proceeds, and charge the share appertaining to the Officers and Crews who were interested in the Capture and also the Continental share agreeable to the Rules and Regulations laid down by Congress and a General Account Current wherein you will credit the Continent for their share in every Prize and charge for all such Remittances as you make to us in consequence of these Orders as well as for any other just charge you have to make against them. We desire that you will remit to this Board whatever moneys you have in hand arising from the Continental share of the Prizes put under your management, and as there are many persons gone from hence to purchase prize goods, you may procure drafts on this place from undoubted safe good men which will save the trouble and risque of sending the money, or you may pay it in to the Continental paymaster at Boston Ebenezer Hancock Esqr and transmit us his draft on the President of Congress, or the Honorable Thomas Cushing Esqr, John Bradford esqr of Boston or John Langdon Esqr of New Hampshire have occasion for money on our account — their drafts on ourselves will be good and the sooner you make these Remittances and render the Accounts the better. We must also enjoin you to make an immediate division and distribution of that share of Prizes that appertains to the Officers and Crews that took them, agreeable to and in strict conformity with the Rules and Regulations of Congress, and that you transmit as soon as can be duplicates of those Accounts as it is our duty to see this business perfected, otherways the maritime service of America will suffer greatly, by the discouragements arising from delays in

the payment of Prize money &c. Where any part of the Prizes have been applied to Continental use, that part must be valued and included at the valuation in the new account of Sales — if applied to the use of yours or any other State, they must pay the valuation and that be included in the Acct Sales. Expecting your compliance with an answer to this Letter We remain Sir [&c.]

To

William Bartlet[t] Esqr in Beverly

William Watson Esqr in Plymouth

John [sic Joshua] Wentworth Esqr in Portsmouth

Wintrop Serjent [Winthrop Sargent] Esqr in Cape Anne

Messrs Bartlet[t] & Glover<sup>3</sup> in Lynn Marble head and Boston

John Bradford Esqr Boston

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 37-38, NA.
2. See Journal of the Continental Congress, October 16, 1776.
3. Jonathan Glover.

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

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] October 18th, 1776.

*Resolved*, That in Consideration of the high price of Cloathing. &ca., the pay of the men on board the Fleet belonging to this State, be advanced to Three Pounds P-month, to commence from the next pay day.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 759.

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

Gentell Men

[Wood Yard] october the 18 1776

this will be handed to you by Mr Gideon Dair [Adair] he is a very spirited young fellow and has all ways been very Desirous of getting into the Cuntreys service he now is very Desirous going out In your Largest Armd Schooner Captain of Moreins I think no one of My aQuantance More Deserving of a Cometion than Mr adair I Would aWaited on you Myself Was not My Presence Much want'd In the yard but Will Com to you as Sun as you Desier Me to Com — I am afraid I Shal be forsed to Send Sum body off to Phila for Sum Metearels theses vesell Cant Sail With out. Som Metearels that I bought In Phila such as Iron Hoops for Water Casks thay are sertenly [illegible] lying In Sum Ware: Houss by the Way I am [&c.]

Stephen Steward

1. Executive Papers, Box 2, Folder 80, Md. Arch.

DEPOSITION OF JOHN MATTHEWS AND WILLIAM STODDERT<sup>1</sup>

Charles county, the 18th October, 1776.

We, the subscribers, joined three companies of the 26th battalion of militia, under the command of col. [William] Harrison, at Sandy-Point, on Tuesday the 23d July last, early in the morning, in the character of volunteers. About 9 o'clock the ships began to man their tenders and small boats, when col. Harrison ordered the three companies to stand to their arms, and after watching the motions of the enemy a few minutes, gave orders for capt. [Francis] Martin's company, consisting of about 45 men, including officers, to repair to the head of a valley which led down to the river nearly opposite the *Roebuck*. – We fell in with this company at the head of the valley. – A little while after that came three or four strangers, who were questioned by col. Harrison, and informed him that they had come up the river, were going to Alexandria, and had landed a little below in two small boats: – those we understood to be capt. [Robert] Conway, his lieutenant, and two men: – By this time ten rowboats, two tenders and a gondola were [illegible]ed with men along side of the *Roebuck*, which lay near 400 yards from the Maryland shore. It was every moment expected the enemy would land and attack us. – col. Harrison told capt. Martin's company that, in case the enemy attempted to land there, he should instantly march down at their head and post them behind the beach, and after admonishing them, begged that if any one felt confused or under any panic, to candidly inform him and turn out of the ranks, on which one of the privates turned out and told him that he did not like to march down the hill. – He was then ordered to give up his gun and ammunition to some other, that would, and col. Harrison delivered his gun to capt. Conway's lieutenant, who said he would march down with us. About ten o'clock the enemy's boats, tenders and gondola left the *Roebuck*, giving three cheers, and contrary to our expectation, went over to Virginia, where they landed and set fire to Mr. Brent's house. – Col. Harrison ordered the company down to the beach in order to show them where he intended to post them, had the enemy attempted, or in case they should attempt a landing at that place – Before the enemy returned from Virginia, we were reinforced with about 120 men under col. [Samuel] Hanson – About 5 or 6 o'clock afternoon, the enemy's small tender, and the gondola, were observed to be manning, and in a few minutes left the *Roebuck* and directed their course towards the bay where capt. Conway's boats were landed. – Col. Harrison immediately ordered the men to arms, and conceiving the enemy's design was to take off capt. Conway's boats, gave capt. Martin orders to take about 20 of his best armed men, and follow him down to watch the motions of the tender and gondola. – This detachment we joined with two other volunteers – in the whole we think it consisted of 25 persons – We proceeded towards the bay with all haste, and near the head of a valley met with capt. Conway and some of his men. – Capt Conway went down the valley with col. Harrison to shew where his boats lay, and we followed close after in [illegible] and were

halted at the mouth of the valley – He told the colonel that one of his boats was drawn over the beach into a marsh, the other, was on the shore staved, which was about 50 yards from us, though we could not see her from the mouth of the valley on account of some bushes, which grew on the beach. – The tender had got in the bay before we reached our post, and lay about 150 yards off. – As soon as we were halted, the tender fired one of her carriage guns, which was presently succeeded by a discharge of grape shot from the gondola; this load grounded within a few paces of us, and many of the shot, with several cannon balls, were picked up the next day – sundry great guns were discharged at us whilst we remained at this post. – The gondola, after she came against the boat, rowed off and on, and, after a short time seemed to be gradually getting more into the bay, as it designed to open the valley and rake it. – We heard capt. Conway say to col. Harrison, that he thought she was endeavouring to rake the valley, and advised him to order a retreat, or words to the same purpose. – The colonel, after taking a view of the gondola, turned about, and in a low tone gave orders for a retreat to the head of the valley, the gondola being within 70 or 80 yards of us at the time. – Five or six of the men who were in the rear retreated some distance beyond the place intended, which we firmly believe proceeded from their not having heard the orders distinctly, as most of them returned immediately to the head of the valley, on being called to by some of the others. – From this place we observed the *Roebuck* had got under way and fallen down, and began to fire on us; also the tender, our situation being open to them both. The colonel returned to the mouth of the valley, and we and others went different ways to take another view of the gondola, which we found lying quite still, nearly opposite the boat, with her hatches close shut, and nothing visible but her oars and guns, though capt. Conway's lieutenant had just before informed, that her hatches were up and men exposed, which raised our hopes of getting a shoot. – We recollect that, previous to our leaving the mouth of the valley, capt. Conway asked col. Harrison to let the gondola be fired at, to scare her off from the shore, which was refused, as there was no living object to shoot at. – A retreat was then ordered to the main body by col. Harrison, and the detachment directed to scatter as they retreated through the old fields, to observe the flash of the enemy's cannon, and to fall down whenever they saw it. – The fire from the *Roebuck*, armed schooner, and gondola, grew very warm, and the frequent falling down of the men occasioned a general laughter. – We retreated to a fence at the edge of a wood, and lay behind it until the enemy's fire ceased – then returned to the main body, with which we remained until the ships went down the river, and the troops were discharged.

John Matthews,

William Stoddert,

(Copy.)

Charles county, October 18, 1776.

Then came Messrs. John Matthews and William Stoddert, gentlemen, and made oath on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that the above is a

true state of the transactions at Sandy-Point, under col. William Harrison, on the 23d of July last.

G. R. Brown.

1. *Maryland Gazette*, November 7, 1776.

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

[Williamsburg] Friday October 18th 1776

Captain Sandford Commander of the Brig *Adventure* bound to Dunkirk requested this Board to inform him the Termes for his undertaking the Voyage Ordered therefore that he be allowed eight shillings per day and Cabbin Stores and it was also further Ordered that his Mate be allowed six shillings per day.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 203, 204.

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

[Williamsburg] Friday 18th October 1776. —

Ordered that Capt Robert Cooke of the Schooner *Speedwell* proceed immediately with his Vessel to Alexandria and wait on Mr John Dalton with a letter from this Board who will furnish him with such necessaries as he may be in want of for fitting his Vessel for a Voiage to the West-Indies, which being done, he is to take on Board a Load of Flour and Tobo which will be delivered him by the said Dalton and then Return with his Vessell to York Town and wait on the Board for further Orders —

1. Navy Board Journal, 84-85, VSL.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1776

Williamsburg, October 18.

A Maryland privateer, fitted out by Mr. [Gilbert] Middleton, of Annapolis,<sup>1</sup> has taken a Jamaica ship, and sent her into Hampton Road, having on board upwards of 300 hogsheads of rum and sugar, some cotton, coffee, indigo, &c.

1. The Maryland privateer schooner *Montgomery*. The prize was the 170 ton brigantine *Sarah*. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, November 8, 1776.

COMMISSIONERS FOR FITTING OUT THE BRIG *King Tammany* TO THE  
NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Edenton 18th Octr 1776

Since the Resolve of your Honorable Board came to hand for the *King Tamminy* to Cruize we have been indefaticable in Our Endeavours to get her Mann'd and rendered fit for Sea, and we have the pleasure to inform you that She is now nearly, or quite complete.

We have lately been informed the *Pennsylvania Farmer* is gone up to New Bern, to heave down, and will not be ready for some considerable time to proceed on her intended Cruize.

We beg leave to Submit it to your Honl Board whether it might not be best to Alter the Cruizes of the Two Vessells and Order the *King Tamminy* to take the first Cruize Also to Allow her to Cruize from Lat: 35 to Lat: 30, to leave the distance from the Coast to the discretion of the Captain, and allow Six weeks for the Cruize in place of four.

What induced us to trouble you on this Occasion was this Consideration that by the last of the month of November, in all probability the Jamaica Fleet homeward bound will have crossed these Latitudes, and render the Cruize fruitless to all intents and purposes.

We have no doubt but it will Occur to you, it will be necessary to give the Bearer as much dispatch as possible as the *King Tamminy* will be ready to go down next Wednesday, We have the Honor to be Most respectfully sir [&c.]

Tho: Jones	} Commissioners &ca
Rob <sup>t</sup> Hardy	
Rob Smith	

1. Secretary of State Papers (Council of Safety, 1775-1776), NCDAH.

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

At a meeting of the Council,

[Savannah] 18th October, 1776.

Ordered, that Capt. Pray be directed to proceed on a voyage to the Island of Saint Thomas and to procure as many seamen, arms, ammunition and swivels as he possibly can, and that he be permitted to mount as many carriage guns, as the vessel can bear on his return hither.

1. Candler, comp., *Georgia Records*, I, 208.

#### GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

No 26.

My Lord; I am sorry to inform your Lordship that the *Cumberland* Packet Boat, which was dispatched the 9. of September, after out living a severe Storm at Sea, returned in about three weeks, in distress, and sunk in the Harbour. The Amer[i]can male [sic] was sent by Captain [Thomas] Bishop of the *Lively* to New York. The Captain and Crew with the Guns that were on Board the Packet, are on Board the *Betsey* Ship Captain Lofthouse, who carries home our annual produce.

I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that, at the Critical time, when an expedition was planned and commenced against this province, and when depredations were made by the Rebels as far as Saint John River, to

secure that Barrier, and the Plantations and Provisions on that River, as there was not at that time any of the Kings Vessels of force in the province, I was, my Lord, under the absolutely [*sic*] necessity, of commissioning and employing the Sloop *Rebecca* Captain Mowbray for three Months certain to secure the inland water passage to Saint John River from Georgia.

There are numbers of fugitives from the Neighbouring Provinces, many of whom, without a little assistance have not where withal to support themselves; there are a number of Run away Negros from Georgia, whom I releived the Captains of the Navy of, to whom they fled for protection, and twenty eight Prisoners taken by Lord Dunmore, and sent here to be kept in custody; I have committed them to the Fort untill these unhappy differences terminate.

St Augustine 18 Octr 1776

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/557, 1.

19 Oct.

PETITION OF INHABITANTS OF BARRINGTON, NOVA SCOTIA, TO  
THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

Barrington Nova Scotia October 19th 1776 —  
Gentlemen

We the Subscribers Inhabitants of Barrington in the Province of Nova Scotia, Haveing hired and partly Loaded the Schooner *Hope* with Fish and Liver Oyl bound for Salem or Newbary In the Province of the Massachusetts Bay — Earnestly Pray and Request of you the Honble Congress or those whose business it may be to see to it, To permitt and Suffer the said Loading to be disposed of by Herman Kenney and part of the amount to be Lay'd out in provissions for the Support of us the Subscribers which are Intirely Destitute of any for the Support of them or their Children and it is Impossible to get any Any where, — And a Long Winter Approching God only knows what will become of us; We Look on ourselves as Unhappily situated as any People in the world; being Settlers from the Massachusetts bay for whose welfare we Earnestly pray having Fathers Brothers and Children living there; And we have in the Course of these Unhappy Times done every thing in our power to Assist those Unfortunate people that have been Taken and come into this place from Halifax to help them over the bay on their way home. And have not at any Time done any thing Either by Supplis or men to Injure our native place and Country; — In the above Vessell are Three Families with their Effects which have Left this place and gone to the places in your province where they formerly came from, And we the Subscribers dont see but that we must follow them for we don't think we can Live Quietly here for our Employment is such for the Support of our families Vizt Fishing as you look upon as a Disservice to the great cause you are imbarked in and we cannot but follow it while we are

thus Situated; Therefore we Earnestly pray and Request of you in your great Goodness and Wisdom to Assist us with provisions as we the subscribers shall want for this winter and till such time as we can remove ourselves from this place to our former homes Unless these Tremendus Times are Settled, Which God grant may be soon; We have Authorised and Appointed our Friend Mr Herman Kenney to Answer and Reply to any Questions and to represent our Deplorable Situation to you the Honble. Congress or others who he may be call'd before; And we are ready to keep up a Correspondence with the Inhabitants of your province to Exchange fish for other provisions if you should see fit to Incourage such a Trade untill such Time as we can Remove ourselves from this place, provided you are Determin'd to prevent our fishing on this Shore, For the privaters have taken Several of our Schooners from us and the fish caught in them to the great Distress of the fishermen which have not done any Thing but fishing to Injure you which they could not help being the only way they have to maintain their families, For all which causes and Reasons we cannot but flatter ourselves that you will Receive this Memoriall from us And Answer our Request which will Enable us to Support our Wives And Children, and we cannot think the Request being Granted any Damage to you, We mean not to Offend you in any thing but should be glad to know our Destiney if any of us should tarry at this place dureing these times for we have not seen nor heard from you anything who are in Authority, but only from some of the men on board the privaters that have made this, a place of Rendevous who tell us all the Dreadfull Things that can befall any People, to Vizt That the Indians are Commission'd to come on the back of us to kill burn and Destroy, A picture, this drawn by them, that we the Decendants from America Cannot think ever Entered into the breasts of the free and Generous sons of America. We are Gentlemen your most humble petitioners and very humble Servants —

Solomon Smith  
 Isaac King  
 Tho Doane  
 Reuben Cohoon  
 Theodore Smith  
 Stephen Nickerson  
 Elkanah Smith  
 Jonathan Smith  
 Isaac Kenney  
 Gamaliel Kenney  
 Marcy Kenney  
 Isaac King Juner  
 Saml Osborn Doane  
 Thomas Crowell  
 Edward Doane

David Crowell  
 Elisha Smith  
 William Greenwood  
 Solomon Smith juner  
 Benjamin Kirby  
 Samuel Britman  
 Joseph Smith  
 Jonathan Smith Jr.  
 Joseph Atwood  
 Timothy Covell  
 [illegible] Atwood  
 John Raynolds  
 Joseph Renwrick  
 Solomon Renwrick junr

NB. We hope and Desire you will not give this a place in your News papers tho you should think it worthy, which may be of Damage to us if we should remain at this place - <sup>2</sup>

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 122-24.

2. The petition was granted on November 15, 1776, *ibid.*, 125.

FORMER OFFICERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOONER *Diligent* TO THE  
MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>

To The Honl Council of the State of the Massachusetts Bay the  
Petition of the Following Persons  
Humbly Sheweth

That We your Petitioners can Testify that Walter Perkins have Acted and Serv'd as Second Lieut on Bord the Schooner *Dilligent* John Lambert Commander since the 16th March last, and to general Satisfaction both to Officers & Seamen as he took a Commission for said Schooner in the Name of Jonathan Knight for Executing the Office as above and did it from the Above Date. the said Commission was sent up for an Endorsement to the Honl Council but by some means or other got lost and as a Commission from your Hons may be of Service to him even in future time, We humbly beg that your Hons wou'd Isshue a New Commission in the Name of the said Walter Perkins, that he may retain the same [un]dr the Honour of the Court and the Service he has been engaged in as we look upon him to be highly Deserving in the Station he has acted in, as we was on Bord with him during the said Service we therefore Request the same to be Executed and as in Duty Bound shall ever pray

John Lambert	Capt
John Obrien	1st Lieut
Joshua Wing	Master
Peter Clark	Comr Marines

[Endorsed] In Council [Watertown] Octr 19t[h] 1776 Read & Ordered that as Jona Knight have not acted in the Capacity of 2d Lieut on Board the Schr *Diligent* since his Appointment that the Name of Walter Perkins be inserted & the Said Jona Knights Name be erased in his Said Comission

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 366.

*Providence Gazette*, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1776

Providence, October 19.

The *Montgomery* and *Eagle* Privateers have taken and sent into a Port at the Westward a Schooner from Cape-Nichola Mole, bound to Halifax, having on board 9000 Gallons of Melasses, and 3000 Weight of Sugar. The Privateers had been out but 24 Hours when they took this Vessel.<sup>1</sup>

Capt. [Abner] Coffin in the Privateer *Favourite*, has taken and sent into Port a Schooner from Dominica, bound to Newfoundland, laden with Rum, Coffee, Limes, &c.<sup>2</sup>

We hear the Brig *Cabot*, in the Service of the United States, has taken several Prizes.

A Ship of 16 Carriage Guns, bound from London for New York, having on board Provisions, some Powder, and 207 Casks of Nails, is taken by Capt. [John] Lee, in a Schooner of 6 Guns, from Newbury-Port, and carried in at the Eastward.<sup>3</sup>

It is said that some of the Enemy's Frigates and Tenders passed up the North River, above Fort Washington, on Wednesday Se'nnight, and were roughly handled by our Forts as they passed.

1. The Rhode Island privateer sloop *Montgomery*, Captain Thomas Rutenber, commissioned September 30, and the *Eagle*, Captain Isaac Field, commissioned September 29, 1776.
2. The 40 ton schooner *Hannah*.
3. Lee commanded the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Hawke*.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN HOYSTEED HACKER<sup>1</sup>

Sr

Newport october 19. 1776

I have a Complant Enter a gainst Mr James Bryant your goner [gunner] for Carring a way with out Leave out of the *alfred* a pare of pistoles and Sum other things belonging to the goner of the *alfred* and on Rescept of this you are to Lett Leut [Robert] Saunders have the pistoles if to be found and Lett him Sarch to his Satisfaction for the other things mising.

E H

To Histate Hacker Esqr or the Commanding officer that may be on Bord the *Hamden*, at the time Mr Sanders Comes

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

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

Sir

Newport October 19th. 1776 —

I understand by Captn [John Paul] Jones that there is some Junk and Sails onboard the Prize Ship which he sent in to Bedford —<sup>2</sup> and as them Articles are much wanted onboard several of the Continental Vessels in this Port Should be glad you would Send all those Articles more than barely for the Ship by the first Opportunity to this place to me, or in my absence to Mr. John Manley deputy Agent here — and by so doing you will forward the Service — I am Sir [&c.]

E H —

To John Bradford Esqr Agent for the Massachusétts, or in his absence to his Deputy at Bedford —

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.
2. The ship *Alexander*.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Cerberus*, CAPTAIN JOHN SYMONS<sup>1</sup>

- October 1776                      Town of Et Hampton NEBE 7 or 8 Miles  
 Friday 18                      at 1 A M spoke the *True Briton* Arm'd Ship wth a Prize at 8 spoke his Majts Ship *Syren* bound to New York, bore away & parted Co wth. do Sailmkr repairing the Fore Topmt stays  
    Fresh Gales at 3 P M saw a Sl to the Et wd gave Chace fired 12-9 pdrs & 6-3 pdrs & Brot too the chace a Brigg from Cape Nicholas Mole Ladend with Molasses bound to Newbury<sup>2</sup> at 7 split the Jibb & found the Strapp of the lower dead Eye of the Starbd M: preventer Shroud gone fixd a new one, splitt the Mizn bent a New Jibb
- Saturday 19                      at 6 saw a Sl to the N E gave Chace at 9 Brot too the Chace a Schooner from Hispaniola wth Molasses bound to Nantuckett<sup>3</sup> bent a New Mizn *Syren* in Co  
    Mod. and Clear hoisted the Boat out and took possession of the Prizes

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

2. *The Success*, J. Coffin, master, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, *ibid.*, 1/487.3. *Ibid.*, the *Betsey*, E. Bacon, master.JOURNAL OF H. M.S. *Syren*, CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX<sup>1</sup>

- October 1776                      Montock Point No 30° Wt 18 Lgs  
 Friday 18                      AM ½ pt 1 saw 2 Sail to the No wd Tk'd & stood after them ½ pt 2 Brot too spoke the *True Briton* an English Letter a Marque who had retaken the *Irwin* a Ship for London from Jamaica, which was taken by a Rebel Privateer. at 3 mde Sail at 6 a Sail to the So wd chaced p Sigl at 8 mde a Sigl which was Answered ½ pt spoke His Maj's Ship *Unicorn* [at] 9 parted Co the *Unicorn* & bore away a SE Swell. -  
    First pt Fresh Gales latter Cloudy. at 3 a Sail in the Ed gavè chace, at 5 the *Cerberus* bro't too [a] Brigg from Hispaniola for Newberry, handd F T/S: down F:T:G: Yds got the Spritsl Yd in & stood to the S E could not board the Prize there being so great a Sea.
- Saturday 19                      A M at 6 a Sail bearg E the *Cerberus* made our Sigl to lye by the brigg while she chaced. at ½ pt 10 Joined the *Cerberus* with a small Schooner set Fore T/Sl & out Spritsl Yd the above Vessels in Co  
    Mode Wr at 3H 8M 22s true time by an Obsn of the Qr [moon] found the Longde to be 71°.0'6 Wt sent a [Pe]tty Officer & 5 Men on bd the Brigg at 5 Saw a Sail bearg S W. gave chace. at 7 left of [f] Chace TK'd Ship

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Fishkill] Saturday Morning, Octo. 19th, 1776.

A letter from the marine committee of the Continent, dated the 12th inst.<sup>2</sup> signed by John Hancock, Robert Morris and seven others, was read, relative to the safety of the Continental ships building at Poughkeepsie.

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be immediately transmitted to the superintendent there.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 683, 684.

2. The Marine Committee letter book dates this letter October 9. See under that date to New York Convention.

COLONEL GEORGE TAYLOR TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Shrewsbury October the 19th 1776 —

Sir I herewith Send you by the bearer Captn. [Hendrick] Smock Six prisoners which I Took Out of a Schooner which was Drove On Shore the 14 Inst on the Jersey Shore near where I was stationed to Guard the Coast As to particular Circumstances I refer you to sd Captn Smock I have given an Account of the Vessel and Cargo to General Mercer and Make no Doubt but its Come to hand I have Orders from the General to Take Care of the Vessel Till Further Orders as to the Vessels Hull it Lies Much Exposed and Likely to be Lost the First Eastwardly Storm She Might perhaps be Sold to the Advantage of the Owners or Publick who Ever it is that is to have the Benefit Your Directions in the Above Shall be my particular Guides. . .

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XXII, 157, NA. Taylor and Smock were officers in the New Jersey militia.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM GAMBLE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen:

The Day before this Honorable board Fill'd up the small Vacancies then in the Armed Boats; I delivered to one of your members, a request in writing, the prayer of which was to be removed from the Sloop *Aetna*, on board one of the then Vacant Armed boats, which request was only meant by me, to the End, that I might be in a more Active part of the service; This Honourable board not Granting the above request, Induces me to think it was Disrespected. Gentlemen, Inclosed is the Commission I had the Honor of Bearing, and Beg this Board to accept this My Resignation. I should have resigned at the time above mentioned, But apprehending the enemy might make a diversion in our river, determined to remaine in the service untill the season of the year would Prevent them, which season I hope is Come;

this Honourable Board will please to Believe, I Am, with Due Respect  
[&c.]

William Gamble<sup>2</sup>

[Philadelphia] October 19th, 1776.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 386.
2. The Council accepted Gamble's resignation, and appointed John Brice to command the *Aetna*. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 760.

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

[Williamsburg] Saturday October 19th 1776

A Permit granted to Captain Lehoux of the Schooner *Saint Jeanne* lately arrived from Saint Domingo allowing him Liberty to dispose of his Cargo and to trade in this State.

A Certificate being returned of the Review of Lieutenant Gabriel Madison's Quota of Marines the same was ordered to be registered and that a Commission issue accordingly.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 205, 207.

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

[Williamsburg] Saturday 19th October 1776

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Doctr Corbin Griffin for six Pounds for Nursing & Victualling sick Sailors in the Hospital at York-Town belonging to the Schooner *Revenge*. — Also for Seventeen pounds Eleven shillings & six pence for Nursing & Victualling Sick Sailors & Marines in the Hospital at York-Town belonging to the Brig *Liberty* —

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to John Rogers for six hundred & Ten pounds nineteen shillings and nine pence for Necessaries furnished & pay of Workmen for Building six Boats at Portsmouth under the direction of Colo Adam Stephens as pr [illegible] Rogers's Accts this day settled who entered into Bond with Security for his faithfully applying the said Sum of Money. —

1. Navy Board Journal, 85-86, VSL.

#### JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Halifax] Saturday October 19th 1776.

Resolved That Ambrose Knox and Company William Brown, John Chase and Daniel Cartwright be permitted to send to Sea the Sloop *Polly* taken into Possession by Andrew Little and Robert Hardy in consequence of a Resolve of this Board; on the said Ambrose Knox and Company William Brown and John Chase's giving Bond and Security to the president of the Congress of the State and his Successor in the sum of one hundred and thirty five pounds, being the value of Daniel Cartwrights part of said Sloop and on leaving one third of the Debts left in the Hands of William Skinner

subject to the payment of such demands as may be due this State from the said Daniel Cartwright, on account of a Cargo Shipped by this State on Board the said Sloop Commanded by the said Daniel Cartwright

Resolved That Andrew Little and Robert Hardy be directed to Attend the Execution of the above Resolve and on the said Resolves being Complied with to grant a Certificate thereof to the Commissioner of the port of Edenton

1. Secretary of State Papers (Council of Safety, 1775-1776), NCDAH.

### JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY <sup>1</sup>

[Charleston] Saturday the 19th Day of October 1776

Message to the President

May it please Your Excellency

This House being informed That the Trade of this Place is subject to many Inconveniencies by the Delay attending Vessels being obliged to call at Fort Johnson and Fort Moultrie both in going out and coming in request your Excellency will give Orders that in future Vessels coming in may only be obliged to call at Fort Moultrie and going out at Fort Johnson and may be allowed to pass by some proper signal from the Fort they first pass

It appearing to the House that the late Commander and mariners of the Armed Vessel called the *Revenge* had received no more than Two Sixth Parts of the nett Amount of Sales of the Cargo taken by them on board the Transport Brigantine *Glasgow Packet* and that the other Four Sixth Parts had been paid into the Treasury as the share of the State

Resolved That the Commissioners of the Treasury do advance and pay to Captain [Thomas] Pickering late Commander and the mariners late belonging to the said armed Vessel One Sixth Part of the Four Sixths of the net amount of the said Sales so paid into the Treasury as a further Encouragement for their Gallant Behaviour in the taking the said Brigantine *Glasgow Packet*.<sup>2</sup>

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly Journals*, 145, 152.

2. Pickering had arrived in South Carolina on board the sloop *General Washington* from Providence, Rhode Island. He was active in the defense of Charleston, and took the *Glasgow Packet*. See Volumes 4 and 5.

### JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

Navy Board [Charleston] Saturday 19th. October 1776

The following Letter was sent to Mr. Anthy. Bonneau

Chas Town 19th Octobr. 1776

Sir The Commissioners of the Navy are in want of 100 Bbls hard Pitch 100 Bbls Tarr & 20 Bbls good Clean Turpentine, the Casks to be very good, Also any quantity of Tallow that can be Procured; they will be glad that you will Purchase and ship them by any

good Opportunity for Charles Town, & as Speedily as possible the above Articles for the Amot. of which your Order on the Commissioners of the Navy will be punctually paid — The Commissioners are informed that you have a Quantity of Cordage by you such as the Public are at present in want of — They will be glad to have it sent round to Charles Town at the same time as the Naval stores are shipped; also any other Cordage, and sail-duck that you can purchase at George Town, for which your order will be paid.

By order of the Board:

Edward Blake First Commissioner

P S The Price of Cordage in Charles Town is £15. P 100tw. which the Commissioners are willing to Allow you at George Town

Capt. Stephen Seymour applyed to the Board to know what Number of Men would be allowed for the Schooner *Rattle Snake* —

And the Board Resolved to allow the said Vessell Fifty men as her full Complement. —

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina Navy Board*, 11-12.

## 20 Oct. (Sunday)

GOVERNOR SIR GUY CARLETON TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE <sup>1</sup>

[No.] 200

Crown Point 20th October 1776

Sir We have defeated the Rebel Fleet upon lake Champlain, three sail only out of 15 having escaped, the rest we have taken or destroyed, upon the news of this event reaching crown point the Rebels posted there, set fire to all the buildings and retired to Ticonderoga. His Majesty's Forces therefore are now in possession of the former place, but I fear the want of time (the severe season approaching very fast) to put it in a proper state of defence, and of materials to put it in a condition to lodge the Troops, provisions and stores, which would be necessary to leave there, will force us back to Canada. I am in hopes however that our appearance on this side the lake will occasion a diversion which may be favourable to your operations.

I have not heard from you since you left Hallifax.

Some Officers of the Regiments serving under your command, not finding opportunity of joining your army at the beginning, I gave them leave to serve with the Troops here; I have now directed them to repair to their respective corps, and think it just to acquaint you, I have been very much satisfied with their conduct during this campaign. I am &c

1. Guy Carleton Letter Book, Haldimand Papers, Additional Ms. 21699, BM.

CAPTAIN JAMES WILKINSON TO BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Albany October 20th 1776

The Vessels which have passed the Cheveaux d Frize are two 40 Gun Ships & a Number of Tenders, they vary their Station tho for the most part

they remain in Toppon Sea or Bay they have picked up several Albany Sloops & greatly harrass the rest. -

1. US Revolution, LC.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT<sup>1</sup>

October 1776	Moor'd off Hunts Point
Sunday 19	A M Fir'd 2 Six Pounders wth Shot at some Rebels who
[Saturday]	kept Fireing at the Boats passing
	Mode Breezes & Fair Wr at 4 P M Fir'd a Twelve pound
	shot at some Rebbels Attempting to take a Boat from
	Hunts Point
Monday 20	at 6 A M Unmoor'd at 8 Weigh'd & came to sail being
[Sunday]	Reliev'd by HMs <i>Rose</i>
	at 7 P M came too wth the Bt Br in 18 Faths & Veer'd a
	Whole Cable

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

WILLING, MORRIS & CO. TO WILLIAM BINGHAM<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia Octr 20th 1776

. . . Your favor of the 24th Septr or rather the Copy of it was handed us yesterday by Capt Lockhart of the Brig *Cornelia & Molly* which arrived here safe and we have this day sold the Molasses at Publick Vendue for upwards of 6 P Gal & Mr Harrison & your Limes for 40/ to 50 P bbl they are rather plenty You see it is hard to form just opinions concerning adventures in our present situation, when we wrote You in July there seemed little Chance of getting any thing safe and almost ever since the Coast has been quite clear so that the spirit of enterprize has seized most People & they are making or trying to make Fortunes, their Attempts will probably have the happy effect of procuring us many supplys that we stand much in need of

. . . We are fearful the Farmers General of France will have so many offers for supplying them with Tobacco that instead of expecting to pay prices suited to the risque of Exporting it, they will begin to think it is in their power to engross our whole Crops on their own terms for you cannot conceive how many proposals made to them have come to our knowledge, however when they answer your letter transmit us a Copy and if they leave room for doing any thing you may depend we will back you properly - You desire us to point out the Articles wanted and were to send you patterns but we answer as we did in our former letter that this is not necessary We are in great want of all kinds of European Manufactures especially for Winter Wear nothing can come amiss, Silks are perhaps the least demanded of any thing especially in Winter. French Wines do not sell well unless they are of the very best quality and its best not to meddle with them unless you imported them from France on purpose and coud depend on having the best.

Nails, Glass (Window Glass) as well as Glass Ware is wanted. Some Coarse Hats, Coarse Stockings & Soldier's Shoes wou'd sell well, all kind of West India produce is and will be dear, notwithstanding the great Number of Prizes taken with those Commodities, all sorts of woolen Goods must answer well this whole Winter & every kind Goods fit for warm weather will sell well all the year round; therefore we think you cannot be at a loss. . . . We think our Publick affairs wear a better aspect than when we wrote you last, therefore no need to stop any thing from coming this way. If many Goods are arrived for us from Europe send them forward by the best Conveyances, and advise our T. Morris the Vessells, Masters & value by each. We have now fixed him in the Mercantile line in France during the present troubles and you may keep up a Constant Correspondence with him, perhaps he may soon have it in his power to supply both you & us with all the Goods that will be wanted from thence. We have given orders for a little Vessell to be sent you from Maryland, another from Carolina with Rice & Indigo and shall keep sending and ordering as many as we can. You dont seem to write as if you approved much of Mr Harrison being joined with you in Consignments and Capt. Lockhart says the business of his Vessell was not well attended to or he might have been here some weeks ago, this shoud not happen Vessells now sail at a monstrous Expense and the dispatch ought to be quick. If you cannot attend closely you had better get Mr Harrison or some other to do the business or hire an excellent Clerk to assist you. When any Vessells of our Concern or recommendation arrive we know you will exert yourself to serve them & Comply with the Orders but pray dispatch them for Vessells being scarce delay hinders your own reimbursement. —

The *Cornelia & Molly* shall go back to you but not on Publick account as we want to throw Funds into your hands indeed we shall make you many Consignments as possible.

We think if you cou'd hire a small fast sailing French Vessell and dispatch her immediately for Carolina Consd to Mr John Dorsius Mercht there with a Cargo of Powder, some linens Checks &c. you will make a Golden Voyage. You may Interest us half or two thirds, there is some British Cruizers on that Coast but if the Vessell is small she may easily escape by lying Hull too every Morning at Day break untill she can see all round her, she will see the Enemy when they cannot see her and by setting their course avoid em. She shoud not cross the Gulph Stream untill in the Latitd of Charles Town & then run right in, dont lose a Moment in executing this Scheme if you do execute it & we hope you will, pray take care to have a trusty faithfull Master; you can order back Rice & Indigo & ship the latter Ordr Mr Thos Morris or his order at any Port you please in France, he will have agents at every Port, therefore you cannot go amiss, but we believe he will fix with Messrs Pliarne Penet & Co at Nantes instead of Mr Schweighauser all the rest as mentioned to you before. Capt. James Robinson the Bearer of this has orders to take in any Goods you have to ship & if you shou'd not have enough to fill him on the Publick Account, you had best put

some onboard on your & our account, but if you fill him on Publick Account, then hire if you can some Vessells to sail under his Convoy which you can ballast with Limes & Molasses & put onbd such other Goods as you think proper, indeed We think you cannot do better than to keep Chartering French Vessells to come this way, they can navigate cheaper than our Vessells & consequently can afford to take lower freights & they shall all go back to you with Flour Lumber Tobacco &c. In short when Cargoes arrive either one way or t'other, the Proffits are now so great it is well worth risquing largely for one Arrival will pay for two three or four losses therefore its best to keep doing something constantly. We are Sir [&c.]

Willing Morris & Co.

1. Papers of William Bingham, 1776-79, LC.

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

[Philadelphia] Octr 20th 1776

. . . in the *Evening Post* Numb.-273.<sup>2</sup> is this remarkable Extract of a Letter dated Dominica Sept. — viz, Capt Stout of Antigua told us that he had heard, from Taylor & Bell of that Island, that a house, that does the government business there, had poisoned ten Cags of Rum, which they shipped in the *Creighton*, Capt Ross, and directed for General Howe, in hopes that if the Ship Should be taken, the Americans would Send those to the Camp, on Supposing them of an Uncommon good Quality, what a diabolical Project! — He had it from their own mouths! O dreadful! —<sup>3</sup>

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.
2. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, October 19th, 1776.
3. The *Creighton* was captured, but the poisoned rum story seems to be without foundation. See Volume 5.

VAN BEBBER & HARRISON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Gent

St Pierre Mart[ini]que Octo 20. 1776

Our last respects to you were by Capt [John] Martin, who sailed from this port the 11th Curr[t] with a valuable Cargoe — since then your favours of the 12th Sept have come safe to hand p the *Molly* Capt [Thomas] Conway — His Cargoe, tho' a very proper one, we are sorry to acquaint, has come to a most wretched Market — 57/. p barrl for his Flour & 36/. for his Bread is the most we have been able to obtain, & his Tobacco is yet unsold. — Since disposing of this Flour, a Cargoe of Philadelphia Superfine has been sold for 53/. This fall has been occasioned by the immense Quantities that have arrived & continue to arrive from France on a Supposition that it would be a scarce article here. — We fear there will be no change for the better till towards the middle of Winter & Spring when we imagine it will begin to advance again as in all probability the Exportations from France will cease when it is known how badly their Speculations must turn out. — And plenty as Flour is, we know of nothing that can be sent from Maryland that will

turn to a better Acot so surprizingly are we glutted with Tobacco & all kinds of provisions –

We almost despair of supplying you with the large Quantities of Woolens & Salt that you want – they are scarce & command ready Cash – but we shall do our best –

As Vessells with you are difficult to procure & Markets here very low, we fear you cannot easily remit us money sufficient for the extensive Engagements we have & are to enter into – We would therefore beg leave to propose a Method which we think may be employ'd with more Success & facility than any other at present – It is, if possible, to get a Boat or two out from S. Carolina with Indigo – One Pilot Boat ballasted with that Article would yield more Money here than three or four Brigts with Flour & Tobo It is constantly worth from 6/a 12/. p lb according to Quality, & is the only Article of our Exports that can be shippd from hence to France, and the risk of getting it here will be trifling as it may be sent in such small fast sailing Vessells. –

A part of Capt Martin's Tobacco has been sold in Statia a 42/. p C[w]t & yesterday we shipped the remainder for that place.

We hope to dispatch Conway in 8 or 10 days with some Woolens, Muskets, Duck &ca & are &ca

1. Red Book, XI, Md. Arch.

## 21 Oct.

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

Octobr 1776                      Moored off Quebec

Monday 21      Fresh Gales and Squally, AM rec'd our Stores from the *Lord Howe* P M arrived from the Command of the *Carleton* Armed Schooner on Lake Champlain Lieutt [James Richard] Dacres, with the news of Taking and Destroying 11 Sail of Rebel Armed Vessels on the said Lake

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/118.

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

(Copy)

*Isis* Quebec 21st October 1776

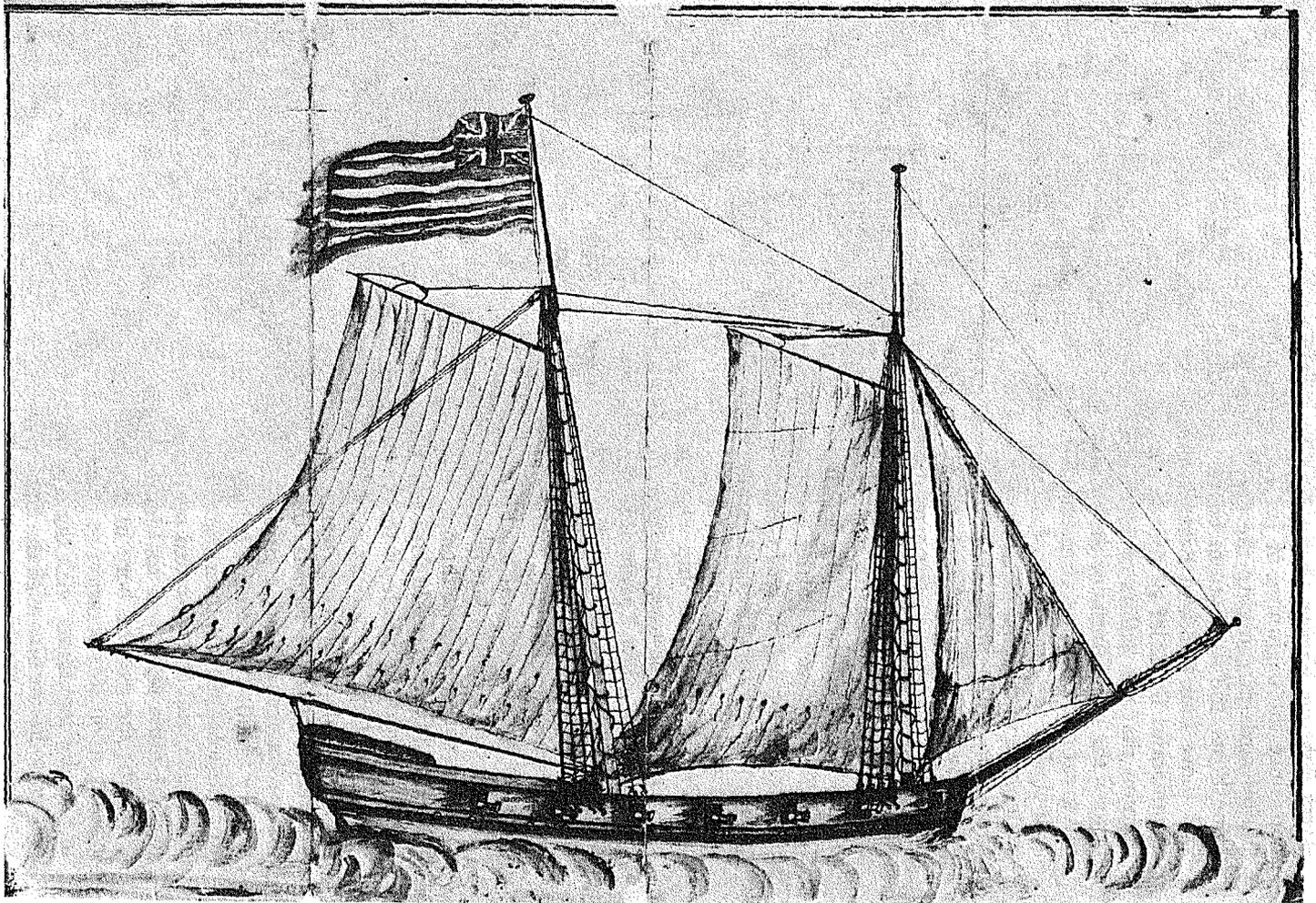
Sir      Having for the space of Six Weeks, attended the Naval Equipment for the important Expedition on Lake Champlain, I (on the 4h instant) saw with unspeakable joy the reconstructed Ship alluded to in former Letters now called the *Inflexible* and commanded by Lieutenant [John] Schank her builder; sail from St Johns twenty Eight Days after her keel was laid, towards the place of rendezvous – taking in her eighteen twelve pounders, beyond the Shoal which is on this side the Isle aux Noix, in her way up.

The prodigies of labor which have been effected, since the Rebels were driven out of Canada in creating, recreating, and equipping a fleet of above

thirty fighting Vessels of different Sorts and Sizes, and all carrying Cannon, since the beginning of July, together with the transporting over Land & afterwards drugging up the two rapids of St Terese and St Johns, thirty Long boats, the flat bottom boats, a Gondola weighing about thirty Tons, and above four hundred Battoes, almost exceeds belief. His Excellency the Commander in Chief of the Army and all the other Generals, are of the opinion that the Sailors of His Majesty's Ships and Transports, have (far beyond the usual limits of their duty) Exerted themselves to the utmost, on this great and toilsome Occasion. Nor has a Man of that profession, uttered a single Words expressive of discontent amidst all the hardships they have undergone so truly patriotic are the motives, by which they are actuated. To Crown the whole above two hundred prime Seamen of the Transports, impelled by a due sense of their Country's wrongs did most generously engage themselves, to serve in our armed Vessels, during the Expedition; and Embarked accordingly. such having then been our unremitting toils, I am happy beyond Expression in hereby acquainting my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the destruction of almost the whole of the Rebel Fleet, in two several Battles on the 11th and 13th instant is our reward as may appear by a Letter of General Burgoyne's of the 12th Instant, and by the Accounts I am this day honoured with, from General Carleton, of which I send you Copies; as also by a Letter from Captain [Thomas] Pringle of the *Lord Howe* armed Ship who commands the Officers and Seamen on the Lake, and, who bestows the highest Encomiums on their behaviour in both Engagements The Rebels did by no means believe it possible, for us to get upon Lake Champlain this Year; were much surprized at the first sight of the Van of our force but ran into immediate and utter confusion, the moment a three masted Ship made her appearance being a phenomenon, they never so much as dreamt of. Thus have His Majesty's faithful Subjects here (contrary to a Crude but prevailing idea) by straining every nerve in their Country's cause outdone them in working, as much as in fighting.

The Ship *Inflexible* with the *Maria* and *Carleton* Schooners, all reconstructions did the whole of the second days business, the flat bottomed Ra-deau, called the *Thunderer*, and the Gondola called the *Loyal Convert*; with the Gun boats, not having been able to keep up with them: the said Gondola was taken from the Rebels, the day the seige of Quebec was raised The loss we have sustained, considering the great superiority of the Insurgents, is very small consisting of between thirty and forty Men, killed and wounded Seamen, Soldiers, artillery men and all eight whereof were slain outright, and Six wounded on board of the *Carleton*; as to further particulars, I must refer you to Lieutenant Dacres, who (in justice due to his merit for the part he bore in destroying the Rebel Fleet) I am happy in sending upon this occasion to their Lordships in the *Stag* Transport as also in thereby complying with the General's desire, who for the same reason, is pleased to honor him with the Conveyance of his Dispatches.

If any further occurrences happen, which may be worthy of their Lordships cognizance, they shall be the subject of some future Letter. In the



Three-Masted Sailing Ship

mean time, being about to prepare an Express for Lord Howe, and recommending all the Gentlemen, according to the herewith inclosed List; who have had the honor of serving His Majesty in this brilliant Expedition, to that of the present notice, or future protection of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, remain &c

Charles Douglas.

P:S: Presuming that the early knowledge of this great Event, in the Southern parts of Europe, may be of advantage to His Majesty's Service I have written an account thereof to his ambassador at Madrid, by a Ship which is sailed for Barcelona with a fair wind. I hope their Lordships will approve thereof.

[Enclosures]

Copy

Officers & Petty Officers detached from His Majts Squadron in the River St Lawrence to serve on Lake Champlain

	Capt Thos Pringle		<i>Lord Howe</i>
	2d Lieut Jas Richd Dacres		<i>Blonde</i>
	Lieut John Schank	Commander	<i>Canceaux</i>
	Lieut John Starke	Do	<i>Maria</i> (recreated at St Johns)
By Captain Douglas's appointmt	Lieut Edwd Longcroft Commander		<i>Brunswick</i>
		3d Lieut Thomas Butler	<i>Isis</i>
	Lieut Geo. Scott	Commander	<i>Gaspee</i>
	2d Lieut Augt Hervey		<i>Triton</i>
lost his right arm in the Engagement	Mr Jno Curling	Mate of the <i>Isis</i>	} Having nearly serv'd their time
	" Jas Peavey	Do <i>Triton</i>	
	" Robt Brown	Do <i>Blonde</i>	
	" Edwd Pelleu	Do <i>Do</i>	
	" Thos Harrison	Do <i>Garland</i>	

Midshipmen

Mr Paul Minichin	} <i>Isis</i>
" Wm Anderson	
" Patk Carnegy	
" Jas Mears	} <i>Triton</i>
" Thos Dalby	
" Edwd Garston	

A List of His Majesty's Naval force on Lake Champlain.

Ship	<i>Inflexible</i>	Lieut [John] Schank.	18 twelve pounder.
Schooner	<i>Maria</i>	Lieut. [John] Starke.	14 Sixes
Do	<i>Carleton</i>	Lieut [James Richard] Dacres.	12 Sixes

Radeau	<i>Thunderer</i>	Lieut [George] Scott	} 6 Twenty fours 6 Twelves 2 Howitzers
Gondola	<i>Loyal Convert</i>	Lieut [Edward] Longcroft	
	20 Gun Boats	Each a brass field piece some twenty fours to nines some with Howitzers	7 Nines
	4 Long Boats	With each a Carriage Gun serving as Arm'd Tenders	
	24 Long boats	With Provisions	

A List of the Rebel Fleet on Lake Champlain

Schooner	<i>Royal Savage</i>	— 8 Six pounders and 4 fours burnt 11th October at Valicour [Valcour]
Schooner	<i>Revenge</i>	4. 6 pounders & 4 fours Escaped to Ticonderogo the 13th October
A Sloop		10 four Pounders, Escaped to Ticonderogo, the 13th October
Cutter	<i>Lee</i>	One 9 pounder in her bow, one twelve pounder in her Stern, and 2 Sixes in her Sides, Abandon'd 13th October
Galley	<i>Congress</i>	Two Eighteen pounders in her bow, Two 12 poundrs in her Stern, and 6 Sixes in her sides, run on Shore & Burnt 13th Octr
Galley	<i>Washington</i>	One Eighteen, And one 12 Poundr in her bow Two Nines in her Stern, and Six Sixes in her Sides; taken the 13th October
Galley	<i>Trumble</i>	Like the <i>Washington</i> , Escaped to Ticonderogo the 13th October
Eight Gondola's		Carrying one 8 Pounder in the Bow, and two nines in the Sides, Some of these had four Guns in their Sides — One taken the 11[th] One Sunk the 11th four burnt the 13th — 1 Escaped And one Missing.
Schooner		Taken from Major Skeene was gone for Provisions
Galley	<i>Gates</i>	Expected to join them in a few days.

Copy

A List of the Seamen detached from His Majts Ships & Vessels in the River St Lawrence to serve on Lake Champlain

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	Seamen
<i>Isis</i>	100
<i>Blonde</i>	70

	<i>Triton</i>	60	
	<i>Garland</i>	30	
	<i>Canceaux</i>	40	
	<i>Magdalen</i>	18	}
	<i>Brunswic</i>		
	<i>Gaspee</i>		
	Treasury Armed	90	}
	Brig		
lately wrecked	<i>Fell</i>	30	} Province armed Vessels
	<i>Charlotte</i>	9	
	Voluntiers from no Ship	9	
	Do from the Transports	214	
	Total	670	Exclusive of Eight Officers and 19 Petty Officers

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/125, 81b, 81e, 81f, 81h.

JOHN LANGDON TO CAPTAIN GEORGE WENTWORTH<sup>1</sup>

Portsmouth October 21st 1776

You have herewith a Letter from the Honle Continental Marine Committee Directed to the Honle Committeé at Providence to Deliver me a Sett of Guns for the Ship *Raleigh* which You are to Receive & forward by Land to Boston, from whence they are to come by Water you are also to receive & forward a Quantity of Ball, from the Honle Committee and forward with the Guns the Memorandum of which you have herewith, I shall Depend much on your Care & Dispatch, by all means forward as soon as possible one or two of the Guns of each sort, That we may close all the Carriages (which have been laying all Summer ready for putting together [ ]) that we may have them all Ready by the Time the whole of the Guns get round here don't fail to write me on your Arrival at Providence, whether the Guns can be had and how soon you can get them forward That I may send a Vessel to Boston in Readiness for them

You have a Letter herewith to Messrs Clarke & Nightingale<sup>2</sup> Who are Gentlemen will do any thing in their Power to give you Dispatch. Your most [&c.]

J Langdon — Agent  
for the United States

[Enclosure]

Memorandum of Guns & Shott for Frigate *Raleigh* of 32 Guns Vizt

26 — 12 Pounders

6 — 6 or 4 ditto

Shott	50 to each 12 Pounder round		1300
	20 ditto	Chain	520
	20 ditto Cross Barr		520
	20 ditto Grape ditto		520
To each	6 or 4 Pounder —		
	50 Grape	300 —	
	50 Round	300 —	
20 Swivels	{ 50 Grape to each	Shott	1000 } —
	{ 50 round ditto		1000 }

Cap. George Wentworth [Portsmouth, October 21, 1776]

You are to Receive the above Guns & Shott from the Honle Committee at Providence & forward them, with all dispatch to Boston by Land in order to come Round here by Water from thence Your [&c.]

Jn<sup>o</sup> Langdon Agent for the  
United States —

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

2. *Ibid.*

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

My Friend

Portsmo October 21st 1776 —

Inclosed you have a Letter from your Lady which wish safe to hand, nothing material since [y]our Departure, excepting many valuable Prizes carried into Falmouth, Salem & Newbury, — The Ship *Royal Exchange* has been Tryed & Condemned, nothing allowed either to Capt or Passengers, except Wages as p Portledge Bill, — Capt Plaince had two or three Hhds of Rum which were not Included in Cargo and as he is passenger and not Intitled to Wages and of Course nothing to support him, I have given them up for his use, no doubt you'll remember what Cap. [Joseph] Olney the prize Master mentioned relative to the mutiny on board & that Cap. Bowden & also Cap. Plaince, behaved like Gentlemen of Honor by Giveing up their Arms &c for the Defence of the Ship Their Conduct since here notwithstanding their hard Fortune has been verry Genteel, well becoming the True Sons of Ireland

I have an order from the Honle Committee for Guns this Instant Received, shall send off this Day to procure them if it is to be done without Injuring those Ships at Providence my respects to Collo [Josiah] Bartlett if he is with you & all Friends — Honle Your [&c.]

J. Langdon

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

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

[Watertown] Monday October 21st 1776.

On Motion Ordered that as the Sloop *Tyrannicide* is now altered into a Brigantine that the Name of Sloop be erased and the name of Brigantine be inserted in the Commission of Capt [John] Fisk Commander and Jonathan Haradan's Lieut presented this day.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 20, 1; 2.

PETITION OF JAMES ARNAUD, MASTER OF THE PRIZE SHIP *Queen of England*,  
TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

To the Honble the Council of the State of the Massachusetts Bay

The Petition of James Arnaud late Master of the Ship *Queen of England*,  
and brought into the Port of Boston. —  
Humbly Sheweth

That one Capt Prince in a Ship belonging to Mr Thomas Russell hath liberty, and is about proceeding on a Voyage to Cape Francois, and your petitioner may have a passage in said Ship

He humbly prays your Honors would permit him to take passage in said Ship that he may get home to his Family again. —

And as in duty bound shall pray

James Arnaud

[Endorsed] In Council Octr 21. 1776 Read & Ordered that the prayer of the Petition be granted and that the Petitioner have leave to depart this State in a Ship Owned by Mr Thomas Russell whereof is Commander Job Prince bound to Cape Francois — <sup>2</sup>

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 367.

2. Arnaud did not depart on the ship for Cape François. On October 24 he petitioned again, and was granted permission to leave on board the brig *Dolphin* for Spain or Portugal.

*Boston Gazette*, MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1776

Watertown, October 21.

The brig mentioned in our last, taken by Capt. [Simon] Forrester, then said to be worth £36,000, is safe arrived at Falmouth, Casco Bay, and we hear she proves to be worth more than double that sum sterl.<sup>1</sup>

Last Thursday a brig the fourth prize of Capt. Silas Atkins [Jr.] arrived safe at Boston, with about 1500 quintals of dry Cod Fish.<sup>2</sup> 'Tis said he had like to have taken a West Indiaman, a three decker, laden with cotton &c.

1. The brig *Mary and James*, 120 tons, Thomas Moore, master.

2. The brigantine *Montague*, Alexander Blues, master.

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

Sir -

Boston 21st Octobr. 1776 -

I have the pleasure to acquaint you with the arrival of the Ship *Alexander* at Dartmouth with abot 3000 Quintals fish sent in by the *providence* Sloop Capt [John P[aul] Jones this intelligence I Recd Last Evg. in a Ltr from Messrs Watson & Spooner from Plimouth.<sup>2</sup> its the first line I've recd from Mr Watson since I been in this department tho I've wrote Sundry Letters to him urging the Settlement of his Accounts he now promises to get them ready soon —<sup>3</sup>

I pray Sir I may be favour'd with Orders how to conduct with passengers who are, or may be br[ough]t here in prizes here are several now in town who have nothing to Subsist on. their bills not obtaining Credit I have apply'd to some of the Council and they refer me to the Congress it would prevent many uneasy feelings if I knew the mind of the Hon Congress respecting that matter -

It is some time since the Appeal from the decree given against the ship *peggy* was sent to philadelphia when that matter is determin'd I shall be highly favour'd to know it, as I am Obliged to keep a person on board to pump her she being very leaky, the Beef on board her is Still unsold, as I was Apply'd to by the deputy Commissary to reserve it for the Army, but no Orders are yet come forwd to deliver it,<sup>4</sup> shall be glad to receive orders so Soon as may be respecting the *Lynch* as She is at present haul'd up, but rimains in pay. I have had no intelligence of the *hancock* or *Franklin* since they Sail'd wch is now four weeks But hope soon to have good tidings. the *Lee* Sail'd Last week.

this day the independant Company making a most Respectable Apperance set of[f] for Newbury to Accompany Capt McNeil [Hector McNeill] to this port in the *boston* Frigat, & this hour a large Ship from Antigua prize to the *putnam* of providence Anchored here<sup>5</sup>

Your friends are great disappoindt in they happiness they promised themselves in Seeing you this Fall but none more than Your [&c.]

1. John Bradford Letter Book, LC.

2. Ephraim Spooner and William Watson, Plymouth merchants.

3. Watson had been agent at Plymouth for Washington's fleet.

4. The *Peggy*, taken by Washington's schooners *Hancock* and *Franklin*, was the subject of long fruitless litigation.

5. The ship *Camden*, 300 tons, taken by the Rhode Island privateer *Putnam*, Captain Christopher Whipple.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL  
FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND <sup>1</sup>

[Providence] October 21. 1776 Meeting in being &c

This Committee having Received a Letter from the Marine Committee at Philadelphia in which the Conduct of this Committee was much blamed, for not delivering Mr Langdon Esqr a suit of the Cannon made for Frigates

Built hear, and as their is many things bare hard on the Charrecters of the Committee Men as Merchants and as Gentlemen, Mr Ward Mr John Brown and Mr Clarke, are appointed a Committee to answer the same, and forward it by the next post.

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

*Newport Mercury*, MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1776

Newport, October 21.

Since our last have arrived at safe ports; a transport snow of 250 tons, loaded with provisions for New York, taken by Capt. [Joseph] Jauncey; a bark of about 200 tons, from Jamaica, loaded with sugar, &c. taken by the *Cabot*, Capt. [Elisha] Hinman; a ship of 370 tons, loaded with fish and lumber from Nova-Scotia for Jamaica, taken by Capt. Job Pearce; a ship of about 300 tons, from Quebec for London, ballast with coal, &c. taken by Capt. [Thomas] Stacey; a schooner from the West Indies for Newfoundland, loaded with rum, &c. taken by Capt. [Abner] Coffin; and several others, but by whom taken we have not learned.<sup>1</sup>

There is much talk, in the French islands, of a speedy rupture between France and England, and it was said that Jamaica was actually besieged.

Capt. Vickary, in [illegible] days from Hispaniola, informs that about a fortnight before he sailed, an English frigate took an American vessel, near that island, and carried her off for Jamaica; and that a French frigate, whose topmasts were then down, got ready and sailed in two hours for Jamaica to demand the American vessel, but had not returned when Capt. Vickary came away; and that no vessel is suffered to wear English colours in any French port; but Continental colours are displayed every Sunday, and much admired.<sup>2</sup>

1. For libels see *Providence Gazette*, October 26, 1776.

2. David Vickary was master of the sloop *Union*.

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

[Extract]

New Haven October 21st 1776

Colo [William] Richmond with his Regiment consisting of 400 men, with 54 Whale Boats arrived some days since at New London. I have ordered him and Lieut Colo [Henry Beekman] Livingston with their men, the Whale Boats and 1200 Tons of small craft to come to me at this place without delay. They are designed for the Long Island expedition with Colo [William] McIntosh at Fairfield. They may be hourly expected — I could wish General Clinton Brigadier General of the Militia in the State of New York might be sent, to take upon him the conduct of this expedition, if he can be spared, and also to be informed whether Your Excellency would think proper to give any different orders respecting it —

1. Trumbull Papers, XXIX, Letter Book IV, 373, ConnSL.

GOVERNOR SIR GUY CARLETON TO CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS, R. N.<sup>1</sup>

[No.] 201

Crown Point 21st of October 1776

Sir I have received your letters of the 8th and 13th Inst relating to the seamen whom you desire to be sent down. orders for which have already been given by me, as Captain [Thomas] Pringle will more particularly inform you of.

I am very sorry to hear you think the *Blonde* cannot winter here. I was in hopes that if she could not remain in the Cul de sac some other place might be found, such as Chaudiere or St Patricks Hole as the service very much requires her stay; for altho we have defeated the Rebels upon the Lake, and for the present made ourselves masters of it, yet as the advanced season of the year may make our establishing of this post impracticable, and therefore oblige us to fall back into Canada for our winter quarters, the Rebels may probably exert themselves to equip another fleet, and dispute the lake again with us, it is therefore of the utmost importance to His Majesty's Service that the *Blonde* as well as the other ship and as many seamen as they can bear, remain in the river St Lawrence if it be practicable, in order that we may be prepared to be before the Rebels upon the lake in the Spring.

It has always been intended by me that the victualling ships should be dispatched as fast as possible, having received an order to that effect from the Treasury, which I communicated to you some time past,<sup>2</sup> and gave directions about to the Lieutenant Governor at the same time, if I remember right.

Least I should not have the pleasure of writing to you again before your departure I must again thank you for the many good offices you have done, and the ready assistance you have given to His Majesty's service here, and I wish you a good Voyage and safe arrival in England. I am &c

1. Guy Carleton Letter Book, Haldimand Papers, Additional Ms. 21699, BM.

2. See Carleton to Douglas, June 29, 1776, in Volume 5.

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

[Manor of Livingston] 21 Octr

Collo. [Robert] Livingston made us a Morning Visit and shewed me a Copy of Genl. Arnold's Letter of 12t to General Gates. It was dated at Schuyler Island and informs him of an Engagement on the 11t. off Cumberland Bay at the North End of Lake Champlaine — He lost a Schooner with 60 Men (which was the most considerable of his Vessels) ran on Shore & burnt by the British Forces & had another Vessel sunk. He begs for Boats to meet him and two [*sic* tow] of his Fleet to Tcononderoge in Case the Wind should be southerly & says he has expended  $\frac{3}{4}$ th. of his Ammunition This Letter also represents that Naval Strength of Burgoyne to be a Ship of 16 Guns — about 10 or 12 more less considerable besides 15 Gondolas with large Cannon in their Prows. Arnold says the Engagemt. was from

half after 12 o'Clock till 5 PM. and that his Opponents first attacked & first withdrew. By a Letter from PRL [Peter R. Livingston] of the 19<sup>t</sup>. I find that the Convention at Fish kill consider the Fleet of the Provincials as totally destroyed & that the whole Militia are ordered up on the Apprehension that the British Army will be across the Lake in a few Days. He informs me also that [Charles] Lee has repelled an advanced Party of 1500 near West Chester and that a Ship is carried into Providence bound to Quebec laden with 15000 Blankets, Linnen &c. If these Blankets are wanted there this Loss cannot be provided for this Year. Nothing could be more opportune to the Provincials. At this very Juncture private Families were in Expectation of being called upon for a Contribution to cover the naked Soldiers and the Philad: Papers sound an Alarm of the Necessity.

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, II, 26-27.

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

[On board H. M. S. *Eagle*, New York]

Monday, 21<sup>st</sup>. [October]

This Afternoon the *Harriot* Packet came in from England, after a Passage of 6 Weeks & 5 Days, and brought me long-expected Letters from my dearest Wife & other Friends. The Packet was attacked by a Rebel Privateer so near England as Long. 20°. and lost her Captain and 5 men who were killed in the Engagement. About 9 or 10 were wounded. The Privateer, meeting with a stout Resistance, at last sheered off; and the Packet arrived without further molestation.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 126, 127.

### *New-York Gazette*, MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1776

New-York, October 21.

On Monday last, the *Perseus*, Captain Elphinstone, with eleven Sail of Transports, having on board Troops and Provisions, arrived in Port, after a passage of eleven Weeks from Portsmouth. The *Perseus* took two Rebel Privateers and a trading Vessel with a valuable Cargo, off the Coast, and brought them safe into Port.

On Friday 65 Sail of Vessels, under Convoy of the *Diamond* and *Ambuscade*, with the second Division of the Hessians, and 1000 Waldeckers, under the command of the Generals Kniphausen and Schmitz, and a Number of Recruits for the British Troops, in all about 8000 effective Men, arrived off Sandy-Hook. They sailed from Plymouth Sound the 27<sup>th</sup> of last July. In the Fleet were several Victualers, and Vessels laden with Draught Horses for the Train, and Baggage of the Army.

The *Unicorn* Frigate, one of the swiftest sailing Ships in the Fleet parted Company off Nantucket Shoals, in chase of an American Vessel.<sup>1</sup>

The *Falcon* and *Active* Frigates, and other Ships, came in from the Southward, in the Course of last week.

1. See *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, October 10, 1776.

ALEXANDER BROWN TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE<sup>1</sup>

May it please Your Lordship,

Upon the thirtieth of July last, the *Dinah* Brig a Victualler whereof I was Master sailed from St Helens under the Convoy of His Majesty's Ship *Perseus*; the Brig sailed very heavy upon a Wind in so much She would scarcely steer keeping the Helm for the post part a Lee. I kept Company with the Fleet, until the sixteenth of August, when being far to Leeward, tho' could see the Man of War back & fill his Main-Top sail, & told twenty Sail of Ships to Windward; the *Burstwick* Brig, a Victualler being to Leeward tack'd and joined me. We made the proper Signal as Leewardmost Ships: Vizt the Main-top Sail clued up with a Jack at the Main-top-mast-Shrouds; the Signal continued out from three until four O'Clock P. M. of the same Day. We kept sight of some of the Fleet 'till dark, having our Starboard Tacks on board, the Wind NWBW, lying SWBW that same Night We lost Sight of the Fleet intirely. I kept Company with the *Burstwick* & steered to Westward inclining a little Southward as the Winds permitted, and endeavoured to keep to the Westward as much as possible to shorten the distance. Upon the 24th of August I parted from the *Burstwick* & joined Company again September the first, steering as before as the Winds favoured. Upon the 18th instant at 6 A M saw a strange Ship W N W from me, it being calm & great Sea from the Westward – upon 19th at 1 P M a Breese sprung up from the Southward, the *Burstwick* being some distance from me to the N W, I steered down to join Company, this Ship did the same. the Wind coming to the Westward, I fell to Leeward of the *Burstwick* & could not join her, this Ship steered for the *Burstwick*, I stood to the Northward from them, it was dark, cloudy & variable Weather. at 6 A.M. the Ship gave Chace to me, She appeared to be a Transport, I kept on as before, having the Wind at SWBW, at 9 Do they hailed me & run up along Side, having all Hands at Quarters with lighted Matches & Tompkins out, order'd me on board with my Papers. She mounted 14 Guns formerly 16 with eight Swivels about twenty hands or Men – She proved to be the *Nancy* of London fitted out by Messrs Muir; Son & Atkinson, sailed from Cork about Six Weeks, was taken Eight Days before,<sup>2</sup> the Master of the Privateer not being able to man both Vessels, sent me and Company on board the *Burstwick* & set Us at liberty. Upon the 22d instant We joined His Majesty's Ship *Diamond* & fleet & kept Company 'till our Arrival at this Port.

The above account is as exact and real as I am able to give. I am, with profound respect, Your Lordship's [&c.]

Alex<sup>r</sup> Brown

(Copy) Howe

Dated at New York, 21st Day of October 1776.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487. Enclosed in Howe to Stephens, October 23.
2. The *Nancy* had been captured by the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Hawke*, Captain John Lee. *Nancy's* prize, the *Dinah*, was retaken by H. M. S. *Juno* on October 6, 1776, Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, N. S. Arch.

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

[Philadelphia] Monday, October 21, 1776

The Secret Committee having informed Congress that a vessel was arrived in New Hampshire, with a cargo on account of the Continent, among which was a quantity of flints,

*Resolved*, That the Secret Committee be directed to order 30,000 of the said flints to General Schuyler, for the use of the army in the northern department, and the remainder to General Washington, for the use of the army under his immediate command.

Congress took into consideration the form of the oath to be taken by the officers in the service of the continent, which was agreed to as follows:

I ———, do acknowledge the Thirteen United States of America, namely, New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, to be free, independent, and sovereign states, and declare, that the people thereof owe no allegiance or obedience to George the third, king of Great Britain; and I renounce, refuse and abjure any allegiance or obedience to him; and I do swear, that I will, to the utmost of my power, support, maintain, and defend the said United States against the said king, George the third, and his heirs and successors, and his and their abettors, assistants and adherents; and will serve the said United States in the office of ———, which I now hold, and in any other office which I may hereafter hold by their appointment, or under their authority, with fidelity and honour, and according to the best of my skill and understanding. So help me God.

*Resolved*, That every officer who holds, or shall hereafter hold, a commission or office from Congress, shall subscribe the above declaration, and take the foregoing oath.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 889, 890, 893-94.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO AUGUSTIN LAWRENCE AND SAMUEL  
TUDER<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen —

Philadelphia, 21st October, 1776.

Your letter of the 7th inst. advising that the ships *Congress* and *Montgomery* were nearly ready for launching, was received. You will observe the above names are now to be given to those ships. We are, at this distance, at a loss to direct their destination. The marine committee have therefore

wrote to the Convention for the State of New-York, now at the Fishkills, requesting that they would give you proper directions relative to the launching and otherwise disposing of those ships with their stores, so as to preserve them in the best manner you can from being destroyed. You are therefore to correspond with the said Convention for that purpose.

Fra. Lewis, Phil. Livingston.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 340-41.

FRANCIS LEWIS TO CAPTAIN JOHN HODGE<sup>1</sup>

Capt. John Hodge:

Philadelphia, 21st October, 1776.

Sir — I have received your letter of the 18th instant. In answer thereto relative to the ship *Montgomery*, we have lately wrote the Convention of the State of New-York leaving it to them to give direction in what manner to dispose of the ships at Poughkeepsie; they are now convened at the Fishkills. If they should find it practicable to get these ships out this year, Congress are disposed to have them fitted and manned with all expedition, but in this you must consult the Convention and superintendents. If there should be a probability of getting the ships out, you should furnish us with a list of such officers as yourself with the gentlemen of the Convention shall recommend.

You may apply to the Treasurer, Mr. Denning, to draw upon me here for what money you may be in want of for your present supplies on account of your sloop freight. I am sir, [&c.]

Fra. Lewis.

To Capt. John Hodge.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 340.

SECRET COMMITTEE TO WILLIAM BINGHAM, MARTINIQUE<sup>1</sup>

In Secret Committee

Philada October 21st 1776

Sir You have herewith a Copy of a letter we wrote you the 20th Ulto by the Sloop *Independance* Capt [John] Young which we hope may arrive safe as well as the Ship *Betsey* Capt Stevens and they will furnish you with some Funds in addition to what you received by the Brig *Cornelia & Molly* Capt Lockard which is safely returned & by her we received your favour of the 24th Ulto the Contents whereof are very agreeable, the Mollasses you remitted us sold high but we shou'd have preferred more Powder Muskets, &c We send this by the Continental Armed Sloop *Sachem* commanded by Capt James Robinson who we hope will have the pleasure to deliver it in due time

This Vessell we have dispatched for the sole purpose of bringing back such a supply of Blankets, Coarse Cloths, Coatings, Flannels & other Woolen Goods suitable for Winters Wear as you can procure in Martinico they are already much wanted & will be more so, therefore we

earnestly entreat You to exert your utmost interest to procure on the best terms you possibly can a large supply of all the above Articles, You may apply what Funds You are already possessed of towards the payment for them & be assured that we shall Continue our remittances untill You discharge every debt you Contract on the Publick Account We must press you to dispatch Capt Robinson with as much of these Goods as he can take in immediately & if you can procure more than he can carry You will please to Charter or buy a Suitable Vessell to bring the surplus under his Convoy but both must be dispatched immediately. We have sent another Vessell to St Eustatia & one to the Cape<sup>2</sup> on the like errands & our want of these Goods is so great that many Ship load cou'd be dispensed with therefore send all you possibly can. You will supply Capt Robinson what may be necessary for the Sloops Expences & send his draft for the Amount on the Marine Committee We must not be disappointed of these Goods therefore you must pledge the Credit of the United States pretty freely and we will leave nothing in our power undone to send you supplys but Vessells are Scarce at present, If you charter one or more [to] Send with Goods, Mollasses, Coffee, Sugar &c we will load them all back with flour & Tobacco &c You shall soon hear from us again being Sir [&c.]

Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris

Josiah Bartlett

Richard Henry Lee

Phil. Livingston

Fra<sup>s</sup> Lewis

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, Case 1, Box 20, HSP.

2. The Continental brig *Andrew Doria*, Captain Isaiah Robinson, sailed for St. Eustatius, and the Continental brig *Lexington*, Captain William Hallock, for Cape François.

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

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] October 21st, 1776.

*Resolved*, That Mr. [George] Gray & Capt. [Joseph] Blewer be appointed to Sound the Eastern Channel of the River Delaware, near Fort Island; to give directions for Stopping that Passage, if they should find it necessary.

Mr. Towers was directed to deliver Wm. Kinnard One Piece of Russia Duck, for making Sails for the Armed Boat *Delaware*.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 761.

#### VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM MITCHELL<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

We are inform'd by Captain Dean that you have taken three Men also lately inlisted with him as Seamen (out of your Company of Marines) from their duty on board his Vessel. – by the rules of the Navy Capt Dean had a

right to inlist these Men and we therefore require you to deliver them to Captain Dean on demand. – He complains of your having treated him very ill, which will be inquired into hereafter, and in the mean time you are discharged from Arrest by an Order of the Board herewith sent to Captain Dean.<sup>2</sup>

(Sigid) Thomas Whiting 1st Comr  
[Williamsburg] 21st Octr 1776 –

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL. Captain William Deane of the schooner *Revenge*.
2. *Ibid.*

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Halifax] Monday October 21st 1776.

Mr John Chase made Application for Letters of Marque and Reprisal for the Sloop *Polly* belonging to Ambrose [Knox] and Company, William Brown John Chase and Daniel Cartwright of this State and hath also delivered in a Schedule of the Number of Guns the names of the Officers the Provisions and Warlike Stores on Board and hath given Bond and Security agreeable to the Resolutions of the Continental Congress Resolved That Commissions issue for the said Sloop *Polly* accordingly

Whereas it hath been represented that the Armed Brig *Pennsylvania Farmer* ordered by this Board on a Cruize is not at this time fit to proceed to Sea and that the Jamaica Fleet the object in view may pass our Latitudes before the said Brig can be in readiness and thereby defeat the purpose of said Cruize

Resolved That Sylvanus Pendleton Esqr commander of the Armed Vessel *King Taminy*, fitted out by this State do immediately proceed to Sea and Cruize the Term of Six Weeks against the Enemies of the United States of America and to take as many of the British Ships as may be in his power sending the same as soon as possible into some of the ports in this State for Tryal and Condemnation and for that purpose to Cruize between the Latitudes of thirty and thirty six and that after the Expiration of the said Term of Six Weeks the said Sylvanus Pendleton shall return with the said Vessel to Occacock or some other convenient port within the Limits of this State

The Armed Vessels *King Taminy* and *Penn[s]ylvania Farmer* being ordered on a Cruize against the Enemies of the United States of America Resolved That Captain John Forster commander of the Armed Brig the *General Washington* now lying at Wilmington do proceed with all possible dispatch to Occacock Bar and to remain within the said Bar in Order to protect the Trading Vessells which may be coming into or going out of that port until one of the aforesaid Armed Vessells shall return there or he shall be otherwise Ordered<sup>2</sup>

1. Secretary of State Papers (Council of Safety, 1775–1776), NCDAH.
2. *Ibid.*, the Council notified the Commissioners at Edenton of this decision by a letter of this date.



the privateer into a harbour, and came to anchor, with intention of keeping her in; but Capt. Harmon got one of his guns ashore on a point of land, and fired on the frigate, when she returned whole broadsides into the woods at them, but did no damage. Capt. Harmon after a few shot was so lucky as to cut away her fore-stay, which obliged her to come to sail, and put to sea.

*The Freeman's Journal*, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1776

Portsmouth, Oct. 22.

Saturday last was sent into this port a prize brig, bound to Bilboa, with 2000 quintals of fish, taken by a Salem privateer.

Yesterday was brought to this town, from Falmouth, 16 English Light Horse, which were taken some time ago in a prize, and carried into that port.

Monday 14th inst. arriv'd at Falmouth (C[asco] Bay) a large ship from Jamaica, bound to London, laden with 500 hogsheads of sugar and 50 ditto of Rum, taken by the privateer *Retaliation* from Beverly, [Eleazer] Giles commander. The ship mounted 6 carriage guns and fought the Privateer two hours before she struck.<sup>1</sup>

Tuesday last arrived at Falmouth [Casco-Bay) a large brig (the *Mary and James*) commanded by Thomas More; she was from Falmouth in England, bound to Naples, laden with balls, boxes of goods, cocoa, pepper, allom, tin, head, &c. taken by Capt. Simon Forrester in the privateer sloop *Rover* from Salem.

1. The prize was the *St. Lucia*, 300 tons, George Childs, master.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO CAPTAIN JOHN FISK, COMMANDER OF  
THE STATE BRIGANTINE *Tyrannicide*<sup>1</sup>

Capt John Fisk –

The Brigantine *Tyrannicide* under your Command being properly Armed & Man'd, and in other respects fitted for a Cruise, You are hereby Ordered & directed immediately to proceed to Sea, and Use your utmost Endeavours to protect the Sea Coast, and Trade of the united States, And you are also directed to exert yourself in making Captures of all Ships & other Vessels, Goods, Wares, & Merchandize belonging to the King of Great Britain, or any of his Subjects wherever residing, excepting only the Ships & Goods of the Inhabitants of Bermuda & the Bahama Islands. And you are directed not to Cruise farther to the Southward than Lattitude twelve North, nor farther East than Longitude [illegible] Degrees West from [London] nor farther West than the Shoales of Nantucket, At all times using necessary Precaution to prevent your Vessel from falling into the hands of the Enemy –

And whereas you have received a Commission Authorizing you to make Captures as aforesaid, and a set of Instructions have been delivered you for regulating your Conduct in that Matter, these Instructions you are hereby



*Captain John Fisk of the Tyrannicide.*

directed diligently to attend to, and if you are so fortunate as to make any Captures you are to Order them to make the first safe Harbour within the United States of America. And you are further Ordered not to expend Your Ammunition unnecessarily, and only in times of Action or firing Alarm, or Signall Guns.

In the Name & pr Order of Council  
John Avery Dpy Secy

Council Chamber [Watertown] October 22d 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 377.

JOHN BRADFORD TO ROBERT MORRIS<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Boston 22d Octor 1776

I am happy in receiveing the dispatches from the secret Committe by this days post with directions how to conduct relative to the unfortunate Capt [William] Tokely & his New Master Capt [Elijah Freeman] Paine, with pleasure I acquaint you that after an interview with Mr [Samuel] Adams & Coll [William] Whipple concerning this affair, the same evening they left this Town — I saw Capt Tokely & Paine together, & heard what each had to offer — the latter is a man of great volubility, & realy offer'd such Arguments that I my self was not fully satisfied that the *Fanny* was not bound to London, he charg'd the Capt with the Crime of belonging to England, and that he was only mate of this same Brig some time ago employ'd in being a victular to the fleet and Army, that the Brig sail'd very heavy, and that the Congress wou'd not have employ'd a stranger to Command a heavy sailing vessell to go on such an Errand, the honest Capt never let me into the secret that he was not Master when this voyage was plann'd, which your letter inform'd me of — however Sir I was so well satisfied of the integrity of Capt. Tokely that I dispatch'd him to plimouth the 15th Inst after obtaining the mighty boon from Paine to suffer him to repair his vessell and furnish'd him with letters of credit for what he might need, I set out this afternoon for plimouth where Capt Paine happens to be fitting his privateer — I shall most strictly conform to your directions and hope my conduct may meet your approbation<sup>2</sup> — I am Sir with the greatest respects Yours & the Committees [&c.]

Jn<sup>o</sup> Bradford

1. John Bradford Letter Book, LC.

2. The brig *Fanny*, Captain Tokely, sailing under order of the Secret Committee of Congress, was seized by Captain Payne in the Rhode Island privateer *Eagle*. Payne suspected that *Fanny* was en route to London. See Volume 5.

INTERROGATION IN RHODE ISLAND ADMIRALTY COURT OF THE  
MATE OF PRIZE SHIP *Belle*<sup>1</sup>

Interrogations answered by Thomas Turnbull late Mate on board the Prize Ship *Belle*

Interog: When where and by whom was the Said Ship and her Cargo taken, who was the Master of the said Ship when taken, what is

her Tonage, from whence and to what Port was She bound what are the Contents of her Cargo, and who are the Owners of said Ship and her Cargo?

Answer The said Ship and her Cargo upon the Fourth Day of October AD: 1776 being upon the High Seas in Lat 36. . Long 57 was Captured and taken by Job Pearce Commander and his Officers and men belonging to the private Sloop of War called the *Greenwich*, Thomas Jones was then Master She is of the Burthen of 300 Tons, She was bound from Annapolis Royal in Nova Scotia to Jamaica, her Cargo consists of 15015 Feet of Boards, 52600 Feet of Timber, 47050 Shingles, 2900 Hoops, 71056 Staves, 22191 Feet Sparrs, 280 Quintals of Fish Moses Franks of London is owner of the said Ship and her Cargo.

Thomas Turnbull<sup>2</sup>

Sworn to in Providence October 22: 1776 –  
Before me John Foster Judge in Prize Causes

1. Admiralty Papers, vol. 9, R. I. Arch.
2. Turnbull and six others of the crew of the *Belle*, in an undated petition to the Judge of the Admiralty asked for their wages up to the time of capture as "Your Petitioners is informed that by an Order of the Honble Continental Congress they are intitled to their wages due whilst on board of sd Ship," *ibid*.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PROVIDENCE DATED OCT 22D 1776 – " <sup>1</sup>

The Continental Frigate called the *Providence* is gone to Newport. The *Warren* was under Sail last Sunday, and out sails all the Boats in the River upon a Wind without Mainsail or Top gallant Sails being set. How the *Providence* sails I know not, as She went down before the Wind directly from Me. They are Two very fine Ships, and a Credit to our little State. There has been bro't into this Port 32 Prizes, a pretty good Beginning. There is now fitting out Two 20 Gun Ships, and there will be soon Two new Brigs built on Purpose for the Business to mount Eighteen 6 Pounders each – This Addition to our Fleet will make no small Show upon the List of our Naval Department. –

1. Secretary of State Papers (Council of Safety 1775–1776), NCDAH.

SAMUEL LYON TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES<sup>1</sup>

Sir Newport October 22nd 1776

You are desired to attend at a Court Martial to be held onboard the Ship *Alfred* at two OClock this afternoon for the Tryal of Samuel Halm or Einom James Robinson and John Robinson for Mutiny and Thomas Donehoe

By Order of the honble Esek Hopkins Esqr  
Commander in Chief –  
Sam. Lyon Secy

To John P. Jones Esqr Commander of the *Providence*

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, LC.

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

Sir

Newport October 22nd 1776 -

You are directed to go onboard the *Alfred* and take the Command of her and go to Sea with her and the *Hamden* [*Hampden*] Captn [Hoysteed] Hacker, who will be directed to keep Company with you, and follow your directions - You will form such Signals, and appoint such Rendezvous, as you think will best answer the end of keeping Company -

You are to Take all british Vessels, and all Vessels bound to any port under the jurisdiction of the King of Great Britain, except Bermudas and New Providence - You are with the Force under your Command, to endeavour all in your power to destroy all the Coal Vessels you may find at, or near the Coal Mines at the Island of Cape Breton, and do all in your power to Relieve a number of our Unfortunate brethern who are Prisoners, and employed in that cruel and hard Service - When that is effected and the Weather will permit, you are to Cruise for Transports, and other Vessels bound to Canada, or go to Newfoundland and destroy as much of the Fishery as you possibly can; if you think the Season not too far advanced. And when you think the Season too Cold for that Station, you may Cruise as long as you well can for Transports bound from Great Britain to Newyork - You may Send any Vessels into Port for Tryal, that you may think are acting detrimental to the Interest of the American States Such Vessels as you may Take, which you think are not worth your while, or may not be Convenient to send into Port, You may destroy (first taking the hands out) -

My advice is when your Cruise is over, that you return in to some Port in New England in order for a Winters Expedition

You will send your Prizes in to such Ports in the United States of America as you judge you can get them in with most Safety - You may if you please send a proper Person in a Prize, if you should take any one fit for that purpose to some Port in France; and there to sell her and Cargo, and purchase some small Armed Vessel, and with the Overplus money Lade onboard her such Goods as may answer best, for the Supply of the Navy or Army; first ballasting her with Sulphur - You giving him Orders for that Purpose - I am with Respect [&c.]

E.H Cr in Chief -

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS. A copy is in Papers CC (Letters of John Hancock, and Miscellaneous Papers), 58, 175-76, NA.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN HOYSTEED HACKER<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Newport October 22d 1776

You are to go to Sea with the *Hamden* [*Hampden*] under your Command, in Company with the *Alfred*, and take and follow such directions as you may receive from time to time from Captn [John Paul] Jones respecting your Cruise - If you should part with the *Alfred* by accident, you are to

do all in your power to join her — but should you not be able to join You are to cruise as long as you can in such Station, as you think will be most likely to intercept the Provision Vessels from Great Britain bound either to Canada or New York —

You may destroy any Ship or Ships which you cannot easily man and send in to Port (first taking out the hands) — You will send your Prizes in to such Ports as you judge you can with most Safety get them in to any of the United States of America

E H Cr in Chief —

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

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

Sir

Newport October 22d. 1776 —

The above and annex'd is a list of what Goods belonged to the Captain and Passengers onboard the Ship *Ester* sent in to Deptford by the *Cabot* — and as it has been Customary in this State for the Captains to have their private Adventures, and the Agent here has always delivered it by my Consent — and as the above Lists does not to me seem unreasonable — I think you will do well do [*sic*] deliver the same to the Persons they belong too and you may depend that in so doing you will do but right —

Lieutt [Thomas] Weaver acquaints me that the Men onboard the Prize Ship *Ester* wants some Supplies, these are therefore to desire you to Supply him with Sufficient Money for that purpose and take his receipt and Charge it to the Continent — I am &c

E H —

To John Bradford Esqr Agent for the Continent  
in the State of Massachusetts Bay at Deptford  
or in his absence to his Deputy there —

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

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

At a Meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety [Lebanon] Octo. 22d, 1776.

*Voted*, To allow Mr. Adam Babcock & Co., to export sixty barrels of salt beef to Rhode Island, for the use of their privateer.

*Voted*, To sell to Mr. Adam Babcock & Co., two of the cannon and carriages taken on board the ship *Guinea Man* and brought in by Capt. [Seth] Harding to New London.<sup>2</sup>

*Voted*, To desire Mr. [Titus] Hosmer to give orders to Mr. [Abel] Buell for 40 fire-arms to be delivered to Capt. Wm. Coit for the use of the ship *Oliver Cromwell*.

1. Charles J. Hoadly, ed., *Public Records of the State of Connecticut . . . 1776-1781* (Hartford, 1894-1922), I, 53. Hereafter cited as Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut State Records*.
2. For the Rhode Island privateer brig *Minerva* owned by Babcock.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Senegal*, CAPTAIN ROGER CURTIS<sup>1</sup>

October 76 At single Anchr in Huntingdon Bay — Loyds pt.  
NWbN 1 M.

Tuesday 22d AM saw the *Niger* at Anchor in the sound at 6 more Mod-  
erate Weigh'd & came to sail the *Niger* working to  
Windwd past by her, fir'd a six poundr at a Privateer  
Sloop that run into Norwalk Harbor, stood into 5 faths and  
run along shore as far as Fairfield at Noon the Fore NbE  
6 ms  
haul'd our Wind Employ'd working into Huntingdon  
bay at 7 Anchd with the Bt Br in 5 faths Veer'd to 1/3d  
of a Cable, Loyd's head NWbN 2 Leags

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

GOVERNOR SIR GUY CARLETON TO MAJOR GENERAL JOHN BURGOYNE<sup>1</sup>

[No.] 203

Crown Point 22nd October 1776

Sir In addition to the memorandums with which I have troubled you, to be communicated to His Majesty's Ministers; I must beg you will represent the necessity of sending out for this service, as early as possible, a Battalion consisting, at least, of three hundred seamen, it being to be wished that the expensive expedient, to which we have been obliged to have recourse this year, of detaining transports on account of their seamen, might be avoided in future, even if it should be in our power to use it; but as there may not be a number sufficient of those ships in the river to furnish us as before, we should in that case be at a loss to man our Vessels again, and it seems most probable that we shall have the same, if not a greater, occasion for them next spring, At last it must be necessary to be provided against all which may happen. I find it impossible to remain here.

I wish you a very good Voyage and safe arrival in England, and hope nothing may prevent my having the pleasure of seeing you here again next Campaign. I am &c

1. Guy Carleton Letter Book, Haldimand Papers, Additional Ms. 21699, BM.

GOVERNOR SIR GUY CARLETON TO CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS, R. N.<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[No.] 205

Crown Point 22nd October 1776

Sir I have already said so much to you upon the necessity of having a considerable number of seamen in readiness for the Lake Service, that I can now only repeat, for the reasons before alledged, my request that you will leave as many as possible in Canada; and that particularly the Frigates of which I wrote lately may remain, as they can furnish in the greatest proportion, and our wants will be as great the next campaign as they have been

this, it being my intention, in order that our possession of the lake may be put to no hazard, to build another Vessel of equal force to the *Inflexible*.

Lieutenants Longcroft and Stone being now the only Gentlemen of the Navy, who have not received some mark of His Majesty's favour, for their services in Quebec during last winter and as they are both Officers, with whose merits you are, yourself, well acquainted, I must beg you will remind Lord Sandwich of them on your arrival in England.

Captain [Thomas] Pringle has chosen to remain in Canada. . . .

1. Guy Carleton Letter Book, Haldimand Papers, Additional Ms. 21699, BM.

### JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Tuesday Morning,

[Fishkill] Octor. 22nd, 1776.

Capt. Samuel Tudor one of the superintendents of the Continental frigates building at Poughkeepsie, attending, informed the Committee that the said frigates were by the Honourable the Continental Congress, ordered to be launched as soon as possible, that one if not both of them will be ready to be launched in a few days, but that they are at present destitute of anchors and cables. Capt. Tudor therefore requests that he may be furnished with an order on the person at the landing at Fishkill, for the loan of such anchors, cables and other stores belonging to and taken out of the vessels sunk at Fort Washington, as may be necessarily required in the launching of the said frigates. Thereupon,

*Ordered*, That the person who hath the charge of the anchors, cables and other stores at Fishkill landing, and which were taken from on board the vessels now sunk at Mount Washington, deliver to Capt. Samuel Tudor, or his order, such of the said anchors, cables or other stores as he may require for the use of the Continental frigates building at Poughkeepsie.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Gilbert Livingston be one of the secret committee directed to be sent down with the utmost despatch to Fort Montgomery, with such parts of the chain as is fixed in the logs, and that Mr. Henry Wisner, Junr. cooperate with him in carrying this measure into execution in the most safe and expeditious manner possible.

Capt. Saml Tudor, one of the superintendents of the building the Continental frigates at Poughkeepsie, informed the Committee of Safety that the said superintendents have lately received a raft of timber for which they are indebted, and daily expect some other rafts of timber for which they are to pay ready money. That the said superintendents have also some other accounts to discharge, are at present destitute of money, and cannot obtain a supply from the Treasurer of the marine committee

Mr. Tudor therefore on behalf of the said superintendents, requested an advance or a loan of £600.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to Capt. Samuel Tudor as one of the superintendents, on his receipt, the sum of £600, and charge the same to Continental account.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 686, 687.

GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE'S CERTIFICATE TO DANIEL CHAMIER<sup>1</sup>

New York 22nd October 1776.

These are to Certify the Right Honorable The Lords Commissioners of His Majestys Treasury that John Blackburn Esquire of London hath supplied from on Board the Brigantine *Burgoyne* James Emerton Master for the Use of His Majestys Land Forces under my Command and delivered at this place to His Majestys Commissary General of Stores and Provisions One hundred and thirty Hogsheads containing Thirteen thousand Eight hundred and forty five Gallons of Rum from the Island of Montserrat And I do further Certify to the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of His Majestys Treasury that the said Rum is of the proper proof and Strength usual for the Rum from the said Island of Montserrat according to proof made thereof by an Instrument for that purpose and I do also certify their Lordships that no payment hath been made here to the said John Blackburn Esquire for the same and for which I have signed four Certificates of this tenor and date.

Given under my Hand at Head Quarters

W Howe

D: Chamier Commissary General

1. *Conarroe Papers*, vol. 7, 26, HSP.

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

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, October 22, 1776

*Resolved*, That the Commissioners going to the Court of France be directed to procure from that Court, at the expence of these United States, either by purchase or loan, eight line of battle ships of 74 and 64 guns, well manned, and fitted in every respect for service; That as these ships may be useful in proportion to the quickness with which they reach North America, the Commissioners be directed to expedite this negotiation with all possible diligence.

The Secret Committee reported, that the cargo lately imported into Portsmouth, in the brig *Marquis of Kildare*, Captain Palmer, consists of the following articles, viz. 5,000 lb of powder, 250 small arms, 100,000 flints, 4,000 yards of small canvass, 4 to 500 jackcoats, 100 knapsacks, 100 leggins, 80 large rugs, 2 bales of woollens, 1 bale of linens, and 10 tons of lead; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the powder, 100 small arms, 2,000 flints, part of the canvass, 80 rugs, and part of the lead, be applied by the continental agent for the use of the continental frigate *Raleigh*:

That 60,000 flints be sent to General Washington:

That 38,000 flints, 150 small arms, 100 knapsacks, 100 leggins, and 8 tons of lead, be sent to the northern army, under Generals Schuyler and Gates:

That the remainder of the small canvass be made into tents, and sent to the northern army:

That the jackets, if fit for soldiers, be sent to the northern army; if fit for sailors, to be distributed amongst the continental frigates at Portsmouth and Boston:

That two bales of woollens be made up into soldier's cloaths, for the northern army:

That the bale of linens, if fit for soldiers' shirts, or other purposes, for the army, to be made up, and sent to the northern army; if not suitable for public use, to be sold to the best advantage.

Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson having informed Congress that the state of his family will not permit him to accept the honour of going as their Commissioner to France, thereupon,

*Resolved*, That another be elected in his room.

The ballots being taken,

Arthur Lee Esqr was elected.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Secret Correspondence be directed to acquaint him of his appointment, and that his powers and instructions are lodged in Paris. This to be kept secret.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 894, 895-97.

WILL OF ELIJAH BOWEN, SECOND LIEUTENANT OF THE CONTINENTAL  
BRIG *Lexington*<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia, October 22, 1776]

I Elijah Bowen of the City of Philadelphia – considering the Uncertainty of this transitory Life, do make and declare these Presents to contain my last Will & Testament: *That is to say*, I give and Bequeath unto my Loving Friend Susannah Derry of said City all my Estate & Property wheresoever it may be found being Second Lieutenant on Board the Brig *Lexington* – And all the rest of my Estate, real & Personal wherewith at the Time of my Decease I shall be possessed or invested or which shall belong, or of Right appertain unto me, I do give, devise and bequeath unto the said Susannah Derry her heirs & assigns for Ever—and I do hereby nominate and appoint Susannah Derry to be Sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all former Wills and Testaments by me made, and do declare this to be my last Will. In Witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand & Seal, this 22d Day of October *Annoque Domini* One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six –

Elijah Bowen      Seal

Signed, Sealed, and Declared to be the last Will and Testament of h[im] the said — in the Presence of David Lapsley Sworn Will<sup>m</sup> Hallock<sup>2</sup>

1. Will Book W, No. 103,187, Register of Wills Office, Philadelphia.
2. Hallock was captain of the *Lexington*.

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

[Philadelphia] Octr 22d 1776

. . . on the 21st arrived a Schooner with 1200 bushels of Salt (its Said) the 22d was Sent in here the Brigg *Sherburn* Capt Burnell with 589 barrels of oil, being a prize to Brig *Hancock*, Capt Newman<sup>2</sup> &c an acct also of an Engagment on the Lakes the 11th Instant & as the Enemy were vastly Superior, our People retreated to Crown Point &c

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.
2. The 75 ton brig *Sherburne*, Jonathan Bunnell, master, taken by the Pennsylvania privateer *Hancock*, Captain Wingate Newman. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, October 23, 1776.

*Pennsylvania Packet*, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1776

Philadelphia [October 22].

Saturday se'nnight arrived here a ship taken by the brig *General Montgomery*, she proves to be the ship *Thetis*, Capt. [Hezekiah] May, with 310 hogsheads of sugar, 90 puncheons of rum, &c. from Montego Bay for London, and belonged to a fleet of near 200 sail, who left Jamaica in August last, under convoy of two men of war. The above ship, in coming up, touched on the Cheveaux de Frize, where she would have, in all probability sunk, had it not been for the timely assistance she received from the Row Galley-men.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION<sup>1</sup>

[Annapolis] Tuesday, October 22, 1776.

A petition from William Richardson,<sup>2</sup> setting forth, that he, at the time of the alarming appearance of a hostile fleet under the direction of lord Dunmore, on the thirteenth of July last, observed a sloop drifting towards the shore within about a mile and a half of his dwelling house, and a barge from the fleet rowing towards her, which soon scuttled the said sloop; that he went off with his own negroes, intending to board her and save every thing on board the said sloop he possibly could; that he accordingly saved and brought away a mainsail, topsail, and gib, a quantity of old iron, thirty-six pair of iron hinges, and fifty-three cow hides; and that all the said articles were sent for and taken away by captain Uriah Forrest; and praying to be authorized to receive a moiety of the said articles procured by him as aforesaid, was read and ordered to lie on the table.

1. *Maryland Convention*, 43.
2. Revolutionary Papers, Box 12, Folder 11, Md. Arch.

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

[Williamsburg] Tuesday 22d October 1776. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to John Newton Cook for One pound sixteen shillings for Attendance and Victualling Sick Men belonging to the *Page Galley*. – Also for six shillings for attending & Victualling Sick Men belonging to the *Lewis Galley*. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Doctr Joseph S. Pell for Eight Pounds sixteen shillings and three pence for Necessaries & Medicines furnished for the use of the *Norfolk Revenge Galley*. –

Ordered that Capt Richard Taylor of the Schooner *Hornett* Land all the Stores he hath on Board his Vessel with Mr William Holt, who is to Store them, except the following Articles which he is to keep on Board, Vizt, Two six Pounders, Two two Pounders, six Swivels, two Rifles & one Musquett, 50 six pound Shott, twenty double headed six pound Shott, two two Pounders, fifty two pound Shot, Twenty Bags of Grape Shot, One hundred and twenty five Swivels, Shot, all the Powder that is made up in Cartridges, one Quire of Cartridge Paper, Seven pound & a half of Match Shott for Cannon, four Powder Horns & Priming Wires, two Worming Irons, four Iron Crows, six Handspikes, four Spunges & Rammers, Twelve Pikes, fifteen dozen Wads, twenty pound of Swan Shott, Seven Water Casks and one Harness Tubb. And then Proceed with his Vessel immediately to Hoods and have her properly fitted for going to Sea after which apply to the Board for further Orders. –

1. Navy Board Journal, 86-88, VSL.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Solebay*, CAPTAIN THOMAS SYMONDS<sup>1</sup>

Octr 1776 Cape Hatteras N44:52 Wt 178 Lgs  
 Tuesday 22 Mod: & Cloudy at 1 PM saw a sl ahead gave chace at 6 fired 4 nine pd shot at the Chace bt her too fd her to be a sloop from No Carolina bd to St Eustatia loaded with Tar & Lumber<sup>2</sup> took the Mastr & Men out of her & Sent some of our men on bd Tkd Ship & Made sl

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/909.

2. Sloop *Nancy* from North Carolina for St. Eustatius, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, *ibid.*, 1/487.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Galatea*, CAPTAIN THOMAS JORDAN<sup>1</sup>

October 1777 Bermuda No 49.10 W 36 Miles  
 [sic 1776] at 6 AM Saw two Sail to the Wtward, do gave Chace at  
 Tuesday 22d Noon brot too the Chace, being the *William* Schooner, Josha Bunker, Mastr from Bourdeaux to Rhode Island with Powder & Small arms out 6 weeks<sup>2</sup> made Sail.  
 Modt and Clear Wr Two prizes in sight

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/380.

2. The *William* had sailed from Rhode Island for Spain in April 1776. See Volumes 4 and 5.

23 Oct.

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

(Copy)

*Isis* off Quebec 23d Octr 1776

Sir In addition to my Letter of the 21st I acquaint you, that I am exerting myself to the utmost in order to get the remaining Transports out of the River, the moment their Men (without whose generous Services, the expedition could not have been carried on) are returned to them, from the Lake; Pilots both here and at Sorel, being kept in readiness for that purpose. Had not the destruction of the Rebel fleet, been so nearly effected, the *Triton* and *Garland* must at General Carleton's desire have wintered here, but as matters now happily stand, I hope the former may get away; and the endeavours shall be made to hasten most of her Men down, from Lake Champlain for that purpose — The latter must winter at Quebec at all events with a view to the Service of next Spring, and moreover to take care of the people the other Ships must unavoidably leave behind, on the Lake for the completion of the little, that yet remains to be done. This His Majesty's Ship under my Command being 14 Guns short of her number Vizt Ten 12 and four 6 pounders, short of Stores, having spared of every kind to promote the expedition in question; having her Bottom injured by her passage thro' the Ice, possibly more than we are aware of; but above all the best of her Seamen on the Lake, whose return to her in due time to leave this River where it is impossible for her to Winter is doubtful and moreover having no directions how to act in that respect from our Commander in Chief, I find myself impelled to run her home — which I the less regret, as it affords me the means of providing General Burgoyne with a good conveyance — so soon as it appeared that the important undertaking of destroying the Rebel Fleet on Lake Champlain could not be carried into Execution without the Seamen from the Transports — I, at General Carleton's desire ordered Lieutenant [John] Schank, commanding the *Canceaux*, to enter as Supernumeraries for Wages and Victuals, on the books of that armed Ship, to the number of 300 Seamen to be discharged by or before the 30th of next Month excepting such of them, as from wounds or disease, should be disabled, in thus Willingly & generously thus exposing themselves in their Country's cause, who are to be treated according to the usage of the Royal Navy in all respects. I am &c

Charles Douglas

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/125, 81i.

"MUSTER ROLL ONBOARD THE SLOOP *Providence* COMMANDED BY JOHN PAUL JONES ESQR FROM MAY 10TH [1776]"<sup>1</sup>

Men's Names	Stations in which they have entered	Time when	Numbers	Dead, discharged, Run, turned over Promoted &c.—	Time when	For what reason
John Paul Jones	Captain	May 10. 1776	1	T. from ship <i>Alfred</i>		Order
William Grinnell	1st Lieut	April 16	2	T. from <i>Columbus</i>		ditto
John Rathbun	2d "	Feby. 10	3			
William Hopkins	Master	June 3d	4	taken from Sick quarters		do
					1776	
Samuel Brownell	Actg. Master	March 14	5	Left sick at Providence	June 4th	Gravell
Henry Tillinghast	Surgeon	May 12	6	taken from the <i>Alfred</i>		Order
John Margeson	Mastr Mate	June 9th	7	taken up at N. York		Having run from <i>A. Doria</i>
Joseph Brown	2d ditto	Jany. 20th	8			
John McNeil	3d ditto	" 9th	9			
Joseph Hardy	Midshipn	Jany. 23	10			
					1776	
Charles Short	Clerk	May 15	11	dischd at Rh. Island	Jan. 19	Inability
James Rogers	Steward	June 18	12			
William Darby	Boatswain	Feby. 17	13	T. from <i>A. Doria</i>		Left in Goal at Chester
					1776	
Andrew Brewer	Carpenter	June 10	14	Run	Oct. 23	
James Bryant	Gunner	Feby. 1st	15	left sick at Rho. Isl discharged	June 20	Fever
John Pynter	Armourer	Jany. 4th	16			
Isaac Kimball	Cooper	" 1st	17	Run	Aug. 12th	

OCTOBER 1776

1371

"MUSTER ROLL ONBOARD THE SLOOP *Providence* COMMANDED BY JOHN PAUL JONES ESQR FROM MAY 10TH [1776]"<sup>1</sup>  
Continued

Men's Names	Stations in which they have entered	Time when	Numbers	Dead, discharged, Run, turned over Promoted &c.—	Time when	For what reason
					1776	
John Bittingham	Cook	" 8th	18	T. from the Hospital	June 9th	
James Bessy	Boats Mate	May 21	19			
Lillibridge Worth	Gunrs Mate	April 17	20	T. from <i>Columbus</i>	April 17	Order
Farquahar McPherson	Yeoman	Jany. 4	21	Run at Philada		
Robert Brown	A Seaman	" 31	22			
Andrew Waylin	ditto	May 21	23	Run		
Thomas Cox	ditto	May 22	24	left sick at Providence		
Samuel Hallam	ditto	" 21	25	T. to <i>Columbus</i>	June 9th	Order
Samuel Chapman	ditto	" 20	26	T. to <i>Columbus</i>	ditto	do
John Dennis	ditto	May 28	27	Taken from the hospital at N. London & turned to the <i>Andw Doria</i>	June 18	do
Edward Donnelly	A Seaman	Jany. 14	28			
John Sutherland	do	Jany. 4	29			
William Bryant	Ordy Seaman	May 24	30	T. to the <i>Hamden</i>	Octob. 9	
Thomas Perfect	ditto	June 10	31	T. from <i>Columbus</i>	June 10	Order
William Abbot	do	April 17	32	Run at N. York inveighled away	June 24	
James Robinson	do	July 11th	33			
Charles Traffar	do	" 11th	34			
George Robinson	Captn Mate	Jany. 2d	35	discharged at R. Island	June 18th	Inability

James Grinnell	Boy	April 16	36	T. from <i>Columbus</i>	April 16	Order
Edward Armond	ditto	May 12	37	T. from <i>Alfred</i> — dischd	Aug. 14	
Samuel Askins	ditto	Jany. 11	38			
James Turner	ditto	ditto	39			
Alpheus Rice	Lt. Marines	June 12	40	T. from <i>Andw Doria</i> June 10th & discharged	Aug. 12	
Patrick Russel	Marine	Dec 29 1775	41	T. from Hospital	June 9	Inability
Cornelius Dax	ditto	Jan 4th 1776	42	Taken from Hospital & exchd for Wm Bryant	May 22	
Archibald Nielson	ditto	ditto	43	Taken from Hospital	June 4th	Order
Samuel Allen	ditto	June 23	44	Td to <i>Columbus</i>	June 9th	do
Cornelius Connelly	do	June 4th	45	Run from Hospital at Providence	June 3d	
Matthew McCaffray	do	14th	46	left sick at Providence	June 6th	Fever
John Robinson	do	Feby. 8th	47	Td to <i>Columbus</i>	June 10th	Order
Daniel Pillagar	do	Jany. 3d	48	Td to <i>Columbus</i>	June 9th	do
Bryan Ryan	do	" 5th	49	T. from <i>Cabot</i> Jan 5 & Run	Aug. 14	
Archibald Edmonston	ditto	" 5th	50	T. from <i>Cabot</i>	Jany. 5	Order
Patrick McMullan	do	" 5th	51	ditto	ditto	do
Samuel Wright	do	" 5th	52	do at the Hospital Rho Isd	ditto	do
James Sinney	Marine	Jany. 6th 1776	53	T. from <i>Cabot</i>	Jany. 5th	Order
David Franks	ditto	" 5th	54	ditto	ditto	do
William Griffiths	ditto	" 5th	55	ditto		do
John McCundoe	ditto	" 5th	56	Td from <i>Cabot</i> Jan. 5th to the <i>Colum</i>	June 4th	do
William Ricketts	ditto	Jany. 23	57	Left at Narrowshock	Sept. 25	
Cambridge Grinnell	Boy	April 16	58	T. from <i>Columbus</i> . Sick at R. Isd		

"MUSTER ROLL ONBOARD THE SLOOP *Providence* COMMANDED BY JOHN PAUL JONES ESQR FROM MAY 10TH [1776]"  
Continued

Men's Names	Stations in which they have entered	Time when	Numbers	Dead, discharged, Run, turned over Promoted &c.—	Time when	For what reason
		1775				
Frederick Ruffman	Marine	Dec. 20	59	T. from hospital at N. London	June 17	Order
Andrew Jeuneson	Boy	Jan. 7th 1776	60	Run at New York	May 24	do
Daniel Humphries	Prisoner	April 16	61	Td from the <i>Alfred</i> April 9th & left sick at Providence	June 4	Fever
James Howell	ditto	June 14	62	Ta from <i>Fly</i>	June 9	Order
William Braun	ditto	" 14	63	ditto	ditto	do
Edd Arrowsmith	Ensign	" 14	64	T. from R. Island Brigade	June 14	
William Babcock	Marine	" 14	65	T. from " Run at Boston	June 28	
Elias Thomas	Serjeant	" 14	66	ditto	" 28	
Joseph Nocke	Marine	" 14	67	ditto	dischd Oct. 8	
August Sanders	ditto	" 14	68	ditto	dischd " 15	
Richard Griffiths	ditto	" 14	69	ditto	Run	
Elias Miller	ditto	" 14	70	ditto		
Thomas Potter	ditto	" 14	71	ditto		
Jonathan Jenks	Marine	June 14	72	T. from R. Island Brigade		
Nathan Munro	ditto	" 14	73	ditto		
James Jacques	ditto	" 14	74	ditto	dischd October 8th	
James Searles	ditto	" 14	75	ditto	Run at Boston June 28th	
Constant Whitford	ditto	" 14	76	ditto	Run at R. Isld June 22d	
Richard Pierce	ditto	" 14	77	ditto	Run Oct. 22	
Thomas Harris	ditto	" 14	78	ditto	Run. Boston June 28	

John Robinson	ditto	"	14	79	ditto	Run	Oct. 22
John Hicks	ditto	"	14	80	ditto		
Isaac Stearns	ditto	"	14	81	ditto		
James Merryhew	ditto	"	14	82	ditto	Run. Boston	June 29
Nathan Newman	Fifer	"	14	83	ditto	discharged	Oct. 8
Samuel Peckham	Drummer	"	14	84	ditto		
Adin Trask		"	14	85	ditto	dischd	Oct. 15
John Jones	Landsman	Aug.	19	86			
Samuel True	"	"	19	87			
Michael Daylee	"	"	19	88			
Lewis Humphries	"	"	19	89			
Joseph Veazie	Actg Master	"	19	90	Ta from <i>hornet</i>		
John Webster	Boatswain	"	19	91	Ta from <i>Hornet</i>		
John Deborah	do Yeoman	"	19	92	do		
John Coossmen	Gunnr Mate	"	19	93	do	Run	Octr. 20
Samuel Frye	Cooper	"	19	94	do		
John Kitten	Capt. Clerk	"	19	95	do		
John Williams	Landsman	"	19	96	do		
James Crawford	ditto	"	19	97	do		
Ezekiel Vangelder	ditto	"	19	98	do		
John Monley	ditto	"	19	99	do		
John Powell	ditto	"	19	100	do		
Henry Young	ditto	"	19	101	do		
Abraham Sing	ditto	"	19	102	do		
Matthias Guines	Seaman	"	19	103	do		
Aaron Quigley	ditto	"	19	104	do		
John Stewart	2d Gunner	"	19	105	do		
Zebulon Whippy	Mas. Mate	Aug.	26	106	do from Brig <i>Brittania</i>		
Abel Coffin	3rd Mate	Aug.	26	107	taken from the brig <i>Britania</i> & Sick at Providence		

"MUSTER ROLL ONBOARD THE SLOOP *Providence* COMMANDED BY JOHN PAUL JONES ESQR FROM MAY 10TH [1776]"  
Continued

Men's Names	Stations in which they have entered	Time when	Numbers	Dead, discharged, Run, turned over Promoted &c.—	Time when	For what reason
John Coit	Seaman	ditto	108	ditto		
Richard Brainsley	ditto	do	109	do		
James Foney	do	do	110	do		
Anthoney Forrest	do	do	111	do		
Joshua Moses	Landsman	do	112	do		
Peter Peteril	Seaman	do	113	do		
Samuel Wiggs	ditto	do	114	do		
Casey Cabinick	Landsman	do	115	do		
Anna Conna	Landsman	Augt 26	116	Taken from Brig <i>Britannia</i> . Sick at Providence		
George Lovie	Actg Lieut.	Sept. 4	117	Taken from the <i>Sea Nymph</i>		
Anthony Lewis	Seaman	ditto	118	ditto		
James Bascomb	Seaman	do	119	do		
Prince William	Landsman	do	120	do		
Peter Conya	do	do	121	do		
William Tyson	Seaman	do	122	do		
William Middleton	do	do	123	do	Sick at the Hospital R. Isla	
William Wells	do	do	124	do	Run	October 20
Bernard Galligher	Actg Midship.	do	125	Taken from the brig <i>Favourite</i>		
Benjamin Allen	Seaman	Sept 7-1776	126	Taken from the Brig <i>Favourite</i>		
John Wilson	ditto	do	127	ditto		
William Lewis	ditto	do	128	ditto	Run	Sept. 23d
William Roberts	do	do	129	do		

Patrick Devaraux	do	do	130	do	
James Backup	do	do	131	do	
Thomas Birch	Boy	do	132	do	
John Traverse	do		132	do Sick at the Hospital R. Island	
John Brown	Seaman	Sept. 22	133	do	
Peter Diamond	do	Oct. 4	134		
Stephan Ryan	do	" 4	135		
James Dayly	Surg. Mate	Sept. 23	136	Sick at R. Island	
Benjamin Hill	Pilot	" 23	137	discharged	Octr 22
Jonathan Fish	Actg Midship.	" 23	138	discharged	
Thomas Brewer	Carpr Mate	" 23	139	Run	Octr 23
George Nicholson	Seaman	" 23	140		
John Fears	ditto	" 23	141		
Stephen Seamore	do	" 23	142		
Isaac Captin	do	" 23	143		

(Copy)

Jn<sup>o</sup> P. Jones

1. Transcript of Military Papers, Revolutionary War, XL, 663-66, R. I. Arch.

OCTOBER 1776

1377

COURT MARTIAL OF JAMES BRYANT, GUNNER OF THE CONTINENTAL BRIG  
*Hamden*<sup>1</sup>

At a Court Martial held on board the Ship *Alfred* at Newport, in the State of Rhode Island, on the 23d Day of October, 1776, by Order of the Honourable Esek Hopkins, Esqr Commander in Chief of the American Fleet for the Trial of James Bryant, Gunner, of the Brigantine *Hamden*, for Mutiny

Present, Captains –	John Paul Jones	President
	Hoysteed Hacker	} Members –
	Joseph Olney	
	Matthew Parke	
	Edmund Arrowsmith	
Lieutenants	Jonathan Pitcher	
	John P. Rathbun	
	Robert Sanders	
	Peter Deville	
	Edward Burke	
	William Hamilton	
	Adam W. Thaxter	

James Bryant aforesaid being brought before the Court as Prisoner on the Complaint of Philip Brown, Esqr for Mutiny on board the Brigantine *Hamden* bearing date the 20th of October 1776. The Charge being Read in the hearing of the Prisoner, he Plead Not Guilty. Whereupon the Court proceeded to examine the Evidences who Deposed as follows, Viz –

Adam W. Thaxter appeared before the Court and gave Evidence, That on the 20th of October, James Bryant applied to the Commanding Officer Philip Brown. Esqr for leave to go on shore, and upon being [refuse]d that Liberty, behaved in a Mutinous manner by giving him abusive language; and upon being again denied going on shore repeated his abusive language Collared, and otherwise abused the Commanding Officer – Afterwards questioning him concerning his Behaviour to Mr Brown he replied that Were it the Captain or Admiral he would behave in the Same Manner, and challenged Mr Brown to single Combat –

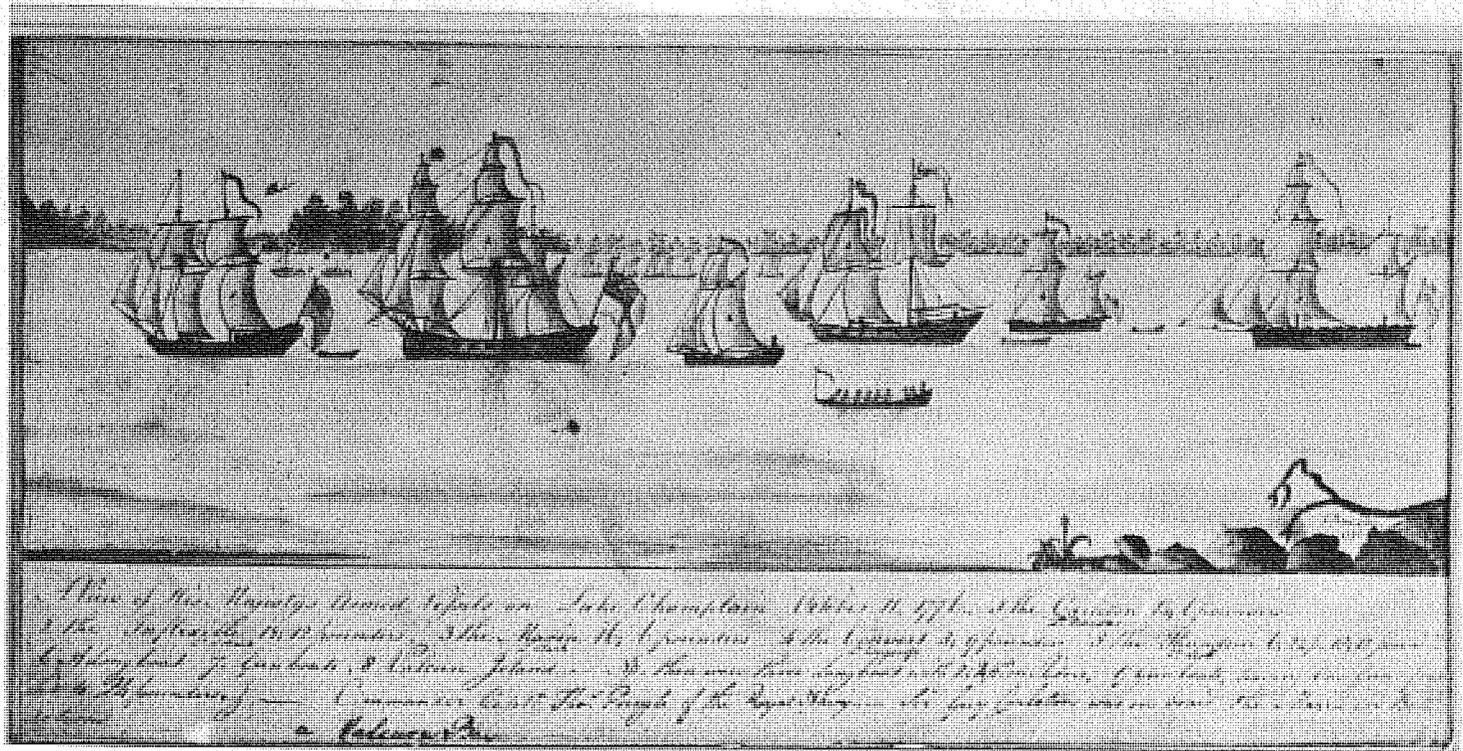
William Earle, Joseph Allen, and Willaim Wardwell all confirm the above Evidence –

Benonie Taylor confirmed the above with respect to the first part of the Evidence but was absent at the latter part of the Disturbance and further saith not –

John Davis confirmed the above Evidence, and added that Mr Brown called for a double Headed Shot –

Caleb Howard confirmed the foregoing Deposition of John Davis

The Opinion of this Court is That the Prisoner James Bryant, hath according to the laws and regulations of the Congress of the United States of America been found Guilty of the Charge alledged against him: That he



British Armed Vessels on Lake Champlain.

be Cashiered and rendered incapable of holding any Warrant or Commission in the American Service; and that he forfeit all Prize Money due to him from the American Fleet — but not his Wages — That he be Confined during the Pleasure of the Commander in Chief of the American Fleet.

Jn<sup>o</sup> P. Jones President  
 Hoysteed Hacker  
 Joseph Olney  
 Matthew Parke  
 Edmund Arrowsmith  
 Jonathan Pitcher

John P Rathbun  
 Rob<sup>t</sup> Sanders  
 Adam W Thaxter  
 Par douville  
 Edward Burke  
 William Hamilton

[Endorsed] Having examined the foregoing proceedings of the Court Martial, I do hereby Ratifie and Confirm the same — and Order that the said James Bryant deliver up his Warrant to the President of the Court Martial; that he be turn'd onshore

Newport October 24th. 1776

Esek Hopkins

1. Miscellaneous Collection, vol. 15, 219, RIHS.

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

Sir

New Haven October 23d 1776 —

You will find inclosed Copy of Letter from General — Gates, from Genl Arnold respecting the Transactions at the Northward, I am further advised that after the Action of the 12th, which General Arnold describes, the Fleet under his Command began to fall down the Lake but had not got far from Schuylers Island when a Northerly Gale favourable to the Enemy pushed them up with our Shattered Fleet, and obliged them to commence a second Engagement which was continued with great Disadvantage on our Side — tho' with great Spirit and Bravery for 5 Glasses, when the Superior Strength of the Enemy prevailed to the almost total Ruin of our Fleet; — General Arnold in the *Congress* Galley fought till he could stand no longer, run her on shore, burnt her & escaped — General Waterbury fought the *Washington* till she was Sinking under him, he was obliged to strike and was made a Prisoner, tho it seems he is returned to Ticonderoga, probably on his Parole, and is expected here soon, Colo Wigglesworth in the *Trumbull* is got to Ty — and is the only Galley saved, one Galley, not completed, is safe, our strenght on the Water now Remaining is one Sloop, 12 Guns, Two Schooners, 8 Guns each, Two Galleys & one Gundola — what it was before these Rencounters the inclosed Copy of a Return will shew. — The Enemies Strenght appears larger than at first, it is as follows —

1 Ship	18	12 pounds	} all Brass
1 Schooner	14	6 Ditto	
1 Do	12	Do Do	
1 Redeaux	6	24	
	12	12	
	4	8 Inch Howitzes	

28 Gondolas — 1 Gun each — 12 — 18 — & 24 Pounders, 1, 8 Inch Howitzer. Our People are all Retired to Ticonderoga, where it is their Design, it is said, to force the Enemy to make an Attack on our Works at the French Lines by the Crown Point Road by obliging them to Land below our Army, that they will lay our two remaining Galleys in the Channel, where their Fire will cooperate with the Jersey Redoubt, and the Battery on Mount Independance by this means they hope to prevent their passing higher up than our advanced posts. — I hope for a more full and particular Account from General Waterbury who is soon expected here. —

Colo [William] Richmond came to this Town by Land yesterday, and Waits here for his Regiment to come in the Whale boats, which are hourly expected —

Mr Hazzard will communicate his knowledge from General Washington's Head Quarters — which is the fullest that I have — I am with Esteem and Regard Sir [&c.]

Jon<sup>th</sup> Trumbull

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

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

At a Meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety [New Haven] October 23d, 1776.

*Voted*, That Mr. Levi Young be and he is hereby appointed Master of the ship *Oliver Cromwell*; and his Honor the Governor is desired to grant him a warrant to exercise the said office accordingly.

*Voted*, To order Capt. Harding with the brig *Defence* to sail on a cruise against the enemies of these States for about two months.

*Voted*, That Capt. Wm. Coit with the ship *Oliver Cromwell* under his command be ordered on a cruise of about two months. *Orders given Octor 23d, 1776.*

*Voted*, Give orders to Mr. Nathll Shaw junr, to supply the ship *Oliver Cromwell* and the brig *Defence* with suitable stores of every kind for a cruise of two months each. *Orders given Octor 23d, 1776.*

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut State Records*, I, 54.

#### BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF THE PAY TABLE<sup>1</sup>

New Haven Octor 23d 1776

Draw on the Treasurer of this State for the Sum of two Hundred Pounds in Favr of Capt Uriah Hayden of Say Brook towards Payment for his Building the Ship *Oliver Cromwell* and to be in Account

By Order the Govr & Council of Safety

Benj Huntington Clerk P. T.<sup>2</sup>

To the Committee }  
of Pay Table }  
£200 -

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 122a.

2. *Ibid.*, 121a. An order was also issued this date to pay £75 to "Capt. Benj Williams of Say Brook for Iron Work Done by him for the Ship *Oliver Cromwell* . . ."

*Connecticut Journal*, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1776

New Haven, October 23.

We hear, that near 200 sail of the enemy's fleet, are this side of Hell-Gate, the chief of them lying near Hart-Island.

The Post who arrived from the Northward yesterday informs, That General Waterbury, with one hundred of our people who were taken prisoners, in our unsuccessful engagements on the Lake, the 11th and 12th instant, are released, on giving their paroles, and are now on their way to their homes.

Capt. Ephraim Goldsmith; of this town, is said to be slain in the above engagement.

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

Number 10.  
Sir,

*Eagle* Off New York  
October the 23d 1776.

I take the Opportunity of writing by a Victualling Transport returning to Cork in the Service of the Army, to give their Lordships the earliest Intelligence of the Arrival of the second Division of the Hessian Troops with the *Diamond*, *Ambuscade*, and *Unicorn*, the 18th Instant: Captain [Charles] Fielding having conducted the Transports under his Convoy with so much Prudence and Success as not to have lost a single Ship on the Passage.

The Commanders of the *Daphne* and *Perseus* have not been equally happy in their Endeavors. The first arrived on the 3d and the latter on the 16th of this Month. Of the Transports which sailed with the *Daphne*, the *Henry* and *Ann* is still missing; As are also the four Victuallers, the *Hayfield*, *St George*, *Friendship* and *George*, that came out under the care of the *Perseus*.<sup>2</sup> The *Dinah* Victualler, another of the same Convoy, hath been taken as represented in the Relation of the Master enclosed. But no Account has yet been received of the other Victuallers since their Separation.<sup>3</sup> A Copy of the Report has been sent to Captain Elphinstone for his Observations thereon. These I shall have to transmit for their Lordships Information, when he returns from the Cruising Service on which he is now employed.

The different Corps of Troops from the Transports beforementioned, have been landed; The last of the Hessian Reinforcement to-day; at Myers Neck, a Peninsula near New Rochelle, that is deemed the best situated Post for preserving an open Communication with the Fleet, since the last Land-

ing and Movement of the Army to the Eastward of the Rebel Forces assembled on the Side of Kingsbridge, on the 18th Instant.

As from the Nature of the Conveyance it is un[certain] when this Letter may be received, I have confined [my] present Report to the Arrival of the Convoys. I am Sir [&c.]

Howe

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.
2. Transport *Daphne* and the four provision ships mentioned by Howe were taken as prizes and carried into American ports. *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, October 10, 17, and 24, 1776.
3. See Alexander Brown to Lord Howe, October 21, 1776.

#### DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE <sup>1</sup>

[New York] 23rd Octr – Some of the Captains of The Navy who attended for the Regulating of the boats and vessels when they went through Hellgate with the Army the Morning of the 12th Instant, have since declared that it was a most hazardous enterprize to go through a Channel of that dangerous nature with such a fleet, and before it was daylight. What made it still more dangerous was, that an unexpected fog came on early in the morning, which prevented them in a great degree, from seeing the boat and buoys which had been previously fixed to mark the proper channel. It was too late when the fog came on to postpone the movement; the troops and everything necessary were embarked and the wind and tide answered exactly; therefore notwithstanding the hazard it could not be delayed. I dare say at the moment the Army began to move the General and Admiral would have compounded for the loss of one or two hundred men. Fortune however favored the bold: – only one boat, having on board an officer and 25 Artillery men and 3 6 prs was sunk. All but 4 men and the guns were saved, which was more than could have been expected. Everything else got safe through that dangerous passage, where at all times, except at high & low water, the tide runs with the utmost rapidity, forming dreadful whirlpools, and at half tide roaring over the masses of Rocks which project into, or rear up their broken heads in the middle of the Channel. In one place if the Stream catches a boat or vessel, it is drawn into a kind of whirlpool or Eddy, where it is carried round several times with great violence, and then if not sucked in, is thrown on the adjacent rocks, and dashed to pieces. One boat with a Detachment of Grenadiers was caught into this place, and after some turns round was thrown upon the shore, but fortunately the men got out safe, and soon after got into another boat and followed the Army. This passage is thought extremely dangerous by those who are best acquainted with it, and who take every advantage of winds, tides, and other circumstances. When I was formerly quartered at New York, I frequently went out as far as Hellgate to see vessels go through, especially when there were any which carried topsails, and the Pilots were generally under much apprehension when they had such vessels under their charge. Those men were

in the utmost astonishment to see Ships of War of 44 Guns, Frigates, Transports full of troops, Horses & Waggons, and flat boats with troops and artillery, attempting and accomplishing so difficult an undertaking, with such a trifling loss. To any other nation the obstacles would have seemed insurmountable.

Since the Army went through, I have frequently seen large transports go through Stern foremost, with all sails set and filled, the strength of the tide overcoming the power of the wind upon the sails. Some officers of the Navy say this is the safest way, as the ship has better and more certain Steerage.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 84-86.

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

Sir

Philadelphia October 23d 1776

Since our last to you we are informed that the *Galatea* a New 20 Gun Ship with the *Nautilus* of 16 Guns are gone to Cruize of[f] the Capes of Virginia These ships you will endeavour to fall in with and take or destroy in your way to Cape Fear. We are also informed that the *Raven* of 20 Guns & the *Sphynx* of 16 – have quitted Georgia and South Carolina but where gone we know not. You may take with you to the Southward both the Rhode Island Frigates as well as the *Cabbot* if they are ready, and we write to North Carolina to have two fine Brigantines belonging to that State in readiness to join you, they have 16 Guns each and near 100 men. You had best send one of your Fleet into Occracock Inlet for them as they are in there – We understand the sloop *Providence* Capt Jones has put into Rhode Island, you may add him to your Fleet and then you'll be very Strong, As this Service to the Southward is of much publick importance, we expect from Your Zeal and Attachment to the Interest of the United States, that you proceed on and execute this Service with all possible vigor and despatch. Wishing you health and success we are Sir [&c.]

P. S. We are informed that two British ships of War passed the other day along the Jersey Shore, Steering Southward. We know not whether to Cruize off the mouth of Delaware or to join the Southern Ships. But we deem it highly proper that you provide yourself with a very quick Sailing tender commanded by a Spirited sensible and Skilful man to precede your Fleet and bring you intelligence of the number force and situation of the Enemy's Ships. It might not be amiss for you to remain a short time within the Capes of Virginia until the Tender should reconnoitre & inform you of the State of things at Cape Fear.<sup>2</sup>

1. Harbeck Collection, HUL.

2. The postscript is not with the letter, but is in the Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAINS JOHN MANLEY,  
HECTOR MCNEILL AND THOMAS THOMPSON<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

[Philadelphia] October 23d 1776

We expect the Continental frigates *Hancock*, *Boston* and *Raleigh* under your respective commands, are either now ready for the Sea, or shortly will be so. You are hereby directed to act in concert and Cruize together, for the following purposes, and on the following Stations. Your first object must be to inform yourselves in the best manner possible, if any of the British men of war are Cruizing in the bay of Boston or off the Coast of Massachusetts, and all such you are to endeavour with your utmost force to take, sink, or destroy. Having effected this service you are to proceed together towards Rhode Island, and there make prize of or destroy any of the enemies Ships of war that may be found Cruizing off the Harbour or Coast of Rhode Island.

The Prizes you make are to be sent into the nearest Port. When you arrive at Rhode Island if Commodore Hopkins should not be already sailed on his Southern expedition, and the two frigates built in that State should not be ready for the Sea, in that case you are to join Commodore Hopkins, and proceed with him on the said expedition producing those orders to him to justify the measure — But if the Rhode Island frigates should be ready for the sea there will be no occasion for you or either of you to go Southward. and you will then proceed taking with you any Continental Vessel that may be at Rhode Island and ready if Commodore Hopkins should be sailed before you come there, and proceed to Cruize against the enemies Ships & Vessels that may be found of [f] the Coast between the Harbour of Newport and the Banks of Newfoundland.

We have no doubt from your zeal and attachment to the cause of America, that you will execute this service with all possible dispatch and vigor, and so bid you heartily farewell. —

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 39, NA.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL OF  
SAFETY OF NORTH CAROLINA<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

[Philadelphia, October 23, 1776]<sup>2</sup>

We have ordered Commodore Hopkins immediately to proceed to Cape Fear in the state of North Carolina with the following Vessells under his command viz.

	<i>The Alfred</i>	of 30	Guns	
	<i>Columbus</i>	28	do	
	<i>Cabot</i>	16	do	
	<i>Hampden</i>	16.	do	
	<i>Providence.</i>	10	do	
Continental	} <i>Warren</i>	32	do	} if these two last
Frigates		} <i>Providence</i>	28	

mentiond can be made ready in season. The Object of this expedition is to take or destroy the Brittish men of War in the River of Cape fear, or any others cruizing upon the southern coasts with a view to distress the trade of your's and the neighbouring states. Strong as the Commodore may be with the force which accompanies him from Rhode Island, yet as we wish to put as little as possible to the hazard but to pursue this measure with the fullest confidence of success we request that you would upon the earliest intimation of Commodore Hopkins being off your coast dispatch the two provincial Armed Vessels and any others which may be under your control to join him and cooperate in this important expedition in the event of which your state is particularly and essentially interested. You will therefore hold your Vessels in perfect readiness to comply with this requisition.

We beg leave to hint to you the necessity of providing skilful pilots for conducting the Commodore that he may suffer no delay or run any risque from his Ignorance of the Coast of No Carolina.

As the Success of this Attempt depends much upon the Secrecy with which it may be conducted we need say nothing to urge you to the strict Observance of this Injunction — We are Gentlemen [&c.]

John Hancock	Fra <sup>s</sup> Hopkinson
Rob <sup>t</sup> Morris	Fra <sup>s</sup> Lewis
Richard Henry Lee	Will Hooper
Josiah Bartlett	

1. USNAM.

2. The date is given in the letter book copy, Marine Committee Letter Book, 39, NA.

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

Sir

Philada October 23d 1776

We lately wrote you very fully by Mr Wm Hodge junr who went passenger in the Sloop *Independance* to Martinico from whence he wou'd proceed to France & deliver you sundry dispatches from this Committee, amongst the rest was the plan of a Treaty with the Court of France & Instructions of Congress relative thereto & this day we have enclosed you Instructions relative to Treaties with other Nations & sent them under Cover to Wm Bingham Esqr at Martinico. Enclosed herein are Triplicates of the whole which we send by the Brig *Lexington* Wm Hallock Esqr Commander under Cover to Mr Stephen Ceronio at Cape Francois to be forwarded from thence to Messrs Delap at Bourdeaux & we hope in due time you will receive the whole safely. For & on behalf of the Committee of Secret Correspondance I am Dr sir [&c.]

Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris

1. Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, 733, HCL. Copy in Papers CC (Other Reports of Committees of Congress), 37, 71, NA.

COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE TO STEPHEN CERONIO,  
CAPE FRANÇOIS<sup>1</sup>

Sir, Philada October 23d 1776

The Inclosed letter was wrote and Signed before we had an oppority to transmit it and having now So good a conveyance as the Brig *Lexington* we transmit the Same to you as an official Letter from the Committee of Secret Correspondence which you'l observe is distinct from the Secret Committee with whom you also correspond, by this letter you'l find we expect Some Arms, ammuniton money or Cloathing may be Sent out by Our Agent Mons. Hortalez — to the Governor at Cape Francois, with orders for the delivery of them to whoever may be properly empowered by Congress to receive the Same, that power is granted to you, and you'l please to apply to the Governor with our respectful Compts., desire to know if he has received Such Supplys if he has produce the letter to him if he has not, then request he will inform you when such Supplies do Arrive or any advice respecting them — When you receive the Goods in consequence of this appointment, Ship a quantity of them by the *Lexington* if they are Ready, if not you may Charter Suitable French Vessels to bring them here dividing them into many Bottoms and Sending an Assortment Consisting of part of every Article you Receive, In short you must transmit the Whole to us in the Safest and most expeditious manner you can Contrive, Consigning to this Committee for the Use and on Acct of the United States of America We are sir [&c.]

B F  
R M

1. Papers CC (Other Reports of Committees of Congress), 37, 79, NA.

COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE TO SILAS DEANE<sup>1</sup>

Sir Philada Octr 23d 1776

We have already wrote you two letters of this date by different Conveyances, the present we send by the *Andrew Doria*, Isaiah Robinson Esqr Commander for St Eustatia from whence it will be sent to Wm Bingham Esqr at Martinico and by him be transmitted to you in a French Bottom. You will find enclosed Two Resolves of Congress passed yesterday, from one of them you will learn that Thomas Jefferson Esqr declined going to France & that Arthur Lee Esqr of London is Elected to serve as a Commissioner in his stead. You will therefore contrive to give him immediate Notice to repair to you & then deliver him that resolve & the enclosed letter. By the other Resolve you will see that Congress direct you to procure Eight Line of Battle Ships either by Hire or purchase. We hope you will meet immediate success in this application and that you may be able to influence the Courts of France & Spain to send a large Fleet at their own Expence to Act in Concert with these Ships, which shou'd be expedited immediatly with direc-

tions to the Commander to make the first Port he can with safety in these States preferring this, if Winds & Weather favour him. And he must also have instructions to Subject himself totally to the orders of Congress, after he arrives. We are sir [&c.] Signed by.

B. Franklin

W<sup>m</sup> Hooper

R<sup>t</sup> Morris

D<sup>d</sup> Witherspoon

Rich<sup>d</sup> Henry Lee

[Endorsed] a true Copy from the original by

Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris

1. Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, 733, HCL.

COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE TO ARTHUR LEE<sup>1</sup>

Sir:

Philadelphia October 23d. 1776

By this conveyance we transmit to Silas Deane, Esq. a resolve of the Honble the Continental Congress of Delegates from the Thirteen United States of America; whereby you are appointed one of their Commissioners for negotiating a treaty of Alliance, Amity, and Commerce with the Court of France, and also for negotiating Treaties with other nations agreeable to certain plans and instructions of Congress, which we have transmitted by various conveyances to Mr. Deane, another of the commissioners. — We flatter ourselves from the assurances of your Friends here, that you will cheerfully undertake this important business and that our Country will greatly benefit of those abilities and that attachment you have already manifested in sundry important Services, which at a proper period, shall be made known to those you woud wish.

Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris

B. Franklin

1. Papers CC (Letters from Arthur Lee), 83, I, 25-26, NA.

*Pennsylvania Gazette*, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1776

Philadelphia, October 23.

Intelligence received in Congress, October 21st, from the Middle and Northern Departments.

That on the 11th instant, at 8 o'clock in the morning, the enemy's fleet on Lake Champlain, consisting of one ship mounting 16 guns, one snow mounting the same number, one schooner of 14 guns, two of twelve, two sloops, a bomb ketch, and a large vessel, (her force unknown) with fifteen or twenty flat bottomed boats or gondolas, carrying one 12 or 18 pounder in their bows, appeared off Cumberland Head: General Arnold with his forces immediately prepared to receive them — At 11 o'clock the attack began, at half past 12 the engagement became general and very warm; some of the enemy's ships and all their gondolas beat up and rowed within musket shot of our fleet. They continued a very hot fire with round and grape shot till 5

o'clock when they thought proper to retire about six or seven hundred yards distance, and continued there until dark. Gen. Arnold and his troops conducted themselves during this action with great firmness and intrepidity, and made a better resistance than could have been expected against a force so greatly superior — the whole of our killed and wounded amounted to about 60. The *Philadelphia* gondola and a schooner were lost in the engagement, but all the men were saved. The enemy landed a large number of Indians on Schuyler's Island and on each shore, who kept up an incessant fire, but did little damage. The enemy had to appearance upwards of 1000 men in batteaus prepared for boarding.

The enemy's force being so greatly superior, it was determined in Council to remove to Crown Point, in order to refit and collect our force. At 2 o'clock, P.M. the 12th, our fleet weighed anchor, with a fresh breeze to the southward: the enemy's fleet at the same time got under way: Our gondolas [made] very little way ahead. — In the evening the wind moderated, and we made such progress, that at six o'clock next morning we were about 28 miles from Crown Point. The enemy's fleet was very little above Schuyler's Island, the wind breezed up to the southward, so that we gained very little by beating or rowing; at the same time the enemy took a fresh breeze from the N.E. and, by the time we had reached Split Rock, were along side of us. The *Washington* and the *Congress* were in the rear, the rest of our fleet were ahead, except two gondolas sunk at Schuyler's Island. — The *Washington* galley was in such a shattered condition, and had so many men killed and wounded, that she struck to the enemy after receiving a few broadsides. The *Congress* was then attacked by a ship mounting 12 eighteen pounders, a schooner of 14 sixes, and one of 12 sixes; two under her stern and one on her broadside, within musket shot: The enemy kept up an incessant fire about five glasses with round and grape shot, which was returned as briskly. The sails, rigging and hull of the *Congress* were shattered and torn in pieces; when, to prevent her falling into the enemy's hands, Gen. Arnold, who was on board, ran her ashore in a small creek ten miles from Crown Point, where after taking out her small arms she was set on fire, with 4 other gondolas; with whose crews the General reached Crown Point that evening, luckily escaping the savages, who way-laid the road in two hours after he had passed it. — Of our whole fleet we have saved two galleys, two schooners, one gondola, and one sloop.

Gen. Arnold behaved with such intrepidity, that he covered the retreat of the few vessels we saved at the expence of one third of his crew — Our commanders and men behaved most gallantly; some vessels having lost all their officers, fought notwithstanding, and refused to yield but with their lives. The enemy acknowledge our bravery, and confess their loss of men equal to ours.

Our troops are now busily employed in compleating the lines, redoubts, &c. at Crown Point, expecting the enemy to attack them with their fleet and army. But as the season is now far advanced, and our men are daily grow-



Major-General Arnold  
Wounded Dec 31-1775 at the attack of Quebec

ing in health, they have the most flattering expectations of maintaining their post against any force the enemy can bring.

N.B. Two of the enemy's gondolas were sunk the first day by our fleet, and one blown up with 60 men.

A schooner, Captain [Alexander] Wilson, bound from Boston for Bourdeaux, was taken about five days after she sailed, by the *Perseus* man of war, of 20 guns, lately arrived from England; after taking out the master and mate, they put two midshipmen and four sailors on board, to navigate her to New-York, but she ran ashore last week near Sandy-Hook, and was taken possession of by our troops, who saved the cargoe, and it is thought the vessel may be got off. The midshipmen and sailors were made prisoners, and arrived here last Monday night.<sup>1</sup>

1. Schooner *Betsey*, with dyewood and potash; Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

#### LUX & BOWLY TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Baltimore 23d Oct 1776

Gentlemen, Capt Kelty [John Kilty] applied to us yesterday for Cordage to fit out the *ninety two* but we have met with such difficulty in procuring Hemp to go on with the engagements we are already under, that we cannot furnish Him, unless you think proper to take off so much as he may want, from the quantity we are to furnish for the Gondolas &c, and then we apprehend it will be impossible to get riging for them til next Summer.

1. Red Book, XI, Md. Arch.

#### JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION <sup>1</sup>

[Annapolis] Wednesday, October 23, 1776.

On motion of Mr. [Thomas] Johnson, Resolved, That the Council of Safety be empowered to give a bounty of twenty dollars to each able seaman, and ten dollars to each landsman, who shall enlist to serve in the marine service of this state during the war, or until discharged by the supreme authority of this state; and that the Council of Safety may also order any vessel now fitting, or which shall be fitted under the resolutions of Convention, on such cruize as they may think fit; and further the Council of Safety may retain any men who shall voluntarily offer and subscribe articles for a cruize only, without any bounty or wages, and any prizes which may be made, as to those who go on bounty and wages, shall be divisable according to the resolutions of Congress, two thirds to the public, and one third to the crew, but as to those who shall enter for the cruize without bounty or wages, the division shall be one half to the public, and one half amongst the crew, according to the common practice of privateers.

1. *Maryland Convention*, 44.

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

[Williamsburg] Wednesday 23d Octr 1776. –

Present Mr [Champion] Travis –

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Magazine deliver unto Capt. John Calvert One hundred & fifty pounds of Gunpowder for the use of the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley.

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt John Calvert five hundred Pump Nails, One hundred four penny Nails, two Lanthorns, One Speaking Trumpett, thirty Yards of thin Canvas & twenty pr of Shoes for the use of the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley. –

James Tenant is recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the honorable the Council as a proper person to be appointed second Lieutenant of the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley. –

Ordered that Mr Benjamin Powell deliver unto Capt Bright Thirty Yards of Bunting for the use of the Brig *No hampton*. –

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt John Calvert Twenty three Sailors Jacketts for the use of the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Sally Spottswood for One pound twelve shillings for Nursing two sick Men belonging to the *Hero* Galley as p Acct –

1. Navy Board Journal, 88–89, VSL.

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

Sir,

Williamsburg Octr 23d 1776 –

You are desir'd to send down immediately the amount of the C[ables] furnish'd each Vessel as we are in want of it to lay before Convention – You are also desir'd to send down as soon as possible to James Town an eight Inch Cable, twenty five fathoms long, for the use of the *Revenge* Galley – Captain Calvert. I am by order of the Naval Board Your h'b'le Servant

Thomas Whiting 1st Comr.

To Captain Charles Thomas mannager of the Ropewalk Warwick –

1. VSL.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Halifax] Wednesday October 23d 1776

Whereas by Resolve of this Board of the thirtieth of September last Joshua Hampstead Esquire commander of the Armed Brig *Pennsylvania Farmer* was directed to proceed to Sea and Cruize for the Term of one Month within eighty Leagues of the American Shore, and whereas the time and distance prescribed in the aforesaid Resolve may in a measure frustrate the Intentions of the said Voyage Resolved That the said Joshua Hampstead be permitted to Cruize for the Term of Six Weeks between the Latitudes of thirty and thirty six for the purpose aforesaid.

1. Secretary of State Papers (Council of Safety, 1775–1776), NCDAH.

24 Oct.

SIR GEORGE COLLIER TO CAPTAIN HENRY MOWAT, R. N.<sup>1</sup>

In consequence of Information that several vessels are expected to arrive in the different Ports of New England with Supplies for His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects; You are therefore hereby required and directed to proceed immediately to Sea with His Majesty's Ship under your Command, and Cruize between Cape Cod and Monhagen in New England, using your utmost Endeavors to prevent their receiving those Supplies by Seizing the Ships or Vessels charged with them; You are to use every Attention to Protect the Trade of His Majesty's faithful Subjects, and to give them all the Assistance in your Power; to promote which the destruction of the Piratical Privateers of the Rebels is to be one of your principal Objects.

And As by the Capture of several of these Armed Pirates, your Number of Prisoners may become so large, as to be very inconvenient, you are at liberty in that case to send in a Flag of Truce to Marble Head, with a Letter addressed to Mr Nathl Tracey of Newberry Port (who is the Agent for the Exchange of Prisoners on the part of the Rebellious Inhabitants of Massachusetts Bay,) by a discreet Officer, and to demand an equal Exchange in Rank and Number of the Kings faithful Subjects who may at that time be Prisoners with the Rebels; but if there should not be so many then ready to Exchange, the Officer is to procure a written Promise from Mr Nathl Tracey to release an equal Number, if so many should ever fall into their Hands.

And as Lord Viscount Howe has signified a disinclination to distress the unarmed little Fishing Boats on the American Coast, as the doing so, has been the means of driving the Fishermen either, to enter for Privateers, or into the Rebel Army for a Subsistence; I would recommend to you to further his Lordships benevolent Intentions in respect of those People, when you find them, neither from Numbers or Arms, capable of molesting the Property of the faithful Subjects of the Crown.

You are to continue upon this Station so long as your Provisions may last, or 'till further Order, and then return to this Port.

Given on board His Majesty's Ship *Rainbow* in the  
Harbour of Halifax the 24th of October 1776

Geo: Collier

To Captain Henry Mowat  
Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Milford*.<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1611, 2, 13.

2. "Capt. Mowat . . . was appointed by the Senior Officer at Halifax to Command the *Milford* Frigate in the absence of her Captain at Sick Quarters and he cruised in her on the coast of New England from October to the last of December." "Services of Henry Mowat, R. N.," *Collections and Proceedings of the Maine Historical Society* (Portland, 1891), 2nd series, II, 345-75.

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

[Extract]

Watertown, Octr. 24th, 1776

. . . a few prizes are daily dropping in. it is reported that a ship with forty light Horse on Board has been taken in the Channel of England by a Salem Privateer after an Obstinate Engagement, in which the privateer lost seventeen men. we are about moveing to Boston haveing taken the Room belonging to the County. . . .

Our Naval Operations are Counteracted and discouraged by many sagacious devises of our Enemies or pretended Friends, but truly the lovers of Mammon, some of which I think should be Immediately remedied. A Vessel is sent out with orders to return directly back, or with Letters of that purpose, but designed only to shew upon a certain Occasion. She is on her arrival in the West Indies, Britain, or some such places Registered in the Name of some Person there, and then is Completely fixed [fitted]. the last is to Guard her against the British Cruisers, and if she is taken by ours, she is Claimed by the Original Owner, and the other said to be only designed for a protection against the Men of war, and to support the pretence the Orders and Letters are advanced. by this means a very profitable Trade is Carried on to Hallifax, Newfoundland, and the W. India Islands, etc., etc., and when they have been taken many of them have been [torn]

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, II, 439-40.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT BY CREW OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOONER  
*Run Fast*<sup>1</sup>

We the Subscribers do Acknowledge to have Shipt ourselves, on Board the Schooner *Run Fast* [Nehemiah] Somes Master, to Proceed in Said Schooner from Boston to Virginia & Maryland, & back again: to do our duty on Board & on Shore during said Voyage, For such monthly wages & Priviledge & is sett Against our Names, to have One months pay before sailing the Remainder to be paid at the Discharge of said Schooner in Boston — as Witness our hands this Twenty fourth day of Octobr 1776 —

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1776

Octo 27 I Aaron Riggs Am Content as Mate for four Pounds Sixteen  
Shills P m & Forty Bushells Priviledge  
Recd amonths pay Aaron Riggs Juner

1776

his  
Octo 21 I Jepter X Loyd — Am Content as Seaman for Four pounds  
mark  
Ten Shills P mo & twenty Bush Priviledge  
his  
Recd a Months Pay, Jepter X Loyd  
mark

1776

Octo 23. I Phelep MrCouil Am Content as Seaman for Four pounds  
Ten Shills P mo & Twenty Bushs Privelidge  
Recd amonths pay Philip McCouif

1776

Octo 27. I Samuel Whorff Am Content as Seaman four four pounds  
Ten Shills P mo & forty Bushs Privelidge  
Recd a months pay Samuel Whorff

[Endorsed] Capt N. Somes Shiping paper I Voyage Oct 1776

1. Andre de Coppet Collection of American Historical Manuscripts, John Cushing and Samuel White of Boston, Papers relating to the ship *Run Fast*, PUL.

CUSHING & WHITE TO CAPTAIN NEHEMIAH SOMES<sup>1</sup>

Sir Boston Octo 24. 1776 —

We have Appointed you master of our Schooner *Run Fast*, & having all things ready our Orders Are —

You Proceed to Yocomoko,<sup>2</sup> Where youl find Letters for you from Capt Saml Leighton to whome you are Consignd youl follow his Orders, where you are to Proceed from thence, Diliver your Cargoe to him & Receive such a Cargoe as he Inclines to ship on board you & make all prudent dispatch for Boston.

You are well Acquainted with Danger of both Coasts & Men of Warr. The Greatest Prudence, dispatch & a Good Look out is Absolutely Necessary, Wishing you a Good Voyage & safe Return are Your [&c.]

[Endorsed] A True Copy of my Orders left with my Owners wch I promise to follow — Nehemiah Somes<sup>3</sup>

1. Privateers, Cushing & White, PM.

2. Yeocomico, Virginia.

3. *Ibid.*, Somes' receipt for the cargo including brown sugar, rum and salt.

*Independent Chronicle*, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1776

Boston, October 24.

Yesterday Capt. Daniel Harthorne arrived at Salem from a Cruize. On his Passage he met with an armed Packet, which he attacked. In the Engagement (which lasted two Hours) he lost three Men killed, and nine or ten wounded, himself slightly. Since which, he has taken and sent into Cape-Ann, a Prize Snow, with Oats, &c.<sup>1</sup>

The Privateer commanded by Capt. [William] Carleton,<sup>2</sup> which sailed from Salem, on a Cruise, about four Weeks since, was taken near Canceau, by the Brig *Hope*, Capt. [George] Dawson, a few Days after leaving Port, and carried into Halifax. Capt. Carleton, with some of the Crew made their Escape by swimming ashore.

To be sold by Public Auction, On Thursday the 31st of October, On the Long Wharf, in Boston, The Cargo of the Prize Ship *Caladonia*, Consisting

of 209 Hogsheads and 11 Barrels, choice Sugar, and 129 Hogsheads of Choice Grenada Rum.

The Sale will begin at Ten in the Morning.

W. Greenleaf, Auctioneer.

1. The snow *Jenny*, William Cummings, master, taken by the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Free American*. This issue of the newspaper contains notice of the arrival of several other prizes.
2. The Massachusetts schooner *General Gates*.

LIBELS FILED AGAINST PRIZES IN THE MASSACHUSETTS ADMIRALTY  
COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT <sup>1</sup>

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

Notice is hereby given, That Libels are filed before me, against the following Vessels, their cargoes and appurtenances; viz. — in behalf of Capt. Elijah Freeman Payne and his company, of the armed Schooner called the *Eagle*, against the Ship *Venus*, burthen about 160 Tons, George Colas, late Master; against the Ship *Caledonia*, burthen about 100 Tons, Alexander McKinlay, late Master. — In behalf of Capt. Jonathan Greely and his Company and the Owners of the armed Schooner *Speedwell*, against the Snow *St. George*, burthen about 120 Tons, Benjamin Bidgood late Master. — In behalf of the Officers, Company and Owners of the armed Schooner *Dolphin*, against the Schooner *Prosperity*, 40 Tons burthen, Josiah Beal late Master. In Behalf of Capt. William Carleton and his Company and the Owners of the Schooner *General Gates*, against the Schooner *Dragon*, burthen about 60 Tons, Abraham Knowlton, late Master. — In behalf of Capt. James Godfrey and his Company, and the Owners of the Sloop *Lady Washington*, against the Ship *Marshall*, burthen about 265 Tons, Miles Lowley, late Master. In Behalf of Capt. Silas Atkins jun and his Company and the Owners of the armed Schooner *Boston*, against the Ship *George*, burthen about 200 Tons, George Grey, late Master, and against the Brigantine *Montague*, burthen about 70 Tons, Alexander Blues, late Master. In Behalf of Capt. Daniel Waters and his Company in the Continental armed Schooner *Lee*, against the Schooner *Sally*, burthen about 40 Tons, Jesse Noble, late Master. In Behalf of Capt. Abraham Whipple and his company of the Continental armed Ship *Columbus*, against the Brigantine *Lord Liffold*, of about 80 tons burthen, John Jones, late Master. In Behalf of Capt. William Coas and company and the owners of the armed Schooner *Warren*, against the Ship *Sarah and Elizabeth*, of about 300 Tons burthen, James Foot, late Master. In Behalf of Capt. John Gill and his Company and the Owners of the Schooner *Independence*, against the Brigantine *Catherine*, burthened about 100 Tons, Robert Oram, late Master; and against the Brigantine *Polly*, burthened about 100 Tons, Robert Efford, late Master. In Behalf of Capt. Simon Forrester and his Company and the Owners of the sloop *Rover*, against the Brigantine *Good Intent*, of about 100 Tons burthen, William

Davis, late Master; and against the Brigantine *Sarah Ann*, of about 100 tons burthen, Gregory Potbury, late Master. In Behalf of Capt. Eleazer Giles and his Company and the Owners of the Brigantine *Retaliation*, and the Officers, Company and Owners of the Sloop *Wolfe*, against the Brigantine *Hiram*, of about 50 Tons burthen, Daniel Thrasher, late Master. In Behalf of Capt. John Lee and his Company and the Owners of the Letter of Marque Schooner *Hawke*, against the Ship *Nancy*, of about 250 Tons burthen, John Cowan, late Master. All which Vessels, their Cargoes and Appurtenances, so libelled, are said to have been taken and brought into the Middle-District aforesaid. And for the Trial of the Justice of these Captures, the Martime Court for the Middle-District will be held at Salem, in the County of Essex, on Tuesday, the Nineteenth day of November, 1776, at the Hour of Ten in the Forenoon, when and where the Owners of said Captures, or any Persons concerned, may appear and shew Cause, if any they have, why the same, or any of them, should not be condemned.

Tim Pickering, jun. Judge of said court.

1. *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, October 24, 1776.

LIBELS FILED AGAINST PRIZES IN THE MASSACHUSETTS ADMIRALTY  
COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT <sup>1</sup>

State of Massachusetts-Bay, }  
Southern District, ss. } To all whom it may concern.

Notice is hereby given, That the Maritime Court for the Southern District will be held at Plimouth in the county of Plimouth, on Tuesday the 12th day of November, A. D. 1776, at the Hour of Ten in the Forenoon, to try the justice of the following Captures, viz; – Of the Schooner called the *Lively*, of about 40 Tons burthen, lately commanded by John Homer, jun; Of the schooner called the *Roebuck*, of about 50 Tons burthen, lately commanded by Gideon White. – Of the Schooner called the *Deborah*, of about 25 tons burthen, lately commanded by Solomon Kendrick. – Of the Schooner called the *Earl Percy*, of about 30 Tons burthen, lately commanded by Nathaniel Atkins. – Of the Brigantine called the *Fanny*, of about 90 Tons burthen, lately commanded by William Tokely. – Of the ship called the *Maria*, of about 450 Tons burthen, lately commanded by Elijah Hall. – Of the Ship called the *Capel*, of about 320 tons burthen, lately commanded by John Auling. Of the Brigantine called the *General Wolfe*, of about 140 Tons burthen, lately commanded by John Wilson. – Of the Brigantine called the *John*, of about 100 Tons burthen, lately commanded by Thomas Wallis. – Of the Brigantine called the *Maria*, of about 120 Tons burthen, lately commanded by Richard Nickols. – Of the Brigantine called the *Generous Friends*, of about 160 tons burthen, lately commanded by John Hill. – Of the Ship called the *Betsey*, of about 250 Tons burthen, lately commanded by Thomas Archdeacon. – Of the Ship called the *Alexander*, of about 250 Tons burthen, taken by the armed Sloop called the *Providence*, in

the Service of the United States, commanded by John P. Jones: — Against which Vessels, their Cargoes and Appurtenances, Libels are filed before me, they having been brought into the Southern-District aforesaid —

A Libel is also filed before me, in Behalf of the Officers, Marines, Mariners and Owners of the armed Sloop called the *Independence*; against Part of a Cargo (viz. 51 Bags of Cocoa, One Bale of Cotton, six Quarter-Casks of Wine, 3 half Johannes, and 3 Guineas) taken on the High Seas, out of a Brigantine called the *Freedom*, commanded by Robert Wallis, bound on a voyage from Grenadoes to London.

All Persons claiming Property, in any of the aforesaid Captures, or concerned therein, may appear and shew Cause (if any they have) why the same should not be condemned.

N. Cushing, Judge of said Court

1. *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, October 24, 1776.

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

Sir

Newport October 24th 1776 —

Upon the Tryal of Samuel Erlom and Thomas Donehoe for Mutiny on-board the Ship *Royal Exchange*, it appeared that the Mutiny was encouraged or put on foot by the former Captn of her; in which he Employ'd his Steward to promise them twenty Guineas a Man, and half the Ship and Cargo when they should arrive in England — and on this Intelligence I think it will be right for you, at least to stop his private Adventure, 'till the matter is clear'd up —<sup>2</sup> Sir you are hereby Impowered to act as Agent for the Officers & People belonging to the American Fleet, for all Vessels that may come within your State — I am in behalf of the Officers and People Sir [&c.]

E. H

To John Langdon Esqr. Agent for the American  
Navy in the State of New Hampshire

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Hopkins became convinced that Captain Lawrence Bowden was "innocent of Seducing the People to Retake the Ship," and ordered that part "of his Adventure" be released to him. Hopkins to Abraham Whipple, November 12, 1776, *ibid.*

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

Gentlemen

Newport October 24th. 1776 —

Since I wrote you last, Captn Jones in the *Providence* has arrived here with three Prizes, and one Ship is arrived at Bedford — Inclosed is a Copy of the account of his Cruise that he gave me — The *Cabot* has sent one Ship in to Providence and yesterday Lieutt [Thomas] Weaver of the *Cabot* came here from Bedford, where he arrived two days ago in another Prize Ship — he informs me that when he left the *Cabot* she had taken five Ships and a Brig all from Jamaica — one of them a three decker with upwards of Six-hundd hogsheads onboard —

The *Alfred* is now mann'd, and under Sailing Orders with the *Hamden* – Captn Jones of the *Providence* has the Command of her – Inclosed you have a Copy of the Orders I have given him, and hope they are such as will meet with your approbation – The Reason of my giving Orders to Captn Jones to attempt to destroy the Ships and their Works at the Coal Mines was, that I receiv'd certain Intelligence by a Master of a Vessel directly from there, that there was near twenty Vessels, and one hundred Prisoners employed in that Service; guarded by twenty six Soldiers, the *Savage* Sloop of War and [George] Dawsons Brig—<sup>2</sup> and one of them generally at Louisburgh – One of the new Ships came down from Providence yesterday, the other got aground, but I expect her down here the first fair Wind. They are nearly fitted every way for the Sea, all but Men, which they have about one hundd and fifty each – Shall now give my whole attention to their Manning –

If you have any particular Service for them, should be glad to receive it. I think they will be ready to Sail as soon as your Orders can reach here; and I hope near mann'd

The *Columbus* is Clean'd, taking her ballast onboard, Rigging and fitting as fast as possible – The Sloop *Providence* will haul in to the Wharf to morrow in order to clean Shall get them out as soon as possible, but expect to meet with great difficulty in getting Men – The Privateers being so plenty, and having great Success that the Men look on their Shears better than what they have in the Navy – I am with great Respect Gentlemen [&c.]

E. H –

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.
2. H. M. Sloop *Hope*.

ASSIGNMENT OF PRIZE MONEY BY DANIEL COCARRY OF THE CONNECTICUT  
PRIVATEER SLOOP *American Revenue* <sup>1</sup>

Stonington The 24 October 1776

For The Consideration of Forty Tow shillings L money sd Money Being Advancd & Paid I bind And Ablige my Self to goe A Croose in the Sloop *Amarican Revinue* Samuel Champ[lin] Commander For John & Peleg Brown whoe are to have All My Right And Share of Prize Money that Shall be Taking by sd Sloop Or Any Other Vessel with in The Term of Eight Month From this Date as Witness My hand

In Presants off  
Elihu Cheesebrough  
Lemuel Peirson

his  
Daniel X Cocarry  
Mark

[Endorsed] Capt Jonathan Leeds Sir Please to Take Care of the Above Indian as wee have Shipt him Peleg Brown

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

JOURNAL OF LIEUTENANT WILLIAM DIGBY <sup>1</sup>

[Rivière Sable]

24 [October]. Lieut. Gen. Burgoyne sailed in the *Washington* prize for St Johns, from when[c]e he was to go by land for Quebec, where a frigate was ready to sail with him to England, as it was then determined the army was to return to winter in Canada, & make their appearance early the following season before Ticonderago, when every thing necessary for the reduction of that fort would be in greater readiness, & the season more favourable for our operations than so late in the year; during which time our fleet would be masters of the Lake, & the severity of the winter too great for them to build any vessels that could obstruct our movements early in the spring; even at that time the cold was very severe, & our tents but a small covering against it.

1. Digby's Journal, BM.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN LAMBERT WICKES <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

In Marine Committee

Philada Octor 24th 1776

The honble Congress of the United States of America have directed us to commit the *Reprisal*, under your command to the management of the Committee of Secret Correspondance for the present voyage or Cruize, you are therefore to receive and obey the orders of that Committee.

To us however you are to communicate such occurances as ought to be known by those who Superintend the American Navy. to us you must in due time transmit, Copies of your Journal and Log book, and to us you are accountable for the care of your Ship, her Stores Materials, Provisions &c. We recommend particularly that you preserve Strict Discipline amongst your officers and Men always using them well, but compelling them if needfull to do their duty, and if you Make prisoners we are Sure it will gratify your Own feelings to treat them with humanity. We hold you in Much esteem and flatter ourselves your Conduct in the Service will always be such as to merit the Continuance of it from Sir [&c.]

1. Papers CC (Other Reports of Committees of Congress), 37, 83, NA.

COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE TO CAPTAIN LAMBERT WICKES <sup>1</sup>

Sir:

Philada October 24th 1776

The Honourable Congress having thought proper to Submit the Ship *Reprisal* under your command to our direction for the present voyage or Cruize. You are to be governed by the following orders.

The Honble Docter Franklin being appointed by Congress one of their Commissioners for negotiating some publick business at the Court of France. You are to receive him and his Suite on board the *Reprisal* as pas-

sengers whom it is your duty and we dare Say it will be your inclination to treat with the greatest respect and Attention and your best endeavours will not be wanting to make their time onboard the Ship perfectly agreeable. –

When they are on board you are to proceed with the utmost dilligence for the port of Nantes in France where they will land and there you will deliver their baggage &c. It is of more importance that you get Safe and Soon to France than any prizes are that you cou'd take, therefore you are not to delay time on this outward passage for the Sake of Cruizing, but if you are beset with Contrary Winds or during the passage be So circumstanced that Docter Franklin may approve of your Speaking any Vessels you see, do therein as he Shall direct

We understand the Secret Committee have put on board the *Reprisal* A quantity of Indigo this you must land at Nantes immediately on your arrival and deliver it to their order and they have directed their Agents to Supply you immediately with whatever refreshments or necessarys you may Stand in need of, We deem it Essential to the Success & Safety of your Ship that you Make a very Short Stay in the River of Nantes, it is equally so that you Keep totally Secret where you are bound from thence or what your business, these things premised we take it for granted your Stay will not exceed more than two or three days, and that you will rather dispose people to think you are returning back here again but you are directly to proceed on a Cruize against our Enemies, you have the Resolves of Congress by which you well know who they are, by them you will know what Ships you are authorized to make prize of and the Resolves of Congress must be the Rule of your Conduct. We think you had best proceed directly on the Coast of England up the Chann[el] before they can have any Notice of you, and we judge every day if not every hour you are there will give you opportunity of making prizes; you will Always have some of the French ports at hand either to Send in your prizes or to run into yourself if chased by Superiour force Docter Franklin will make application at the Court of France for the protection of Their ports to the *Reprisal* and her prizes and we hope he will be Successfull therein. However we propose as follows – Should you take one or two valuable prizes with woolen or Linen goods on board, or Such Cargoes as you know us to be in immediate want of, that you dispatch them immediately under the command of trusty officers and Men for this port. If you Meet other vessels partly loaden with Such goods that you take as many of them on board your own Ship as you conveniently can, and that you Send all the other prizes you take, immediately into Some of the ports of France with orders to apply at Dunkirk to Messrs. P. Stival & Son Merchants – at Havre-de-Grace to Mr. Andrew Limozin Mercht – at Bourdeaux to Messrs. Samuel & J Hans Delap Merchts – at Nantes to Messrs. Pliarne Penet & Co., at any other port to apply to the Commander thereof for protection untill he receives orders from his Court on the Subject, and with these orders will also come instructions from Dr. Franklin, Silas Deane, Esqr. and Dr. [Arthur] Lee or Some of them which he must obey, you may direct all the prize Masters to wait in port for your

further orders provided the above Gentlemen write that they will be protected, but if that protection is not granted They must then apply to our Agents for Such Supplies as are Necessary, and push away immediately for this Continent making the first Safe-port the[y] Can. We are Convinced you will treat all prisoners with humanity but we think you had best land them in France whenever they are too numerous on board your Ship to prevent giving alarms in England, for you may depend they will have Cruizers out after you Soon as the[y] hear of your being there — we expect therefore you will make but a Short Cruize, especially as every day Must inevitably throw plenty of English vessels in your Way, perhaps off Falmouth you might meet with a Lisbon Packet, and whatever Specie you collect take it onboard and carry it into France, where you may deliver or pay the Same to the order of Doctor Franklin Mr Deane &c. or to Mr. Thos Morris or his order as agent for the Secret Committee of Congress and the Congress will pay here yours and the peoples Shares of Such money, as well as their Shares of any prizes or parts of Prizes that may be Sold there and the Money applied to publick use. when you are about to quit your Cruize it may be well to Send any prisoners you then have on Shore and make them believe you are coming direct for America, or going round into St. George's channell to Cruize for Bristol Ships just as you think may be most likely to gain Credit, clear your Ship of them and then Run into Bourdeaux, Brest or Nantes, just as may be most convenient. you will find letters from our Commissioners at Paris with Messrs. Delap at Bourdeaux — Messrs. Pliarne Penet & Co at Nantes or Some proper person at Brest, advising you [of] the success of their application and if they tell you the Prizes are to be protected, you can then write to the Prize Masters and either collect and bring them home under your Convoy or order them to proceed separately as you shall then judge best. If protection was not to be given, they will come away of Course, and in that case we think you Should put your Ship in good order, advise the Commissioners and Mr. Thomas Morris that you only wait for their despatches. If you have Room on board the Ship receive any goods Mr. Morris or they may order and when you have received their despatches make the best of your way back to this place or any other port of Safety in these States, bringing with you any prizes you can take by the way. Should the Court of France grant free protection for our Cruizers and prizes in their ports, we think you may do better in Europe than here, respecting which consult with and be governed by the advice of our Said Commissioners at the Court of Paris and if prizes are allowed to be sold there consign all you take to the order of Mr. Thomas Morris, who has correspondants in every port of France and will take care that Justice is done in the Management of them. Your Stay in Europe must depend on the advice of the Commissioners and your Cruizes Should always be quick as you can be soon in and out Keep your ship well Manned fitted and provided, and let Old England See how they like to have an active Enemy at their own Door, they have Sent Fire and Sword to ours. You Know we want Seamen here therefore encourage all you Meet with both at Sea and on Shore to enter our

Service and Send or bring as many of them to these States as possible. You must by all opportunitys inform us of your proceedings, and communicate all the usefull or important intelligence that comes to your Knowledge. A Spirited active conduct in this enterprize will recommend you to all America, and you have our best wishes for your Success and honor, being very Sincerely, Sir, [&c.]

1. Papers CC (Other Reports of Committees of Congress), 37, 95-98, NA.

COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE TO SILAS DEANE<sup>1</sup>

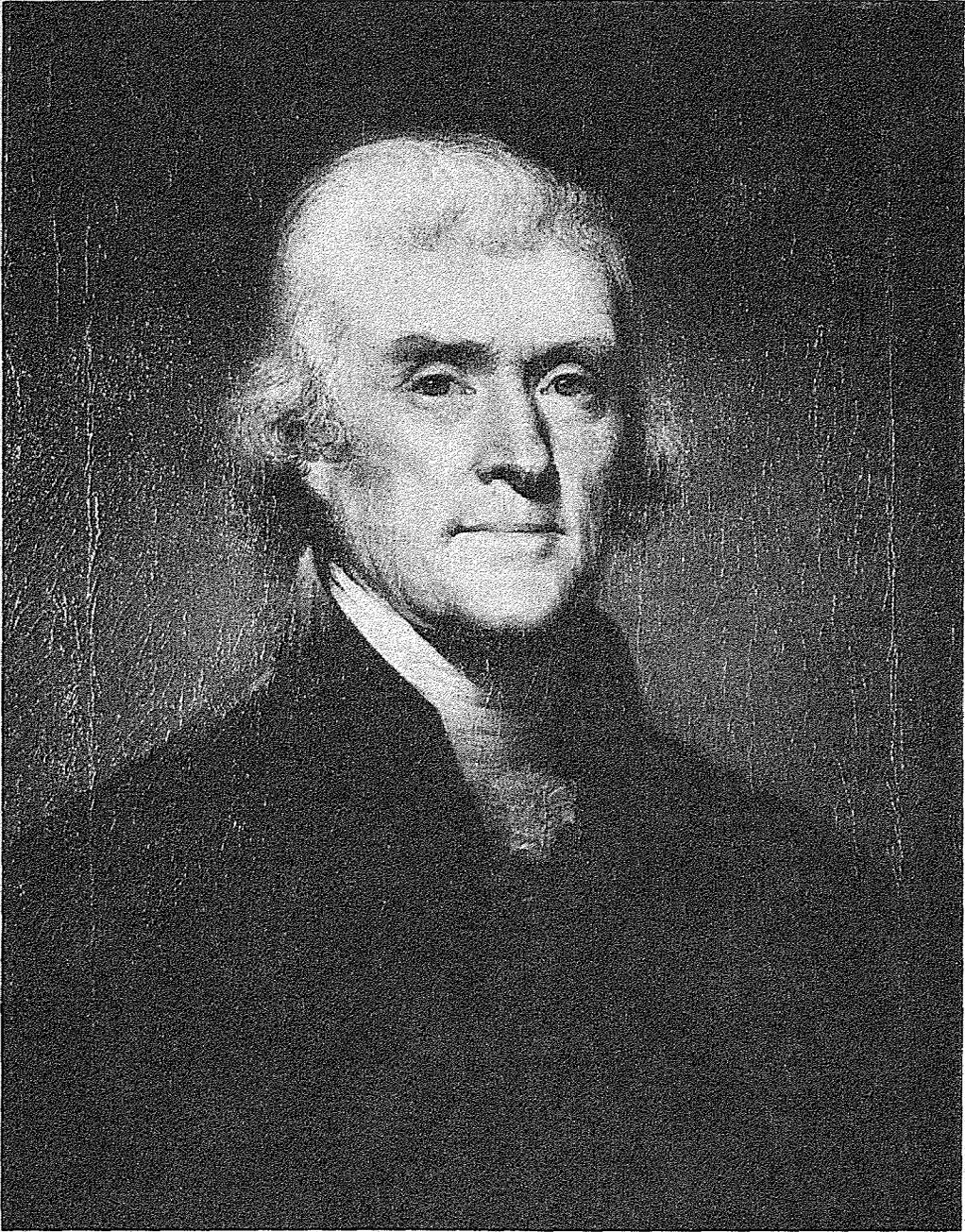
Dear Sir

Philada October 24th 1776

We embrace this opportunity of Your Worthy Colleague & our mutual good Friend Doctr Franklin to transmit you Copies of our letters of the [illegible] Octr by the Sloop *Independence* Capt [John] Young to Martinico from whence they wou'd be carried to you by Mr Wm Hodge junr sent in said Sloop for that purpose, those letters Contained a Commission from the Congress appointing Doctr Franklin, Thos Jefferson Esqr & yourself, Commissioners on behalf of the United States of America to Negotiate a Treaty of Alliance Amity & Peace with the Court of France. —

A plan of that Treaty, Instructions from Congress relative thereto, Form of Passport for the Ships of each Nation &c we consider these papers as of the utmost consequence & hope they will arrive safe. Yesterday we wrote you a few lines enclosing additional Instructions from Congress to their Commissioners authorizing them to Treat with other Nations, also Two Resolves of Congress by one of which you wou'd see that Thos Jefferson Esqr declined his appointment & that Arthur Lee Esqr was appointed in his stead, to whom we enclosed a letter, Copy whereof goes herewith. By the other the Commissioners are directed to hire or buy Eight Line of Battle Ships for the American Service. these papers were sent under Cover to Wm Bingham Esqr our Resident at Martinico with orders to forward them immediately. We wrote you another letter yesterday Covering duplicates of all the papers & letters mentioned herein, and sent it by the armed Brig *Lexington* Wm Hallock Esqr Commander to Mr Stephen Ceronio our Resident at Cape Francois with directions to forward the same to Messrs Saml & J. Hans Delap Merchts at Bourdeaux who are requested to send the Packet from thence by Express to you and Doctor Franklin carries with him Triplicates of all these publick papers, we have been thus particular in mentioning them & the Conveyances by which they are Sent that you may know when the whole are received & we desire you to be equally pointed in advising us thereof, for we shall be anxious to hear of their getting safe & shall be very uneasy if we dont hear this in due time, for they ought not on any Account to fall into the hands of our Enemies.

Since Mr [John] Dickinson & Colo [Benjamin] Harrison were out of Congress & Doctr Franklin appointed one of the Commissioners at the Court of France, The Congress have filled up the Vacancys in this Commit-



*Thomas Jefferson.*

tee & the Members now are Mr Jay Mr Johnston [Thomas Johnson, Jr.], Mr Morris, Colo Richard Henry Lee, Mr Wm Hooper & Doctr John Wetherspoon which we mention for your information, we shall Continue to address all our advices & dispatches to you only, untill informed that the other Commissioners have joined you but you will Communicate the letters to them as if directed to the whole & we depend on you to Notify Doctr Lee of his appointment using the utmost precaution in the method of doing it, or his person may be endangered, we suppose it may be best to have the letter enclosed by the Minister of France to their Ambassador in England with proper Cautions respecting the delivery of it Doctr Franklin being the bearer of this letter, it is totally unnecessary for us to enter into every detail of what is passing here or to convey any Political remarks, he being possessed of every knowledge necessary for your information will Communicate very fully every thing you can wish to know, Therefore wishing you a happy meeting with him & a successful Issue to your labours in the Service of your Country we remain with perfect esteem & regard Dear Sir [&c.]

Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris                      Jn<sup>o</sup> Witherspoon  
Richard Henry Lee              Will Hooper

1. Ferdinand Dreer Autograph Collection, Letters and Papers of Robert Morris, HSP.

COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS  
IN FRANCE <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Philadelphia October 24th 1776

The Congress having Committed to our charge and Management their Ship-of-War Called the *Reprisal* commanded by Lambert Wickes Esq. carrying 16 Six Pounders and about one hundred and twenty men — we have allotted her to carry Doctor Franklin to France and directed Captain Wickes to proceed to the Port of Nantes where the Doctor will land and from thence proceed to Paris, and he will either Carry with him or Send forward this letter by express as to him may then appear best. The *Reprisal* is a fast Sailing Ship and Capt Wickes has already done honor in Action to the American Flagg, we have therefore ordered him to land at Nantes some Indigo he has onboard, take in refreshments, Stores, provisions, or other Necessarys he May want and immediately to proceed on a Cruize against our Enemies, and we think he will not be long before he Meets with a Sufficient Number of Prizes — we have directed him to Send them into such of the French ports as are most convenient addressing them at Dunkirk to Messrs P Stival & Son, at Havre De Grace to Mr. Andrew Lomozin, at Bourdeaux to Messrs. Samuel & J H[ans] Delap, at Nantes to Messrs. Pliarne Penet & Co. and at any other ports in France to Such persons as you may appoint to receive them, when he finishes his Cruize he will call in at Nantes, Bourdeaux or Brest for your orders and advices which we beg you will have ready for him lodged at those places. In consequence of this

plan for the *Reprisals* Cruize we desire you to make immediate application to the Court of France to grant the protection of their ports to American Men of War and their prizes, Shew them that British Men of War under Sanction of an Act of Parliament are daily capturing American Ships and Cargoes, Show them the Resolves of Congress for Making Reprisals on British and West India property, and that our Continental Men of War and Numerous private Ships of War are most successfully employed in executing those resolutions of the Congress, Shew them the Justice and equity of this proceeding and Surely they cannot, they will not refuse the protection of their ports to American Ships of war, Privateers and their Prizes. If your application on this head is crowned with Success, try an other which it is their Interest to grant, that is to obtain leave to make Sale of those prizes and their Cargoes or any part thereof that may be Suitable for that Country. If you Succeed in this also you must appoint some person to act as judge of the Admiralty, who Should give the Bond prescribed for those Judges to determine in all Casses agreeable to the Rules and Regulations of Congress, and for this purpose we will report to Congress some Resolves vesting you with Authority to make Such appointment and authorizing Such judge to condemn without a Jury as required here. If these Resolves are agreed to by Congress they Shall be immediately transmitted to you. if they are not that plan must drop and the prizes must all proceed for America for condemnation You Can in the mean time consult the Ministry whether they will permit such Courts in France and in the French West-India Islands. If protection is granted to our Cruizers and their prizes you will immediately procure proper orders to be sent to the officers of All their ports on this Subject, and write yourselves to those Houses we have named at the Several ports that the prizes are to remain for Capt Wickes further Orders, also lodge Such orders with proper persons at the other ports in France. On the Contrary if the Prizes are not to be protected in their ports then give immediate notice to all these Houses and proper persons at the other ports, to furnish the Prizes that Captain Wickes of the *Reprisal* may send into their port with any necessarys the prize Master may judge the[y] Stand in Need of, and to order him to make the best of his way with the Prize to the first Safe port he can make in the United States of America, lodge advice also for Capt Wickes at Bourdeaux, Brest & Nantes, whether his prizes are to be protected in port or not, and whether or not any Sales will be permitted. If they are protected he can take his own time to Collect and bring them home under his own Convoy. If any Sale is permitted he can Sell all perishable Commodities and Vessels unfit for So long a Voyage as to this Coast. If no protection for prizes they will come away by your Orders and Need not Stay for his, and If they deny protection to our Cruizers themselves, he will only remain inport for your advices, and to obtain Such Supplies as may be Necessary. We have recommended Captain Wickes to take on board his own Ship as many valuable Commodities as he can if he is Successful, but Should he be unsuccessful in Cruizing then Messrs Pliarne Penet & Co. may put Some goods on board when he is

coming away. You will readily see the tendency these measures have, and as their consequences may be very important, So we hope your attention to them will be immediate and constant whilst necessary. Captain Wickes is a worthy Man and as such we recommend him Should he have the Misfortune to be taken or meet with any other misfortune we hope you will adopt measures for his relief. He will treat prisoners with humanity, and we are convinced his conduct will do honour to his appointment. We have the honour to be Gentlemen [&c.]

1. Papers CC (Other Reports of Committees of Congress), 37, 75, NA.

COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE TO CHARLES W. F. DUMAS,  
THE HAGUE<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philada October 24 [1777]6

Our Worthy Friend Doctor Franklin being indefatigable in the Service of his Country and few Men so qualify'd to be usefull to the Community of which he is a Member, You will not be surprized that the Unanimous Voice of the Congress of Delegates from the United States of America has called upon him to Visit the Court of France in the Character of one of their Commissioners for Negotiating a Treaty of Alliance &c with that Nation. He is the bearer of this letter and on his arrival will forward it To him we refer you for information as to the Political State of this Country our design in addressing you at this time being only to Continue that Correspondance which he has opened & conducted hitherto with you in our behalf We request to hear from you frequently, [illegible] make use of the Cypher, The Doctor has communicated the knowledge of it to one of our Members. Your letters Via St Eustatia directed to the Committee of Secret Correspondance, then put under a Cover to Mr Robert Morris Merchant in Philadelphia & that letter under Cover to Mr Cornelius Stevenson or Mr Henricus Godet, Merchts at St Eustatia or under Cover to Mr Isaac Gouverneur Mercht at Curracoa, will Certainly come safe & if you can send with them regular supplys of the English and other News papers you will add to the obligation the expence of procuring them shall be reimbursed together with any other charges and a reasonable allowance for your time & trouble in this agency

1. Mason-Franklin Collection, YUL.

JOHN HANCOCK TO THOMAS CUSHING<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir, —

Philadelphia, 24th Octor., 1776

Our incessant Attention to the Affairs of the Northern Army and Genl. Washington's (and my Duty you know) with my present Engagedness to that Service prevents my writing more, than just to Inclose you the Resolve of Congress respecting the other Frigate, which you will Exert your self to Compleat as soon as possible. Pray lay it before the Assembly, and Apolo-

gize to them for my not writing them by this, but will by the Express which I shall Dispatch in forty-eight hours with [John] Manley's Instructions and your Money and the other Commissions. The Warrants you have Inclos'd, what you do not use you will keep for future purposes. The Inclos'd Letters please to Seal and Deliver The Inclos'd Commissions please to forward; the Commissions for the Lieutenants, etc. will go by Express. I was loth to Detain Capt. Manley. You will set him about getting the Men and let the Captains of Marines fill their Companies. their Commissions will go by the Express; I shall send them all in blank for you to fill up, I am almost worn out, my Duty is Constant, I have hardly time for necessary Rest. Manly is second officer on the List; The Numbers determine the Rank. Can I do any thing agreeable for you, let me know and I will not be wanting. I must Close, God bless you, I am yours sincerely.

11 o Clock Night

1. *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society* (Boston, 1927), LX, 115.

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

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] October 24th, 1776.

An order was drawn on Mr. Nesbitt, in favour of Commodore Seymour, for One Thousand Dollars, for the purpose of recruiting men for the Fleet, to be charged to his account.

*Resolved*, That Capt. Joseph Blewer & Capt. Francis Gurney be desired to take such Steps as they may think necessary, to secure the person of Charles Roberts, Captain of the Schooner *Thetis* [Sic, *Thistle*], at Reedy Island, with all his papers, & lay them before this Board.

*Resolved*, That Capt. Blewer be appointed to contract with proper person for building Twelve Boats to Guard the Fire Rafts.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 764, 765.

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

Sir,

We send you inclosed a copy of our agreement with Major [William] Horsey for the Schooner *Friendship*,<sup>2</sup> – also an Inventory of the Tackle &c which we request you will examine into, as Soon as she is fitted agreeable to contract, she is to be delivered over to you, or your order, and loaded with all possible dispatch. – Can you recommend a proper Person to take the Command of her. – Major Horsey tells us the Foretopsail mentioned in the Inventory is missing – dont let the loss of that, or any other trifling articles prevent your Receipt of the vessel, but they should be noted and the Minutes transmitted to us. – She has 40 Hhds Tobacco on Board, which we send you a list of inclosed, – 20 of them are to be delivered Mr [Cumber-

land] Dugan for the Schooner 92. – you will fill up the *Friendship*, after stowing away the other 20 Hhds of Tobacco, with two thirds Flour and one third bread. – We are &c:

[Annapolis] Octr 24th 1776

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 2, Md. Arch.
2. *Ibid.*

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO JOHN ROGERS<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

The Brig *Georgia* taken by the Ship *Defence* arrived here last Monday laden with Mahog: and Lig: Vit:, and being very leaky, was immediately ordered up to Baltimore – Be pleased to Signify to us, when & where you will hold your Court, that a Prosecution against her may be immediately instituted. We are &c:<sup>2</sup>

[Annapolis] Octr 24th 1776

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 2, Md. Arch.
2. *Ibid.*, the same day the Council notified Rogers of his appointment as judge of the Admiralty Court.

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

[Williamsburg] Thursday 24th October 1776. –

Capt Edward Travis received Orders to take Command of the Brig *Raleigh* provided Capt James Cocke the present Commander is willing to resign the Command of the said Brig –

Pursuant to a Resolution of Convention Ordered that Thomas Lilly of the Brig *Liberty* Enlist any four of the Seamen that were lately taken Prisoners on Board the Ship *Oxford* provided they are willing to Engage in the Service –

Capt John Harris received Orders to take the Command of the Brig *Musketto*, now lying at Warwick and at present Commanded by Capt Isaac Younghusband,<sup>2</sup> together with her Stores and all other things belonging to her and proceed with the said Vessel down to James Town as soon as possible –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Doctor William Johnston for Five pounds seven shillings and three pence for Medicine and Attendance on the Sailors belonging to the Sloop *Defiance*. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Capt William Mitchell for Four hundred and eighty six pounds eleven shillings and ten pence for Pay of his Company of Marines from the fifteenth day of July last to the fifteenth Instant as p Account this day settled –

1. Navy Board Journal, 89–91, VSL.
2. Brig *Musketo*.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO LIEUTENANT JACOB VALENTINE, WARWICK<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg Oct. 24th 1776 –

The Bearer Captain [John] Harris is order'd to take possession of and bring down to James Town the Brigg *Musquetto*, you are to consider yourself and the Mariners under your command as under his direction and you are desir'd to give him your best assistance, in procuring Seamen and getting the Brigg down as soon as possible. I am by order of the Naval Board Your h'ble Servant

Thomas Whiting 1st Comr

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY BOARD<sup>1</sup>

Navy Board [Charleston] Thursday 24th Octobr. 1776 —

One thousand Certificates were Ordered to be struck of[f] Immediately in the following words vizt.

South Carolina

Know all men that I have entered, and I do hereby Certify, that I have Voluntarily entered, into the Navy of the state aforesaid, on board the

And I do hereby engage to be true and faithfull in the said Service, untill I shall be discharged by Public authority, and also to be bound by, and to Obey, all and every Rule, Resolve, Order, and Regulation, made, or to be made, by the Legislature of the state aforesaid, or by the Commissioners of the Navy, And I do hereby Acknowledge the Receipt of

Witness my hand this —

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina Navy Board*, 12-13.

ST. GEORGE TUCKER TO MANN PAGE, JR.<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

I will repeat to you what I wrote — The Sum of which was that I had anticipated the Scheme of Trade which you mentioned and had actually embarked in an Adventure by purchasing a large Sloop before I reced your Letter. If ever I am in favor with fortune it will be thro' the Interposition of Friends — I have been happy enough to find those who were disposed to serve me in many Instances — In the present, I have been so fortunate as to find that Disposition to befriend me not baulked by the want of Ability — By the first Week in December I hope to have the pleasure of offering you the Refusal of 3000 Bushells of Salt besides some other trifling Articles. I shall then have some proposals to make with Respect to that Article, Rum, Sugar & dry Goods, that I hope will not be deemed disadvantageous to you.

My best Wishes attend Mrs Page and the little Rogues — I anticipate very much the Happiness of seeing them again. Mrs Pollard's (Bedford)

Compliments to you all — I have a Letter from her for Mrs Page which I will deliver with my own Hands if I do not dine on board the British Fleet before Christmas — But, begging Lord Howe's pardon, I had rather dine in any Man's Kitchen in Virginia on that Day, than on the greatest Delicacies I might have the honor of tasting at his Lordship's Table on board the *Eagle*.

Ber[mud]a Octr 24th 1776.

P:S: Tell all my Countrymen who are with you that Lord Howe has sent the Tenders about this Island to the Devil — They need not fear them now, as they have been all sold —

1. Lloyd W. Smith Collection, MNHP.

25 Oct.

*Essex Journal*, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1776

Newbury-port, October 25.

Yesterday arrived here the ship *Nancy*, John Cowan Master, burthen about 200 tons, bound from Cork to Quebec, taken by Capt. John Lee of this place — <sup>1</sup> Her Cargo consists of the following articles viz. 80 Barrels of Beef, 320 ditto of Pork, 200 Firkins of Butter, 100 Barrels of Oatmeal, 374 ditto of Flour, 1200 Bushels of Pease, 68000 lb of Bread, 207 Casks of Nails, 22 Barrels and 2 half ditto Gun-Powder, 1 Arms chest with Balls, &c. 16 Carriage Guns and 10 Swivels mounted.

We learn that a Salem privateer has taken in the chops of the channel of England, two ships, one from Jamaica inward bound, and the other outward bound.

1. Lee commanded the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Hawke*.

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

[Watertown] October 25, 1776

Petition of Jeremiah Obrien, & John Lambert setting forth, That the Establishment for the Officers, & Seamen of the Arm'd Vessels, under their Command was by far too low

And praying that their pay may be rais'd equal to the establishment for the Officers, & Seamen of other Arm'd Vessels in the service of this State

Resolved that Capt Jerimiah Obrien, Commander of the Sloop *Machias Liberty* & Capt John Lambert, Commander of the Schr *Diligent*, who have been employ'd in the service of this State together with the rest of their Officers, & Sea Coast men, under their respective Commands, be, & hereby are directed to make up their Rolls, on the Same Establishment, from, and after

the first day of February, & 16th Day of March, with the other Officers, & Seamen, in the Service of this State.<sup>2</sup>

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 36, 71.

2. In Mass. Arch. vol. 137,99, is an undated resolution reading:

Resolved. That the Honbl Council or such part of them as they shall appoint for that purpose are desired and hereby impowered to give Orders, in case they shou'd think most for the Interest & Safety of the Colony, that the Armed Vessels at present under the command of Capt Obrian & Capt Lambert be hau[l]ed up and the Officers & Men discharged until the further Order of the General Court.

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

[Watertown] Friday — Octr: 25th: 1776

In Council. Resolved that the Committee of Deer Island be, & they hereby are authorized, & impowered (if they think proper) to Libel in the Maritime Court for the eastern District the Sloop *Sally* belonging to Nathan Jones taken by said Committee on the 30th Day of Augt 1775 for the Breach of continental & other Resolutions and the said Court is hereby authorized, & impowered to hear and determine the Justice of the said Capture to all Intents, & purposes as fully as if the said Sloop had been libell'd within the Time limited by Law for that purpose.<sup>2</sup>

And Whereas the said Committee have represented that the said Nathan Jones hath in many Instances both by Words, & otherwise discovered himself to be inimical to the Interest of the united States of America the said Committee are hereby directed to take Testimonies properly authenticated respecting the same, and that the said Committee transmit the same (as soon as may be) to the General Court of this State.

In Council. Read, & Accepted.

In the House of Representatives. Read, & Concurred.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 36, 75.

2. See earlier Volumes in this series.

### JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND<sup>1</sup>

[Providence] October 25. 1776.

from the last Date this Committee have taken no Authority on themselves to Transact any New business respecting the two Frigates built hear. having finished all that they thot belonged to them to do. They have accordingly delivered them to the Honble Stephen Hopkins Esqr the person who commisionated them to Build the Ships. in the Opinion of this Committee they are fitt and might proceed immediately to Sea, was they fully Manned. This is a Matter that we have more than once mentioned to the Marine Board at Philadelphia but have had no particular directions how the Men weir to be obtained so that we leave them in their Care.

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

PAY ROLL OF THE NEW YORK STATE SCHOONER *General Putnam*<sup>1</sup>

Rank	Names & Rank		Time of Entry	Time of Discharge	Time in Service	Pay pr Month	Whole Pay
			1776	1776	Mo & Days		
Lieutenant	1st	Thomas Quigley	May 10th	Octor 25th	5: 15	8..0..0	44..0..0
Do	2nd	David Walker				8..0..0	44..0..0
		Eliakem Little				8..0..0	44..0..0
		Cornelius French				6..0..0	33..0..0
		John Boyd				8.13..4	47.13..4
		George Shell				6..0..0	33..0..0
		John Thomas				6..0..0	33..0..0
		John Trail				6..0..0	33..0..0
		Josias Davis				5..6..8	29..6..8
		William Radley				4.16..0	26..8..0
	1	Timothy B[u]rris				3..4..0	17.12..0
	2	William Bell				3..4..0	17.12..0
	3	Wm Wellisay				3..4..0	17.12..0
	4	Benjn Woodruff				3..4..0	17.12..0
							437.16..0
	5	Nathn Laurence				3..4..0	17.12..0
	6	Elias May				3..4..0	17.12..0
	7	Morgan Lalley				3..4..0	17.12..0
	8	Ezekiel Heazen				3..4..0	17.12..0
	9	John Richard				3..4..0	17.12..0
	10	Alexr McDonald				3..4..0	17.12..0
	11	Henry Basset				3..4..0	17.12..0
	12	John Hardy				3..4..0	17.12..0

OCTOBER 1776

1413

PAY ROLL OF THE NEW YORK STATE SCHOONER *General Putnam* Continued

Rank	Names & Rank	Time of Entry	Time of Discharge	Time in Service	Pay pr <sup>at</sup> Month	Whole Pay		
13	John Thayer				3..4..0	17.12..0		
14	Samuel Turner				3..4..0	17.12..0		
15	Thomas Steel				3..4..0	17.12..0		
16	John Griffith				2..0..0	11..0..0		
				Mos Days				
17	Isaac Richards	June 27th	Do	3 28	3..4..0	12.13.10		
[18]	Thomas Shourds	Augst 20th	Do	2 5	3..4..0	6.18..8	224..4..6	
	By Cash for 1 Months Pay Received							662..0..6
								116.16..0
	Ballance due							£ 545..4..6
	Errors Excepted							

1. Provincial Congress Papers, NYSL. This document, salvaged from the State Library fire, is badly charred.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO COMMODORE WILLIAM HOTHAM<sup>1</sup>

Dr Sir

*Eagle* [New York] Oct: 25: 10 'Clock

The General being in want of assistance of Men for the Artillery, on a pressing service; I have appointed Cap. [Charles] Phip[p]s to take with him about 60 seamen in 3 Flat-Boats now sent up; With directions to detain those he may find returning from you.

And I desire you will order any further aid of seamen from the Frigates in the sound that may be wanted, for the same service I am Dr Sir [&c.]

Howe

1. Collection of Lord Hotham, Yorkshire (East Riding) County Record Office, England.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Tartar*, CAPTAIN CORNTHWAITE OMMANNEY<sup>1</sup>

Octobr 1776

At Single Anchor in the North River

Fryday 25

at Sun Rise the Enemy open'd a Battery near Dobbs Ferry and began firing on us, which we return'd and continued till  $\frac{1}{2}$  pt 7 when we weigh'd and dropt farther to the Northwd one of the Enemys Shot splinter'd the Head of the Capston and some of the runing Riging was Cut at  $\frac{1}{2}$  pt 8 came too in 7 fm with the small Br abreast of Terry Town it bearing Et & Sweetlings Ferry SBW Slaughters land N $\frac{1}{2}$ E veered to  $\frac{1}{3}$  a Cable

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/972.

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

[Philadelphia] Friday, October 25, 1776

The Committee of Treasury reported, that there is due,

To Robert Chase, late commander of the *Gaspé* ship of war, for his allowance from 1 March to 24 October, 1776, inclusive, 34 weeks, at 2 dollars per week, 68 dollars.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 902, 903.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Philadelphia 25th Octor 1776

The Marine Committee being desirous to get the Continental Frigates to Sea, quickly as possible, request the favor of you, to provide Sixty four Cannon for the use of the Frigate building in New Hampshire, and one of those in the Massachusetts Bay — Fifty two of these Cannon to carry 12 pounds Shot, and 12 of them to carry four pounds Shot — The proof that Congress has already contracted for the Public Cannon to undergo, is, for the first proof, a weight of powder equal to the weight of one shot; on which

charge, two shot and three wads — The second proof is, powder equal to two thirds of the weight of one shot, with the same shot and wads as in the first — We wish Sir, that the above mentioned Cannon may undergo similar proof —

Should the Ship building in Connecticut, not be in equal forwardness with the New Hampshire Frigate, we should be well pleased, if the latter were immediately furnished with the Guns that are already provided for the former; adding thereto as many as will make the number of twenty six 12, and six 4 pounders — The Connecticut Frigate may be furnished, we hope, in due time; from the Guns above desired to be provided for the New Hampshire Frigate —

Your well known zeal in the Common Cause gives us perfect confidence that you will do herein what will most contribute to promote and expedite the public service — We are with great esteem Sir [&c.]

John Hancock

Francs Lewis

Francs Hopkinson

George Walton

Arthur Middleton

Wm. Whipple

Richard Henry Lee

1. Trumbull Papers, XXIX, Letter Book IV, 82,83, ConnSL. Draft, without signatures, is in Paullin, ed., *Out-Letters of the Continental Marine Committee*, I, 45-46.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE SECRET COMMITTEE TO  
THOMAS MORRIS, dated OCTOBER 25, 1776.”<sup>1</sup>

Sir:

[Philadelphia, October 25, 1776]

You will receive herewith a copy of our letter of the 16th instant, whereby you are appointed our agent to superintend all our business in Europe. This goes by the Continental ship-of-war called the *Reprisal*, Lambert Weeks [Wickes], commander.

The value of this indigo is particularly intended to be lodged with your banker in Paris, for the use and subject to the order of Dr. Franklin, Silas Deane, and Arthur Lee, &c.

The *Reprisal*, Captain Weeks, will make but a short stay at Nantes, as she will immediately proceed on a cruise, and if fortunate, some of the prizes may probably be sent into some of the ports of France. The Commissioners will apply at Court for the liberty and protection of their ports. If this should be granted, it's probable that they may also permit the sale of prizes there, and in such case, the prizes, or such parts of their cargoes as are to be sold in France, will be put under your direction. You must take care that every thing is disposed of to the best advantage, apply the proceeds to the payments we have ordered you to make on account of the publick, and render us very exact accounts of what you credit us in this way, and a particular account of sales of each prize. Should Captain Weeks take any specie, he will pay it to you or the Commissioner, or to their or your order for the same purpose, and you must grant him receipts for the same, ex-

pressing that you receive it for the use of the United States of America, and that he is to be repaid by Congress.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 5th, II, 1237.

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

[Annapolis] Friday, October 25th 1776

Commission and Letter of Marque issued to Francis Speake, Commander of Sloop *Potomack*, mounting twelve carriage Guns.

Vernon Hebb and Timothy Bowes appointed to take the Depositions of any Witnesses relative to a Sloop sunk by Dunmore's Fleet near St George's Island, and the sails, and other Things taken from and out of her, by Wm Richardson, and transmit the same, when taken, to the Council of Safety. — <sup>2</sup>

Permit was granted to Wm Thomas Master of Schooner *Edward* to go to Martinique, he having given Bond, & lodged manifest, agreeable to the Resolves of Convention. —

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.
2. In the Naval and Maritime Papers, Md. Arch., is an undated memorandum: "A List of People, employed in Saving the Wrecks, from the Fleet, from 13 to the 24 July 1776—" It lists "William Richardson 3 Negroes belonging to Do., Thomas Richardson, James Richardson, Peter Smith, James Smith, Jesse Tennison, John Standfast, Nicholas Byrn, George Rymer."

### VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO LIEUTENANT BENJAMIN POLLARD, HAMPTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir, Williamsburg Oct. 25th 1776 —

Your Letter of the 23d Inst. we have receiv'd and in consequence of your information have wrote to Lieut. Henry Stratton and order'd him down to answer for his Conduct,<sup>2</sup> we shall provide the Clothing for the Marines and Seamen as early as possible and shall be oblig'd to you to purchase such Liquor as you may want upon the best terms you can. I am by order of the Naval Board. Your hble Servant

Thomas Whiting 1st Comr

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.
2. *Ibid.*, Stratton, a member of Lieutenant Pollard's company, had not returned from an eight day leave, and did not "intend to return untill four or five Weeks time." He appeared before the Navy Board on October 31 and claimed that sickness had prevented him from reporting back for duty on board the *Hero*. However, he did return to the galley after conferring with the Board.

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

Sir, Williamsburg Oct. 25th 1776 —

You are desir'd to have ready as early as possible the following Cordage f[or] use of the Galley *Caswell*, Capt Willis Wilson commander building at South Quay, and when ready immediately acquaint this Board.

1 Cable 120 Fathom .....	12 Inches
1 do ..... do .....	11 do
1 do ..... do .....	9 do
175 Fathom .....	7 Inch Rope
45 ... do .....	5½ do
400 ... do .....	5 do
50 ... do .....	4 do
455 .. do .....	3½ do
1100 . do .....	2 do
675 .. do .....	2¾ do
6 Coils nine Thread Ratlin	
4 do inch & half Cordage	
3 do worming —	

I am by order of the Naval Board.

Your humble Servant  
Thomas Whiting 1st Commr

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

#### JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

Navy Board [Charleston] Friday 25th October, 1776

A Letter was wrote to Capt Edwd Allen.

Capt. Edward Allen

Sir/ The Commissioners of the Navy desire you will take out of the Brig *Comet*, Four of the Carriage Guns, as they think the Number now on Board rather Hurtfull than of Service —

By Order of the Board  
Edward Blake first Commissioner

Octor. 25th 1776 —

Resolved that the following Sparrs be provided for the use of the Navy of this state, & that Mr First Commissioner do give directions for the same —

20 Sparrs from 50 to 70 feet Long & from 16 to 30 Inches Diamiter	
10 Sparrs from 30 to 40 Do. & from 16 to 22 Inches	Do —
50 Sparrs from 30 to 40 Do. & from 10 to 16 Inches	Do
40 Sparrs from 36 to 46 Do. & from 10 to 15 Inches	Do
	in the Middle
100 Sparrs from 24 to 38 Do & from 6. to 10 Inches	Do —
	in the Middle
100 Sparrs from 20 to 35 Do & from 5 to 9 Inches	Do —

The following Letter was received from His Excellency the President, in consequence of an application having been made to him by the first Commissioner, for his Opinion; whether the Commissioners of the Navy, have not full power to Order the Vessels belonging to this State upon a Cruize, when they shall think proper?

His Excellency [missing]

I proposed to the Council your Query; whether the Commissioners of the Navy have Authority to order the armed Vessells, in the service of this State, to Sea, or on a Cruize? And the Board was unanimously of Opinion that they have not. —

I shall be glad, that the Vessels may, as soon as possible be in Readiness to proceed to Sea, on the shortest notice, and, from time to time, to have the earliest Intimation, whenever they are so, & of what Destinations, the Commissioners think proper, to Recommend, as, much Attention will be had to their Recommendations —

I am Sir [&c.]

October 25th. 1776 —

J Rutledge

Resolved That this Board are unanimously of Opinion That by the Act establishing the Board of Commissioners, Full powers are vested in them to superintend & direct all Matters relative to the Navy, except Contracting for Building Ships & Materials for the same, Erecting Public Rope Walks, & ship Yards, altering or making void any Contracts heretofore made, by the President and Privy Council, Or the appointment of Officers of the Navy —

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina Navy Board*, 13-14.

26 Oct.

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

Watertown, Oct 26 1776

Resolved, That nine persons be appointed by joint Ballot of both Houses of Assembly as a Committee under the Title of a Board of War; who shall keep in Boston, or such other Place, or Places as the General Court may Order, or the said Board shall find necessary a public Office for the purposes hereafter mentioned; and continue as a Committee for those purposes until the twentieth day of June next, & until others shall be appointed; subject, nevertheless, to a discharge at any time, by the General Assembly of this State: whose business it shall be, & they or the major part of them, are hereby impowered, to order, & direct the operations of the Forces in the pay of this State, both by Sea, and Land; by giving the Commanders of the Troops, Garrisons, and Vessels of War such Orders for their Conduct, & Cruises from time, to time, as they shall think proper such orders to be signed in their Name by the President of said Board, or in his absence by the member thereof officiating as President pro tempore — such Land Forces nevertheless shall not be sent out of this State without the express consent of the General Assembly thereof; and shall order the Commissary to furnish them, and also the Militia upon extraordinary occasions with all Warlike, & other Stores, Provisions, & Cloathing, that shall appear to them proper & necessary. And for the more effectually enabling them to do this business it is also

Resolved, That the said Committee, or Board of War or the major part of them, shall procure, or cause to be procured, Provisions, Cannon, Arms, Ammunition, Cloathing, & all other Articles necessary for carrying on the War by Sea, & Land; for which purpose they shall take up or may purchase, Load, & fit out with suitable Cargoes such vessels as shall appear to them proper for Importing said Articles from other States; they not amounting in the whole to a greater Sum than shall from time to time be granted by the General Assembly appropriated for these purposes; which Articles when procured shall be lodged with the Commissary of this State, who shall Store them in such safe and convenient places for the defence of this State, as said Committee, or Board of War shall order; & them with such Articles, belonging to this State, now in his hands from time to time deliver out according to the Orders of said Committee and also procure any such Articles as said Committee shall direct – And it is further –

Resolved, That the Secretary, & Commisary of this State, make such Returns to said Committee, without delay, as they shall from time to time require. And all Officers in the Service, & pay of this State by Sea, or Land, are hereby required to be obedient, & subject to such Orders as they shall from time to time receive from the said Committee, or Board of War, with the limitations aforesaid: which Committee shall keep, in Books for that purpose provided, fair, & clear Entries of all orders issued, & Returns made, and also of all their proceedings; & of all the Military, & Warlike Stores, & Provisions belonging to this State, and the places where deposited.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 36, 80.

PETITION OF EDWARD BRICKWOOD TO THE RHODE ISLAND ASSEMBLY <sup>1</sup>

To the Honourable the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence plantations to be holden at South Kingston on Monday the 28th Instant October 1776 –

The Humble Memorial and Petition of Edward Brickwood late a Resident at Bermuda Sheweth

That your Memorialist was passenger in the Brigantine the *Fanny* of Bermuda bound from thence to Antigua and London and taken by the private Sloop of War the *Independence* of Providence Jabez Whipple Commander

That your Memorialist was bound to England to transact some particular business and intended returning immediately to Bermuda or Antigua where he hath an Interest

That your Memorialist is essentially suffering in his concerns by the misfortune of being prevented attending thereto as well as prosecuting his intended Voyage to Great Britain

Your Memorialist and petitioner therefore Most Humbly Implores Your Honours will be graciously pleased to Grant your Memorialist Licence and permission to return to his business and to prosecute his intended Voy-

age to Great Britain by way of France, Holland, Bermuda or the West Indies, with his Apparel &c

And your Memorialist and petitioner as in Duty bound will ever pray &c

Edw<sup>d</sup> Brickwood

Providence 26th October 1776

[Endorsed] Novemr 1st 1776 To the House of Magsts Gent Resolvd that this Petition be granted Voted and past p Ordr J Lyndon Cler[illegible]

Novr 2d 1776. In the Upper House the same day Read & Concurred p Order R J Helme Secy p temp

1. Petitions to the General Assembly, 1775-1777, R. I. Arch.

*Providence Gazette*, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1776

Providence, October 26.

The Brig *Cabot*, Elisha Hinman, Esq; Commander, in the Service of the United States, has taken two Ships from Jamaica, bound to London, laden with Sugar, Rum, Some Indico, &c.

Captain Thomas Stacey, in the Privateer *Diamond*, has taken a Ship bound from Quebec to England, laden with Coal, Copper Kettles, &c.

Captain Christopher Whipple, in the Privateer Brig *Putnam* has taken a Ship bound from Antigua to England, laden with Sugar.

Captain [Job] Pearce, in a Privateer belonging to East Greenwich<sup>1</sup> has taken a Ship bound from Nova-Scotia to Jamaica, laden with Fish, Boards, Spars, &c.

Captain [Joseph] Jauncey, in the Privateer *Washington*, belonging to the State of New-York, has taken a large Snow, laden with Provisions, &c. bound from London to New York.

All the above Prizes have arrived in safe Ports; as also two others, lately mentioned to have been taken by the *Providence* Sloop of War, in the Service of the United States, John P. Jones, Esq; Commander.<sup>2</sup>

It is reported that the Enemy have taken and destroyed some of our Vessels on the Lakes; but no Particulars are yet received.

1. The privateer *Greenwich*.

2. This issue of the newspaper contains notice of libels filed against most of these prizes and others.

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

At a Meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety [New Haven] Octor 26th, 1776.

*Voted*, To desire his Honor the Governor to grant permit to Capt. Elizur Goodrich of Weathersfield, to export in the sloop *Betsey*, said Goodrich master, to Marygallant [Marie-Galante] the following articles, (viz:) 80

barrels of beef, 25 barrels of flour, 15 barrels of pork, six oxen, and sixty dozen of poultry, and to make returns in salt.<sup>2</sup>

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut State Records*, I, 54.

2. See *Journal of Council* October 2, 1776.

COLONEL GEORGE WEEDON TO JOHN PAGE<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Camp at White plains Octobr 26th 1776 —

. . . should have wrote you before this had the Enemy continued in our Front at Hearlam, but a sudden manoeuver of theirs, has Occationd us a deal of Trouble, Fateigue, & expence, — The 12th several ships, sloops &c, pass'd Hellsgate and proceeded up the sound to Frogs point where they landed, we had Armies at that time a bove Kings Bridge sufficient to repell the Force then sent, but on the 14th a second Devision follow'd still larger when a reinforcement from our lines at Hearlam became Necessary. Genl Lee arrived just in time to have his hands full, after staying about half an hour at Head Quarters he went up to take the Commd of the Troops on that Quarter, — A few days after a Third Devision passed, and from that time, more or less every day, for several days together till it plainly appeared their intentions was to establish posts in our rear, and cut of[f] a retreat, They previous to this had sent ships up north river, which I at first thought was only intended to cut of[f] our Supplies by water from the back Country, but am now Convinced it was to Facilitate a junction a cross the Neck which at this place is a bout 16 Miles from North River to the sound, we have for these ten days been Constantly in Motion in order to keep the Flank and have now got so situated that they must come to our own ground to do any thing Desicive. . . .

[Endorsement by Page] There are some sentences in this Letter which I think are so much to the credit of G. Lee, Majr Green & Captn Thor[nton] that I think they ought to be published J: P —

To M. Page Junr Esqr of Mansfield

1. Weedon Papers, ChHS.

CAPTAIN JAMES REID, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE<sup>1</sup>

Copy

My Lord, I am extreamly sorry my exceeding Illness will not permit me the Honor of paying my personal Respects to Your Lordship, I am therefore obliged to send the Lieutenant to wait on You. I beg Leave to acquaint your Lordship I left the Port of Georgia on the 1st Octr last, being reduced to two Weeks short Allowance, & that consisting only of Pork and Flour, & having no Prospect of a Supply; I purposed proceeding to St: Augustine, the same Day I left Georgia I spoke the *Lively* Capt [Thomas] Bishop and informed him of my having left the Port that Morning for Want of Provisions, he ordered me to follow him to St. Augustine,

Three Days after he supplied me with Three Weeks Provisions at whole Allowance, and ordered me back to my Station, and if I could not get into the Port again I was to cruize & make Tibie [Tybee] Lighthouse once in Twenty four Hours, until I was joined by him; and if any Accident prevented that, in the Course of about Fourteen Days, I was immediately to proceed to the Northward to join your Lordship, for You wanted every Ship on the Coast, and intended taking me to the Northward on his Return from St: Augustine: I got off Georgia Bar, the 11th instant at Six in the Evening, and came to an Anchor, it being too dark to see the Marks to go in; We heard two Guns at Tibie Lighthouse as an Alarm to the Town, a Place where We never saw a Rebel; At Day-Break I intended going in, but at two in the Morning a heavy Gale of Wind came on at NNE, and obliged me to put to Sea, it lasted violently for four Days; on the 15th I fell in with the *Lively* that had slipt from St. Augustine in the same Gale of Wind, and left Captain Bishop and his Boat's Crew behind; the Lieutenant informed me the *Sphynx*, *Raven* & *Cherokee* were to join your Lordship, and the *Otter*, *Hinchinbrook* and *St. John* Schooner were to remain at St: Augustine and St. Marys; Having but little Provisions & Water on board, that should I attempt to go into St. Augustine and drove to Leeward of the Port, I might be a great While beating up, as the Ship goes so ill, and perhaps obliged to bear up for the West Indies, which would be taking a Ship off the Coast; therefore I thought it best for His Majesty's Service [to] join your Lordship as soon as possible; I herewith inclose the State and Condition of the said Ship. I have the Honor to be My Lord [&c.]

J Reid

*Sphynx*, New York River,  
this 26th October 1776.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE <sup>1</sup>

[New York] 26th Octr. — The *Lark*, Frigate arrived yesterday with 25 sail of Victuallers from Cork, but last from Halifax. These ships have brought out a great many officers, & between 4 and 500 Recruits for the British Regiments.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 87.

*New-York Gazette*, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1776

Newark, October 26.

A List of British Ships on the American Station.

	Guns		Guns
<i>Eagle</i> , Adm. Howe,	64	<i>Chatham</i> , Ad. Shuldham,	50
<i>Asia</i> , Capt. Vandeput,	64	<i>Bristol</i> , Commodore Sir Peter	
<i>Jersey</i> hospital ship,	60	Parker,	50

	Guns		Guns
<i>Preston</i> , Commodore Hotham,	50	<i>Deal Castle</i> , Worth,	24
<i>Renown</i> , Captain Banks,	50	<i>Fowey</i> , George Montague,	24
<i>Isis</i> , Capt. Douglass,	50	<i>Greyhound</i> , Dickson	24
<i>Experiment</i> , Scott,	50	<i>Garland Pearson</i> ,	24
<i>Centurion</i> , Braithwait,	50	<i>Lively</i> , Bishop,	24
<i>Phoenix</i> , Parker,	44	<i>Mercury</i> , Montague,	24
<i>Roebuck</i> , Hammond	44	<i>Sphinx</i> , Hunt,	24
<i>Rainbow</i> , Sir G. Collier,	44	<i>Glasgow</i> , Howe,	20
<i>Amazon</i> , Jacobs,	32	<i>Rose</i> , Wallace,	20
<i>Brune</i> , [Fergusson]	32	<i>Scarborough</i> , Barclay	20
<i>Diamond</i> , Fielding,	32	<i>Seaford</i> , Colpoy,	20
<i>Emerald</i> , Caldwell,	32	<i>Falcon</i> , Lindzey,	18
<i>Flora</i> , Brisbane,	32	<i>Merlin</i> , Bernaby	18
<i>Juno</i> , Dalrymple,	32	<i>Nautilus</i> , Collins,	18
<i>Lark</i> , Smith,	32	<i>Kingfisher</i> , Graham,	16
<i>Niger</i> , Talbot,	32	<i>Raven Stanhope</i> ,	16
<i>Orpheus</i> , Hudson,	32	<i>Scorpion</i> , Tollemache	16
<i>Pearl</i> , O'Hara [sic Thomas Wilkinson],	32	<i>Tamer</i> , Thornborough [sic Christopher Mason]	16
<i>Repulse</i> , Davis	32	<i>Albany</i> , Mowatt,	14
<i>Thetis</i> , ———,	32	<i>Hope</i> , D[a]wson,	14
<i>Acteon</i> , Atkins, (burnt)	32	<i>Martin</i> , Parker,	14
<i>Active</i> , Williams [sic Hunt],	28	<i>Swan</i> , Ayscough,	14
<i>Blond</i> , Thompson,	28	<i>Senegal</i> , Duddingston,	14
<i>Carrysfort</i> , Fanshaw,	28	<i>Hawke</i> , Cooper,	10
<i>Cerberus</i> , Symonds,	28	<i>Otter</i> , Squire,	10
<i>Daphne</i> , Henry,	28	<i>Viper</i> , Price [sic Samuel Graves],	10
<i>Fox</i> , F[o]theringham,	28	<i>Carcass</i> , Dring,	8
<i>Lizard</i> , Inglis,	28	<i>Cruiser</i> , Parry,	8
<i>Liverpool</i> , Bellew,	28	<i>Savage Bromedje</i> ,	8
<i>Milford</i> , Burr,	28		
<i>Solebay</i> , [Symonds]	28	<i>Carcass and Thunder</i> , bomb vessels.	
<i>Surprise</i> , [Linzee]	28	<i>Strombolo</i> , fire ship.	
<i>Syren</i> , Furneaux,	28	<i>Canceaux, Cherokee, Diligence</i> , and a number of other armed vessels.	
<i>Tartar</i> , Ommanie,	28		
<i>Triton</i> , Lutwidge	28		
<i>Unicorn Ford</i> ,	28		

THOMAS SAVADGE TO A COMMITTEE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA  
COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Pennsylvania Salt Works, Tom's River,  
Oct'r 26th, 1776.

P. S. On Sunday last, the 20 Inst., at day Break, appeared at the mouth of our inlet, four large Frigates, endeavouring to get as close in as

possible, which is not more than four miles from me, the[y] drew up in a line right abreast of me, hauled up their courses & laid their Topsails back, in which position the[y] continued till near twelve o'clock; I expected a viset from them, and believe nothing prevented it but its being a very low tide, the flats being very bare, and seeing upwards of thirty of us on the shore, made them afraid to send their boats in, otherwise I think they fully intended it, which had they done, we must have left it to their mercy for want of arms &c., to defend it.

Directed, To Messrs. George Clymer, Samuell Howell,  
& Owen Biddle, Esqr's, in Philadelphia.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 55-56.

PENET & PLIARNE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

Sir. Philadelphia 8bre [October] 26. 1776

We have established in France a house the firme of Pliarne Penet & Co at Nantes destined only for the Correspondence with the united states. the honorable Continental Congress have been supplied there already & they will take for the future all the Articles they shall want for the Army & other purposes.

We believe Necessary to inform you that it is upon the encouragement & the assurances we have Receiv'd from the Congress we have Got in Magazines in france a Very Large Quantity of Goods & Every other Articles suitable to the present Circumstances the States are in.

in Consequence of that, Sir, we flater ourselves the Commitees will address their Vessels to that house & you May depend upon this, you will Find there immediately Every thing you will want.

But there is an other very important adventage you Must be acquainted with. the Commitees & the Merchants Meeting with Great difficulties to send Money to Europe, our house has taken that in Consideration & you May Now have Bills upon our house, We will take here the Continental Money.

Our house is at Nantes in Britanny & we have Chosen that port, because it is the best situated for the Business of this Continent. if you send your Cargoes from America to the other Ports, Nantz is in the Center & out of the Channel & after your Capts will have sold their Cargoes in the other ports they May Go immediately to Nantz to be Loaded, & that speculation you will find it advantageous, because from Bordeaux, La Rochelle L'orient & the other ports, in 1, 2 3 days you Get to Nantz, & you will find the Articles Cheaper there, Because our Great Business with the Continent will determine our house to Give the Greatest Satisfaction to the honorable Continental Congress, the Committees & the Merchants.

Added to these Reasons the Market of Nantz is Extremely Good. there is a Very Large River which passing through different Cities Makes the Consumption very great.

We will be, Sir, Much oblig'd to you for your Early advices to us there or here & we will furnish you with the bills you wou'd wish to have on them as we are Determin'd to Reside here under the same ferme as at Nantes of Sir [&c.]

Pliarne Penet & Co

We Must add our house will procure, if you Choose it, to your Capts french papers & they will be safe till they will Get to your Coasts.

1. Papers of Pliarne, Penet, Dacosta Frères & Co., 1776-1783, State Agents, VSL. Penet and Pliarne sent similar letters to other state committees.

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

My Dear Sir,

Philadelphia 26th Oct 1776

I arrived here the 24th: the [Marine] Committee have not met since my arrival but have mentioned your demand to some of the members, there is no doubt but I shall be in cash to honor your drafts whenever they appear. there is no prospect of cannon from this place, however, I have some hopes from another quarter viz: Connecticut — the circumstances are these — the cannon are made for the *Trumbell* [Trumbull] in that State and there is no prospect of her being provided with other necessaries — the Committee have wrote to Govr Trumbell [Jonathan Trumbull] to procure cannon for two ships and in the mean time to send those made for the *Trumbell* to you from the known disposition of that gentlemen to promote the public good I have great hopes you will be supplied from that quarter, orders are gone to Providence to supply you with canvass for a second suit of sails. I don't know but you'll have a wrangle on your hands with the Providence gentry however my boy I'll stand by you as long as I can — the ships here are not so forward as I expected to find them only three of them are launched. The rank of the Captains in the naval service was established before I arrived; I find [Thomas] Thompson is the 6th on the list — had I been here, I certainly would have had him higher — however considering the train after him, I think it pretty well — for want of time must refer you to Col [Josiah] Bartlett for news &c In haste as you see Your affectionate friend [&c.]

W<sup>m</sup> Whipple

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

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

[Williamsburg] Saturday 26th October 1776. —

Capt John Calvert of the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley received Orders to go immediately with his Vessel to Hampton, there apply to Mr George Hope for a new fore Yard which he is to have fitted as soon as Possible and then Proceed on a Cruize in the Bay using his utmost Endeavours to Annoy the Enemy and protect any Friendly Vessels that may be coming in by Con-

voying them to some place of Safety within the Capes, observing to take proper care of his own Vessel, and when his Vessel may get fowl or any other Occurrence renders it Necessary for his returning It is Ordered that he return to his former Station at Hampton and give the Board Notice thereof together with an Account of his Proceedings during the Cruize. —

Adjourned till monday next. —

Signed, Thomas Whiting 1st Comsr

1. Navy Board Journal, 91-92, VSL.

GOVERNOR PETER CHESTER TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

(No 20)

Pensacola 26th October 1776

. . . We also hear from the same authority<sup>2</sup> that the Rebels have fitted out two Vessels at Charles Town of 18 Guns each which are both put to Sea the one commanded by Clement Lampriere and the other by [Simon] Tufts. They are also fitting out a Vessel at Beaufort in South Carolina & one at Savannah in Georgia of the like force, & it is given out that they are ordered to cruize off Cape St Antonio to intercept any Vessels bound into the Gulph of Mexico and particularly those intended for this place or the River Mississippi laden with Goods & Provisions. I should not be surprized if the Rebels who must be in great distress for Blankets & Clothing should make an effort of this kind especially as their trading Vessels among the French Islands may learn the disposition of Admiral Gayton's Squadron at Jamaica & probably discover that there will be little danger to apprehend from them at Cape Antonio as those ships all cruize to Windward of Jamaica & they will have little to fear from the Ships on the Pensacola Station as We have only the *Diligence* Sloop of 14 Guns and an Armed Vessel in Lake Port Chartrain [Pontchartrain] for the protection of this Province. The *Diligence* has been chiefly out cruizing for some time past & is shortly to be relieved by an Armed Brig of ten Guns called the *Badger* which will be the only Vessel to protect the trade in the Gulph of Mexico.

Should the Rebels succeed in taking any of the Ships bound here, We shall be in a very disagreeable situation on account of Salt provisions for the Troops and will not be able to furnish the Indians with those supplies of Goods and Ammunition that We have promised them, and I am very apprehensive that a Misfortune of this kind might greatly tend to endanger the loss of their Affections.

We have an Account here written by a British Merchant residing at New Orleans to a Gentleman of this place acquainting him that there has a Boat arrived at Orleans which came down the River Mississippi with about 20 Men, that a Pennsylvanian of the Name of Gibson appears to have the Command of them & that they have been very civilly treated by the Governor of Louisiana I since hear from the Mississippi that in passing the Natchez they hoisted the Rebel Colours & that the Boat is returned up the

River with a load of Ammunition bound it is imagined up the Ohio but the supposed Leader remains at New Orleans. I hourly expect a Vessel from thence with some People belonging to this Province and if the Report be true and the Spanish Governor has given them any Countenance I shall endeavor to gain the fullest information in my power relating thereto and shall forward the same to your Lordship by the first opportunity.

I have already mentioned to your Lordship that I think it my duty in this critical state of Affairs to communicate every Account relating to the proceedings of the Rebels that has the least Colour of truth, and I frequently lament that it is not in my power to forward more full and authentic Information; however whether this Account be true or not there is great Reason to apprehend if the Rebellion should continue another year that the River Mississippi will be the Channel through which the Rebels will receive very considerable supplies of Ammunition, unless We obtain strict Orders from the Court of Spain to prevent their Subjects from furnishing these Supplies and also keep a sufficient Military force upon the Mississippi to search all Boats whatever carrying Ammunition up the River.

[Endorsed] Rd 5th March 1777.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/621, 365-70, LC Photocopy.
2. A merchant in the Creek Indian trade.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS<sup>1</sup>

October [1776]

Lattde in 37..00 No

Saturday 26

First and Middle part little Wind and hazy  
Latter Fresh breezes and Clear PM Saw a Sail on the  
Lee Beam at 2 Bore away and gave Chace Sett the  
Studing Sails & Driver at 8 hauld the Wind In  
Chace at 10 Fired 5 Guns at the Chace & Brought her  
too A Sloop from Philadelphia bound to St Croix with  
Flour & Bread<sup>2</sup> sent a Midn and 5 Men on bd her

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/630.
2. Sloop *New York Packet*, E. Pringle, master and owner, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, *ibid.*, 1/487.

27 Oct. (Sunday)

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM FORT-LEE, OCTOBER 27, 1776."<sup>1</sup>

This morning about 7 o'clock two frigates moved up the North River,<sup>2</sup> and came to an anchor near Burdett's Ferry, apparently with an intention to stop the ferry-way, and cut off the communication between this place and Fort Washington. The enemy at the same time appeared on Harlem Plain, and Col. [Robert] Magaw, who commands on York Island, ordered the lines to be manned. The ships endeavoured to dislodge them by firing on their flanks, but they fired to very little purpose. The Barbette Battery on the high hill on the left of the Ferry opened on the frigates and fired a con-