

# **Naval Documents of The American Revolution**

**Volume 2**

**AMERICAN THEATRE: Sept. 3, 1775–Oct. 31, 1775**  
**EUROPEAN THEATRE: Aug. 11, 1775–Oct. 31, 1775**  
**AMERICAN THEATRE: Nov. 1, 1775–Dec. 7, 1775**

**Part 3 of 9**

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friendly sentiments towards the accomplishment of which I flatter myself you will immediately put a stop to a trade so very pernicious and disgraceful.

Should any of his Britannick Majesty's Ships under my Command chance to meet at Sea any of the above described American Vessels (having Powder and Warlike Stores on board) they have my Express orders, forthwith to seize them; notwithstanding a French Nominal Master, may be on board the said Vessel, and call her his property.

Captain Gordon of the *Argo* will deliver this Letter and give any further information you may think necessary. I have the honor to be &[c]

James Young

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122. Count de Nozières was governor of Guadeloupe and Martinique.

### 8 Oct. (Sunday)

#### GEORGE WASHINGTON'S INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN SION MARTINDALE <sup>1</sup>

Instructions to Capt Sion Martingale [Martindale] Captain of the armed ~~Schooner~~ the *Eagle* <sup>2</sup> Brigg the *Washington*

1. You being appointed a Captain in the Army of the United Colonies of North America, are hereby directed to take the Command of a Detachment of said Army & proceed on Board the Armed ~~Schooner~~ Brigg called the *Eagle Washington* lately fitted & equipp'd with Arms, Amunition & Provisions at the Continental Expence.
2. You are to proceed as Commander of the said ~~Schooner~~ Brigg immediately on a Cruize against such Vessels as may be found on the High Seas or elsewhere bound inwards or outwards to or from Boston in the Service of the Ministerial Army & to take & seize all such Vessels laden with Soldiers, Arms, Ammunition or Provisions for or from Said Army or which you shall have good Reason to suspect are in such Service.
3. If you should be so Successful as to take any of said Vessels you are immediately to send them to the nearest & Safest Port to this Camp under a Careful Prize Master directing him to notify me by Express immediately of such Capture with all Particulars & there to await my farther Direction.
4. You are to be very particular & diligent in your search after all Letters or other Papers tending to discover the Designs of the Enemy or of any other Kind & to forward all such to me as soon as possible.
5. Whatever Prisoners you may take your are to treat with Kindness as far as is consistent with your own Safety – their private Stock of Money, & Apparel to be given them after being duly searched, and when they arrive at any Port you are to apply to the Committee or to any Officer of the Continental Army stationed at such Port for a Guard to bring them up to Head Quarters
6. For your own Encouragement & that of the other Officers & Men to Activity & Courage in their Service over & above your Pay in the continental Army you shall be intitled to one Third Part of the Cargo of every Vessel by you taken & sent into Port (military and naval Stores only excepted which with the

Vessels & Apparel are reserved for the publick Service) – which said third part is to be divided among the Officers & Men in the following Proportions –

Captain	6 shares
1st Lieutenant	5 ditto
2nd Lieutenant	4 ditto
Surgeon	4 Do
Ship's Master	3 Shares
Steward	2 do
Mate	1½ do
Gunner	1½ do
Boatswain	1½ do
Gunners Mate & Serjs	1½ do
Privates	1 Share each.

7. You are particularly charged to avoid any Engagement with any armed Vessel of the Enemy, tho' you may be equal in strength or may have some small Advantage; the Design of this Enterprise being to intercept the Supplies of the Enemy which will be defeated by your running into unnecessary Engagements.
8. As there may be other Vessels employed in the same Service with yourselves you are to fix upon proper Signals & your Stations being settled so as to take the greatest Range avoid cruizing on the same Ground – if you should happen to take Prizes in Sight of each other the Rules which take Place among private Ships of War are to be observed in the Distribution of the prize Money.
9. In Case of retaking the Vessel of any Friend to the American Cause – I will recommend it to such Person to make a suitable Compensation to them who have done such a Service – but such Vessels are not to be deemed as coming within the Directions respecting other Vessels.
10. You are to be extremely careful and frugal of your Ammunition – by no means to waste any of it in Salutes or for any Purpose but what is absolutely necessary.<sup>3</sup>

G<sup>o</sup> Washington

Head Quarters Cambridge – Octobr 8, 1775.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Photocopy. The document was found in Martindale's possession when the *Washington* was taken by H.M.S. *Fowey* on December 4, 1775.
2. *Eagle* seems to have been the name originally selected for the vessel which Washington intended to be a schooner. As will be seen subsequently, Martindale induced headquarters to alter the rig to that of a brig, and along with this alteration came the change in name.
3. This commission, the second issued by Washington for a naval vessel, is almost identical in text with that issued Nicholson Broughton on September 2, 1775. The only material change is in the addition of a surgeon to the complement, and an allowance to him of four prize shares.

JOHN WENTWORTH TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Boston 8th October 1775.

I have the Honour this moment to receive your Excellency's Letter informing me that the King had been pleased to order your Attendance in England to lay

before his Majesty the particular State of this Country, also that Major General Carleton and Major General Howe, were appointed to the Command of his Majesty's Forces in the Districts respectively mentioned, during your absence; and referring my Correspondence accordingly, to which I shall pay the greatest Attention, and be very happy in Cooperating with those Major Generals in every Measure for his Majesty's service.

Permit me Sir to present my best wishes for your Excellency's safe & pleasant Passage to England, and that every describable circumstance may propitiate your Voyage. I have the Honor to be with the greatest Regard, Sir, [&c.]

J Wentworth

1. Gage Papers, CL.

LETTER FROM BOSTON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Oct. 8.

There are several vessels belonging to Philadelphia here, viz. Captains Dean, Doman, Bradford, Mallowny, Warden,<sup>2</sup> and Brig *Polly*, Hurst, for Madeira, besides about 50 sail more belonging to other ports, the West Indies, &c.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, November 6, 1775

2. These captains were John Sheridan, of the sloop *Phoenix*, Thomas Dowman, of the ship *Charming Peggy*, and Joseph Bradford, of the brig *Sea Nymph* (all on Graves's Prize List, II, 36-38, BM), John Mallowney, out of New York, James Warden of the schooner *Tryal* and G. Hurst, of the brig *Polly*, which cleared Philadelphia for Madeira just prior to July 24, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N.<sup>1</sup>

By Samuel Graves Esqr Vice Admiral of the White and Commander in chief of His Maj's Ships and Vessels employed and to be employ'd in the River Saint Lawrence &ca &ca

Whereas my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have Ordered his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* to be one of the Squadron under my command employ'd in North America, to carry into execution the Acts of Parliament restraining the Trade of the Colonies to prevent the unlawful importation of Gun Powder, Arms and Ammunition to any part of North America, to annoy and distress the inhabitants of those Provinces who are in actual Rebellion against the King, and to defend and protect the persons and property and the lawful Commerce of his Majesty's faithful subjects; You are hereby required and directed to observe the following Instructions for your conduct upon whatever station I may have occasion to employ you.

1st

You are always to acquaint the Governor for his Majesty's of the province wherein you may be stationed with your arrival and from time to time consult with him in what manner the ship you command may be best employed for the Protection of his Majesty's faithful Subjects, and their property, the Support of Legal authority of Government, and to answer such other purposes as the Exigencies of the times may make necessary, for the Good of the Kings Service; You

are to give your utmost assistance according to the information and advice you may receive from the Governor, and use your best endeavour to employ the Kings Ship under your command very diligently towards answering the purposes before mentioned.

2d

And whereas by the 4th and 5th Articles of the Treaty of peace concluded at Paris the 10th Day of February 1763, it is Stipulated that the Province of Canada with all its dependencies, as well as the Island of Cape Breton, and all other Islands and Coasts in the Gulph and River Saint Lawrence, and all that depends upon them shall belong to the Crown of Great Britain, but his Majesty having by the Said 5th Article consented to leave the Subjects of the most Christian King the Liberty of Fishing in the Gulph of Saint Lawrence, upon condition that they do not exercise the Said Fishery, but at the distance of three Leagues from all the Coasts belonging to great Britain, as well those of the Continent, as those of the Islands situated in the Gulph of Saint Lawrence, and as the fishing out of the Said Gulph, it being thereby Stipulated that the Subjects of the most Christian King, shall not be permitted, to exercise the said Fishery but at the distance of fifteen Leagues from the Coasts of the Islands of Cape Briton, and that the Fishery upon the Coast of Nova Scotia or Acadia, and every where else out of the said Gulph, shall remain upon the footing of former Treaties; You are therefore to use your utmost care, diligence and attention that the Several Stipulations herein before mentioned, be duly and strictly performed, according to the tenor and intention thereof, as far as they may come within the Limits of your station, and also to guard and protect the Fishery of his Majesty's Subjects within those Limits, taking care to prevent the Subjects of France from Giving them any disturbance, by acts of violence, or injustice, or by any evasion contrary to the Spirit, and intention of the said treaties, and likewise to prevent the French from catching Fish, except within the distances and in the manner before mentioned.

3d

You are at the same time to be carefull that the subjects of his the most Christian King, be permitted quietly and peaceably to enjoy the privilege of fishing within the distances herein before mentioned, and you are to use your best endeavors, to prevent his Majesty's subjects from giving them any disturbance by acts of violence or injustice, or by any Evasion contrary to the Spirit and intention of the Said Treaties; and whereas by the Said Treaty of Paris, possession of the Islands of St Peter and Miquelon has been given up to France, in case any Endeavors shall be used to carry on any illicit Trade from those Islands with any part of His Majesty's Dominions in North America within the Limits of your station, you are to be particularly attentive to the same and prevent all Communication between the Islands of Saint Peter and Miquelon, and any part of His Majesty's Dominions in North America, and from time to time to give me such information of the illicit Trade suspected to be carried on between the Said Islands and the Continent of North America, as may come to your Knowledge.

## 4th

When you shall be stationed where fisheries are carried on, you are not to take on board the Ship you command to be Transported abroad any Seamen or other than such as do belong to you, and as you are not to lend any of your Ships company to any of the Fishing Vessels, so neither are you to suffer to be taken on board the Ship you command any Sort of Fish, either by way of Merchantdize, freight, or otherwise, excepting what be necessary for the use and Spending of your Ships Company.

## 5th

And whereas several Persons who have made Settlements, and formed establishments with a view of carrying on Sedentary Fisheries, on those parts of Quebec and Nova Scotia which lie on the Western side of the Gulph of St Lawrence, have been greatly obstructed and discouraged in the prosecution of their Laudable views by the Abuses and irregularities which have been committed as well by their own Servants, as by American Vessels which resort thither from New England, and other parts, you are hereby required and directed in case you shall at any time be stationed in the Gulph of St Lawrence, or on the Coast of Nova Scotia and Quebec, to visit and give all the protection in your power to the several Fisheries established in the Bay of Chaleur and Gaspee, and other places on the said Coasts, and you are also hereby required and directed to repair occasionally to the Island of St John to protect the Fisheries which may be carrying on, and to assist the infant Colony established there.

## 6th

You are not to dismantle your Ship or lay her up during the Winter unless there shall be real necessity for so doing of which you are to inform me, and give a particular account of the Condition you put her in, the time of her laying up, and the nature of the weather during the Winter.

## 7th

You are to give the utmost aid and assistance in your power upon the Water to the officers of the Customs in the due and legal execution of the Laws Trade and Navigation, according to the due intent and meaning of said Laws, and the Several Acts of Parliament made in that behalf for the support of the King's Revenue.

## 8th

You are to cause your Ship to be supplied from time to time, with such provisions as may be needful by such persons, or the Agents of such Persons as may be under contract with the Commissioners of the Victualling for furnishing the Same to his Majesty's Ships and vessels, at such places as you may have occasion to touch at taking care to make timely application to the Said Contractor, or their Agents, for such Provisions accordingly, and whenever you are ordered to England you are not to take in more than shall be sufficient to complete what you have on

board to three Months, upon penalty of making Good what damage his Majesty may Sustain by your Acting otherwise.

## 9th

Whereas great Liberty has been some times taken in Supplying Owners or Masters of Merchant Ships with Naval Stores from His Majestys Ships upon Slight occasion, which is a proceeding that may be attended with many inconveniencies to his Majesty's Service, you are hereby Strictly charged not to Spare any Stores from his Majesty's Ship under your command to any Merchant Ship or Vessel whatsoever unless it shall very evidently appear that such Ship or Vessel is in the utmost distress for the want thereof, that the Same cannot possibly be otherwise procured, and that the Ship you command can Spare them without inconveniency, and even in such case you are not to take Bond for the delivery of the like species but to take care that the Same be either paid for to you or that sufficient security be given, that payment shall be punctually made to his Majesty's Storekeeper if at Halifax or to the Treasurer of the Navy in England, and to take care that an account be transmitted by the very first opportunity to me, of any Stores that shall be so spared by You, to whom, and the particular reasons for the Same, and in case any monies are paid to you on that account, you are to pay the same into the hands of the Storekeeper in Halifax.

## 10th

You are to observe that no Bills will be allowed for work done to his Majesty's Ship under your command between one refitting and another, unless some unavoidable accident, or the Service you are employed on, make the same absolutely necessary, in which case you are always to cause it to be done, with as much frugality as possible, to take proper Vouchers and draw Bills for the Same as directed by the General printed instructions; but you are never to make any alterations in your Ship without my order, unless it be for her immediate preservation, or 'tis obviously necessary for the Security or defence of the Crew during the present Rebellion and in that case to acquaint me therewith if any Expence is thereby incurr'd to the Crown.

## 11th

The Commissioners of his Majestys Navy having represented to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the expence of Cordage and Stores of all Sorts even at the Kings Yards abroad, appear to them to be very great, that they cannot help entertaining an opinion that there is carelessness in the use, and Management of them, and that Rigging is often condemned when it might last much longer, especially when they observe by the Journals delivered into their office, how very little some of the Stationed Ships appear to have been at sea; You are hereby Strictly charged to be very careful in the Management, and to use the utmost good Husbandry in the Expenditure of your Cordage, Rigging and other Stores, and to take care that none be condemned but when there shall be an absolute necessity for it.

## 12th

And Whereas it is highly necessary that you should be always as much as possible upon your Guard to prevent desertion you are never to suffer a Boat to go on shore from the Ship under your command witht [without] a petty officer in her, and whenever an officer goes on Shore upon Service, or his pleasure, the Same Caution is to be observed, and no Boat is to be kept waiting on any account, but as soon as the officer's appointed time, which he is to be enjoined to be very exact in keeping.

## 13th

And Whereas the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, have Signified that the Case relative to the importation of Bullion into his Majestys Colonies in North America in foreign Bottoms has been refered to the Attorney and Solicitor Generals, and that they have Given their opinion that by the true Construction of the 12th Charles the second; Ch. 18 and 7th and 8th of King William the third Bullion may be imported into the Plantations in foreign Bottoms, You are hereby required and directed not to Seize, or molest foreign Vessels bringing Bullion to any part of his Majesty's Dominion in North America, in like manner as has been heretofore used, but you are to convey them to Boston or to any port in possession of his Majesty's forces, and where the property may not fall into the hands of the Rebels untill my directions can be obtained concerning them.

## 14th

Whereas a New Settlement is forming and a Town building by his Majestys Subjects on Amelia Island on the Coast of East Florida, near the entrance of St Mary's River, You are hereby required in case you shall be stationed at [New] Providence and the Bahama Islands, to repair occasionally to the before mentioned Island, as the other Services on which you are employed will admit, and to give the Settlers there any protection and assistance they may stand in need of.

## 15th

And Whereas the King has thought fit to direct that a small part of his Forces stationed at St Augustine not exceeding Two Companies, shall do duty in the Forts of the Bahama Islands; You are hereby required and directed upon application from the commander in chief of his Majesty's Forces in North America for the time being to provide a passage for the said Forces and their Baggage on board the Ship you command to and from the said places as occasion may require, unless the Same should interfere with some other very essential Service, on which you may happen to be employed, at the time when the application is made in which case their transportation must be postponed 'till such very essential service shall be performed.

## 16th

Whereas it has been represented by Lord William Campbell late Governor of Nova Scotia, that the Revenue officers at Halifax have cause to suspect that

an unfair use has sometimes been made of the Clause inserted in an Act of that Province: Whereby it is ordered that all Rum and other Spirits issued for the use of his Majesty's Ships, by the Contractors should be exempted from the Payment of the whole of the excise duties under certain Regulations, particularly that no part of what was shipped should be relanded, or sold within the Jurisdiction of that Province, In order therefore to prevent such abuse in future, you are hereby required and directed not to give any Certificate for Rum, or other Spirits received on board his Majesty's [ship] under your command when at Halifax, except for such Rum, or Spirits as shall be furnished by the Contractor of the Victualling or his Agent for the time being and the Quantity to be first certified from him to you before you sign any Certificate.

17th

The Commissioners of his Majesty's Navy have Signified to me that Men sent home from foreign Stations as Invalids having only written Certificates from the Surgeons of the Hospitals, which are not accompanied by the Ships Sick Ticket, whereby the public is put to great expense by their long continuance in the Hospitals in England before they can receive their wages, you are hereby required and directed in order to prevent invalids being sent home in this irregular manner in future to take particular care when any men are Discharged from his Majesty's Ship under your command unserviceable, that you transmit the proper pay Ticket and Certificate as directed by the Late Act of Parliament, to the Commissioners of his Majesty's Navy, and you are also directed when any Men belonging to his Majesty's Ship under your command are sent to the Hospital for cure in any part of the Continent, to send a duplicate Ticket properly filled up and Signed with them.

18th

You are further required and directed to cause your Purser to pay with Money for all such water as may from time to time be wanted for the use of His Majesty's Ship under your command; their Lordships having directed the Victualling Board to allow him on the passing his Accounts for all the Water he may so purchase, upon the Vouchers being approved by the commander in chief, and not otherwise, at the same time, I shall not allow of the Water being charged which you may use in brewing of Spruce Beer for the use of the Ship.

19th

And whereas the due performance of the Services aforementioned will depend in a Great Measure upon the Ship you command being at Sea as much as possible, you are to keep your Ship and Boats in constant readiness to attend such Service, and when Cruizing you are not to go into Port unnecessarily, nor to remain there longer than your wants, and necessaries or the public Service which may occasion your going thither, shall unavoidably require.

20th

You are to correspond with me at Boston & transmit to me by all opportunities an account of your proceedings, with the State and Condition of his Majesty's Ship under your command, together with such other accounts and Intelligence as you may judge necessary, to make me acquainted with and you are likewise to acknowledge in writing the receipt of all Letters, and Orders you may at any time receive from me on his Majesty's Service, mentioning the Date and purport thereof, and time of Receiving.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Preston* at Boston the 8th Octobr 1775

Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves

To Captain Hamond <sup>2</sup>  
 Commanding His Majs Ship the *Roebuck*  
 By Command of the Admiral  
 Geo Gefferina

1. Hamond Papers, Orders received, 1775-1776, UVL.
2. While this order was issued to Captain Hamond upon his arrival in American waters, it was actually a general order supplied each commanding officer upon arrival on the North American Station.

#### NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

[Boston] 8th [October, 1775]

However, maugre all impediments, the small Armament [under Lieutenant Henry Mowat] sailed on its operations from Boston on the 8th of October . . .

The same day a Transport having Troops on board for Halifax proceeded under convoy of the *Fowey* for that place. And a Lieutenant who commanded a Transport, which arrived Yesterday, reporting that he had been chased in the Bay by a Rebel Schooner, which from her appearance he guessed to be his Majesty's late Schooner *Diligent*, that the Rebels had taken some time ago at Mechias,<sup>2</sup> the Admiral thereupon ordered the *Nautilus*, as being by much the best going Vessel of any then at Boston and none other being so ready and in all respects so proper for this sudden Service, to put to Sea immediately in quest of the Rebels but to return in eight days to Nantasket, for according to her former destination she was to have sailed in two or three days for the River Delaware, of which the Admiral was never unmindful and where there was a necessity for a Ship of War.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 141-143, BM.
2. The pursuer of the transport was not the "*Diligent*" [*Diligence*], which never came that far west, but Washintgon's armed schooner *Hannah*, commanded by Captain Nicholson Broughton.

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

October 1775                      Standing off and On between the Ferry's -  
 Sunday 8                      A M was getting off Stock but the Rebels firing upon us was

Oblig'd to quit the Shore P M Employ'd getting Stock of [f] Hogg Island

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Swan*, CAPTAIN JAMES AYSCOUGH <sup>1</sup>

Octr 1775 At Single Anchor in the Stream [off Bristol]  
 Sunday 8 Saw a Number of Armed People Came Down & fired [o]n the Boats of the Fleet Getting stock off [fired] several Shot at them weigh'd & Came to sail Pr Signal As did the rest of the Fleet. Do Fird Several Shot at a Number of Arm'd People, Run in & Came to An anchor in 4 fms Water off Hogg Island Boats of the Fleet Employ'd Getting Stock off,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Glasgow*, CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE <sup>1</sup>

1775 Octr [Rhode Island Harbor]  
 Sunday 8 at 8 A M got the Ship off & Came too in 4 fathom Water at 1 P M weigh'd & Came to sail at 3 Came too in the Mouth of Bristol Harbour, sent the boats on shore for Stock at 7 the Boats returned

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES <sup>1</sup>

[Newport] October 8.

This Morng we heard that Capt Wallace with his Fleet fired on the To of Bristol last Night. An inhuman Wretch! The Surprize & hasty flight [of the Rev. W. Burt of Bristol] from the savage Canonade of Wallace undoubtedly occasion his Death <sup>2</sup>

1. Dexter, ed., *Diary of Ezra Stiles*, I, 623.

2. See Letter from Bristol, Rhode Island, to New York Correspondent, October 12, 1775.

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

[Philadelphia] 8 [October, 1775]. About two, was brought to town, Christopher Carter with a number of letters from on board the brig *Black-Prince*.

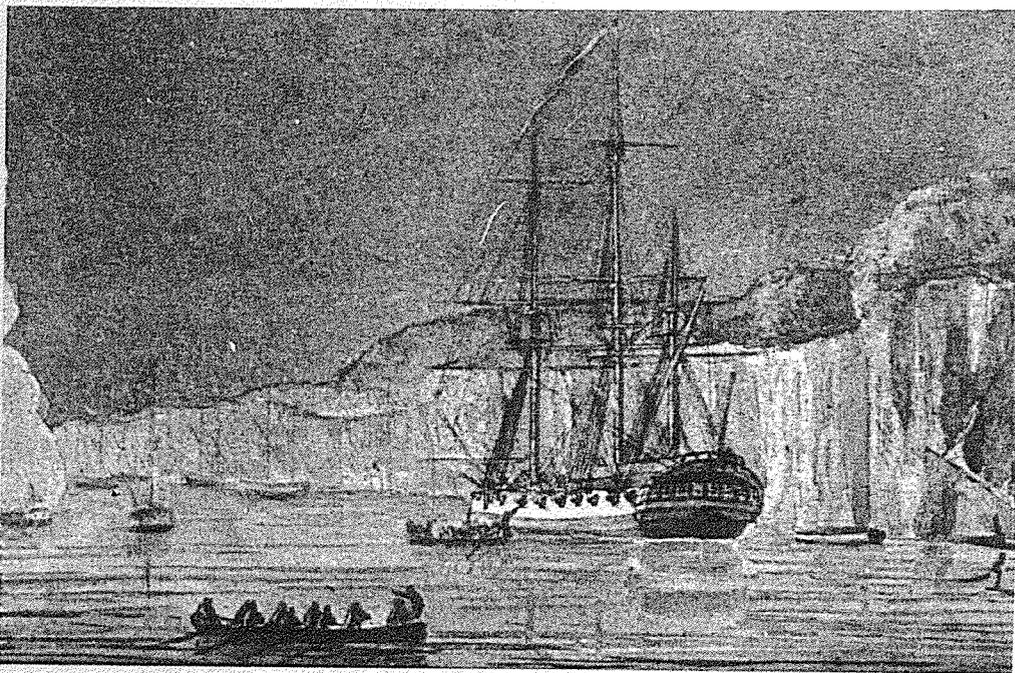
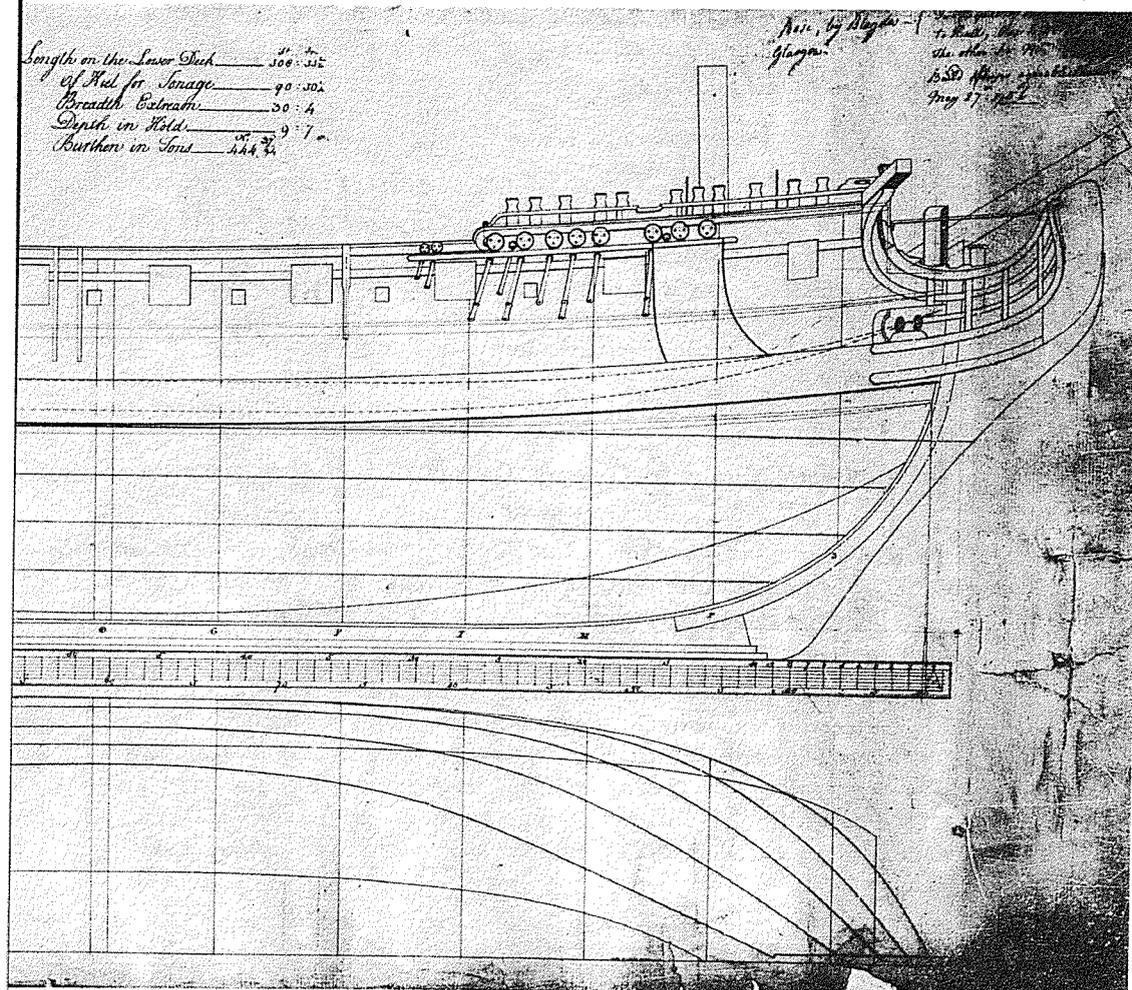
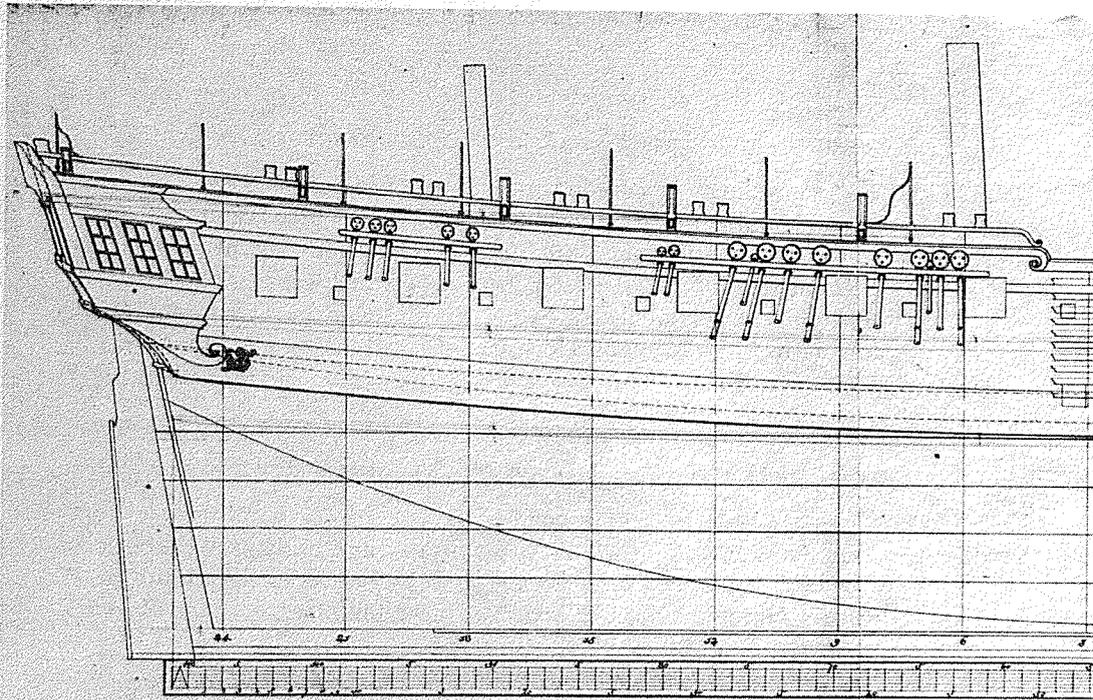
1. Duane, ed., *Marshall's Diary*, 46.

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

[Philadelphia] October 8th.

*Resolved*, That Captain Peter Long be appointed Ship's Husband.

*Resolved*, That Mr. [John] Wharton & Colo. [Anthony] Wayne be a Committee to go to the Carpenters down Town, & that Mr. [Owen] Biddle & Mr. [Bernard] Dougherty be a Committee to go to the Carpenters up Town, and desire



(Top) Sheer draft of HMS Rose, 20. (Lower left) HMS Rose. By Dominic Serres after Sir James Wallace, 1778. (Lower right) Section from the body plan of HMS Rose.



they would to-morrow morning assist, with all their hands, the getting a Float and taking down to Fort Island the Machines from Gloucester Shore.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 360.

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

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] October the 8, 1775

Can no Use be made of Rowe Gallies, with you? Eight or Ten are compleated here. Can they be used in the Vineyard Sound? Would not their heavy Metal demolish a Cruizer now and then? There is a Shipwright escaped from Boston, who [has] been several Years a Prisoner in a Turkish galley and has a Model of one. Coll. [Josiah] Quincy knows him – or I could procure you Directions from this Place to construct them.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 129–131.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN FRANCIS GRANT GORDON, H.M.S.  
*Argo*.<sup>1</sup>

By James Young Esqr Vice Admiral of the Red; and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed, and to be employed at Barbadoes, and the Leeward Islands and in the Sea adjacent.

You are hereby required and directed to proceed immediately with his Majesty's Ship *Argo*, under your Command to the Island Guadaloupe, and deliver the Letter you will herewith receive to the Count De Nosier; His most Christian Majesty's Governor General, of the Islands Martinique, Guadaloupe &c. and after you receive his Answer thereto; you are forthwith to return and join me in this Harbour; for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my Hand on board the *Portland* in English Harbour Antigua the 8th October 1775.

By Command of the Admiral Geo: Lawford.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

9 Oct.

BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD MONTGOMERY TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER<sup>1</sup>

Dear General

Camp South Side St Johns Octr. 9th

This Evening I have been favored with Yours by Colonel [James] Clinton, Every Reinforcement is welcome, but I expected more Men in 14 Batteaus, I find My Numbers but little encreased as I seldom see any of those Return I send to Tionderoga – The two Barrels of Sugar turn out two Barrels of Flour – We now have here and at the Isle au Noix 300 Barrels of Pork and 328 Barrels of Flour, so that I think You may venture to send more Men than Provisions – The Season advances fast & we shall have a heavy Piece of Work to get our

Cannon to the Westward, where we must have a strong Post, as it is at a Distance from Support & near the Enemy. —

Our Conference with St Luke [la Corne] has ended in Smoke — He made the Indian deliver my Letter to Carleton who had it burnt without reading It. — the Indian told the Governor very honestly that he was sent to me by St Luke & Others — The Indians of Caghanawaga attended at La Prairie according to Appointment & are much displeas'd at the Trick put upon them by those Gentlemen — they seem to think St Luke was discover'd in his Plan & dared not venture to carry it thro; — I hope We shall have more Powder!

The Enemy are exceedingly uneasy at the Post on the East Side & have made two ineffectual & indeed feeble Efforts to dislodge the Canadians. — The Battery there is not finished, they don't love work. —

I have been oblig'd to send them Assistance.

The very high Prices which Officers must pay here for every Thing brought from Tionderoga, are far above what their Scanty Pittance of Pay will allow of — I must request You will represent the peculiar Hardship of their Situation, which displac'es them entirely from the Footing of the Troops, employ'd among their Friends in the Midst of a Plentiful Country — if their Pay can't be augmented a Gratuity may be made to them adequate to the Difficulties they labour under. It might extend to Subalterns and Captains — perhaps it may not be so absolutely necessary to go any higher up — & Indeed the Detachment in the Country & on the North Side live very well & by what I can find, Cheap. — & I am afraid I shall have a disagreeable Reckoning with some of them, concerning the Public Money. —

I send a considerable Corps of sick; Little Mischief since my last, one or two wounded.

Your Residence at Tionderoga has probably enabled us to keep our Ground, How much do the Public owe You for Your Attention & Activity! I am &c  
Rich<sup>d</sup> Montgomery

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 218–221, NA; enclosed in Schuyler to the Continental Congress, October 11, 1775.

PORTSMOUTH COMMITTEE TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentn

Comtee Hall, Portsmo Octr 9th 1775.

In addition to what we wrote you the 7th Instant, We beg leave to mention the expediency of having a number of Men at the Batteries in case the Fleet mention'd in Genl Washington's Letter should be destined for this Port & have therefore given it in charge to the Comtee appointed to wait on you to request that a Number of men properly officer'd & equipped (We think 200 may be sufficient) may forthwith be forwarded from the Towns not far distant from this in order to attend at the said Batteries till the destination of the said Fleet is known, I am, By order of the Comtee of Safety Gentln, [&c.]

H. Wentworth, Chairman.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 620, 621.

STEPHEN MOYLAN AND COLONEL JOHN GLOVER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Salem 9th October 1775

We were too sanguine in our expectation[s] on saturday, which occasioned Mr Moylan to tell Mr Reed, that one of the Schooners would be ready for the sea on thursday next it is difficult to procure Carpenters to put them in the necessary order, we therefore think it will be saturday before the first will be ready to sail, on that day we wou'd recommend to your Excellency to order the Captain & his Company to set off – on the Wednesday ensuing we have no doubt, but that the other vessel will be properly fitted.

there has some difficultys occurd in the hire of these vessells, relative to the Manner in which they shoud be found. it is Customary for them to have but three sails, Mainsail foresail, & gib, these are sufficient for the Voyages they usually Make, the Owners justly remark, that were they to purchass the other sails Necessary for the present purpose, the hire of the vessells would be inadequate to the expence there are many objections made of a Smaller nature which we had no other method of Compromiseing than, agreeing, that on their part, they shall put their vessells in the same good order & Condition which they woud be obliged to do, were they hired to take in a Cargo for the West indies or elsewhere, & on ours, that what extra expence may accrue from the nature of their present employment, must be a publick Charge

Colonel Glover has given the strongest proofs of his good oppinion of the Schooner commanded by Captain [Nicholson] Broughton, he has ventured his brother & his favourite son on board of her,<sup>2</sup> however Lest any blame may lay with him, if any Misfortune shoud happen (which God avert) he will be pleasd to have the Captain & his Company removd to a vessell of better fame for Sailing,<sup>3</sup> we have for this purpose hired a schooner from Mr [Thomas] Stevens of Marblehead, She is noted for her good qualitys, & will be ready to take in the *Hannahs* Company & Stores in 12 or 14 days the extra Sails &c on board the Later will serve for her, she is taken up on the same terms with the other two, 4/p ton month or 5/4 Lawful money.

Your Excellency may be assured we have used our best diligence in transacting this business, which we will Continue to do in fitting them out appointing Agents, & in every Command you may please to honor us with – We the the honour[&c.]

Stephen Moylan John Glover

P.S. Yesterday afternoon about five o'Clock were seen coming out of Boston Harbour, & this morning about six o'Clock off of Marblehead, two Large ships of War, a Schooner & a sloop, Steering a N.N.E. course, it is apprehended they are goeing to Portsmouth. Mr Moylan will Set out for that place to morrow

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The brother was actually a brother-in-law, Richard James, sailing master of the *Hannah*, and the son, John Glover, Jr., her first lieutenant.

3. Although the *Hannah* was to be replaced, she remained in Continental pay for some time after October 10, when she was driven ashore in Beverly Cove. Colonel John Glover's Colony Ledger, MarbHS, in Glover's account with the United Colonies reads, "To Schoor *Hannah* Portledge Bill Capt Broughton Late Commander [£]44-5-4; To the

heir of ditto Schoo. 78 tons a one Doller pr Ton pr month for two months & 21 days is 208 dollers a 6/ - [£]32-8-0." Assuming the *Hannah* was hired by Washington around August 15, her final discharge would have been about November 6, 1775.

PETITION OF ICHABOD JONES TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

The most humble Petition of Ichabod Jones late of Boston now a Prisoner in the gaol in Northampton in the county of Hampshire Sheweth That he was about the 22d of August last comitted to the said gaol by virtue of a warrant of comittment from your Honours upon a charge of Offences supposed to have been comitted by your Petitioner whereof you are Not unacquainted – and Your Petitioner begs leave to Suggest that however criminal he May have been, Yet he perswaded himself that it is Not the intent of your honours that previous to his trial Your Petitioner should undergo any More affliction or Misery than is Absolutely Necessary in order to put it out of his Power (if he is an ill disposed person) to practice against his country and so to detain him that he may be forthcoming when he Shall be demanded to take such trial as the Laws of the land do or shall require –

Your Petitioner is an old man has been almost two months in close Confinement is Subject to Rheumatick and gouty disorders and as the season grows colder he finds them coming fast on him and the close confinement he is in (if long continud) will not only injure his health but endanger his life – he is ready in case your Honours would so far enlarge him as to indulge him the liberty of the Gaolers house and the prison yard to find any Security which your Honours Shall order that he will not go out of the limits of the prison yard, which is the favour and indulgence which he earnestly Supplicates your Honours to grant and order for him And he as in duty bound will ever pray –

October 9th 1775

Ichabod Jones

[Endorsed]

Octor 14th 1775 Read & by the major Part of the Council ordered, that the Prayer of the within Petition, be granted, on Condition the said Jones shall give Bond with one sufficient Surety, to the amount of two thousand Pounds, payable to the Colony Treasurer, to the use of the Colony, conditioned that the said Jones shall be forth coming when call'd upon by any future Order of this Council – And that the Sheriff of the County of Hampshire be impowered to take the said Bond & transmit it to the Treasurer's Office.

Perez Morton Depy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 150, 151.

ELBRIDGE GERRY TO SAMUEL ADAMS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Watertown, Oct. 9, 1775

My attention is directed to the fitting out of privateers, which I hope will make them swarm here. Is it not time to encourage individuals to exert themselves this way? General [Thomas] Gage before the commencement of hostilities destroyed or confiscated the provisions then collecting for the army, and can we hesitate at this time about the propriety of confiscating vessels employed by him

to infest the coasts, or supply his troops, or can we doubt the propriety of encouraging individuals by giving them the advantage resulting from their reprisals, when it is certain that other plans will not meet with such success as will probably attend this?

If the continent should fit out a heavy ship or two, and increase them as circumstances shall admit, the colonies large privateers, and individuals small ones, surely we may soon expect to see the coast clear of cutters.

1. James T. Austin, *The Life of Elbridge Gerry* (Boston, 1828), I, 116, 117.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Monday, October 9, 1775

Mr. Sullivan, according to Order, reported the following, which was read, and accepted, viz.

May it please your Honors:

The House has just received Intelligence that there are now at Long Island, near Penobscot River, several Persons employed in cutting Wood, in order to supply our Enemies, the Ministerial Army, now in Possession of the Town of Boston; and that Admiral [Samuel] Greaves has sent a Number of armed Vessels to guard and protect the Providers and Carriers of said Wood. And as the Militia, with the Forces raised in this Colony to defend the Sea Coast are under the Command of your Honors, the House begs Leave to suggest to you the Necessity of your taking this Matter under Consideration; that your Honors may order such Reinforcements as you shall judge necessary. And the House further begs Leave to suggest that one Captain [David] Bradish, now in the Army, can give your Honors information of the above Facts.

Ordered, That Mr. Sullivan, Col. Orne, Mr. Pitts, Col. Sawyer, and Mr. Mills, be a Committee to wait upon the Majority of the honorable Council with the foregoing Message. [Endorsed] In Council, October 9, 1775; Read and by the major part of the Council, Ordered, That William Sever, Walter Spooner, and Moses Gill, Esqs., be a Committee to consider the merits thereof, and report.

Afternoon.

The Report of the Committee appointed to consider the Expediency of fitting out armed Vessels was taken into Consideration. Read and accepted.

Whereas the unnatural Enemies of these Colonies have infested the Sea Coasts with armed Vessels, and are daily endeavouring to distress the Inhabitants, by plundering Live Stock, and making Captures of Provision and other Vessels, being the Property of said Inhabitants: And whereas the Grand Congress of America have resolved, "That each Colony at their own Expence, make such Provision by armed Vessels or otherwise, as their respective Assemblies, Conventions, or Committees of Safety shall judge expedient, and suitable to their Circumstances and Situations, for the Protection of their Harbours and Navigation on the Sea-Coasts, against all unlawful Invasions, Attacks and Depredations, from Cutters and Ships of War:" And whereas it is the Duty and Interest of each Colony to exert itself

as well for the Purpose of keeping Supplies from the Enemy, as for those mentioned in the Resolve just recited.

Therefore, Resolved, That a Committee be now appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill for the Confiscation of all armed and other Vessels, that shall be taken and brought into this Colony, together with their Cargoes, Appurtenances, &c. which shall have been found making unlawful Invasions, Attacks or Depredations on our Sea Coasts or Navigation, or improved in supplying the Enemy with Provisions, &c. or employed by them in any other Respect whatever. — And that Provision be made in said Bill for encouraging such of the Inhabitants of this Colony, as shall for this Purpose be recommended by the Committees of Correspondence and Safety of the Town in which they shall dwell, to fit our armed Vessels under such Regulations as the General Court shall order; and that all Vessels and Cargoes that shall be taken by said Inhabitants or others, properly authorized to take the same, and that shall be legally condemned in this Colony, shall be the Property of the Captors, they paying the Charges of Condemnation. Also, that further Provision be made in said Bill for determining the Salvage that shall be allowed on such Vessels as shall be retaken from the Enemy before Condemnation; and for erecting a Court for the Trial and Condemnation of all Vessels, Cargoes, &c. as aforesaid, that shall be taken and brought into this Colony.

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

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir . . . . . *Preston Boston 9 October 1775.*

A small Sloop from Bermuda anchored here the 28, and I received by the hands of a trusty Negroe a Letter from Governor [George] Bruere. I enclose a Copy of it <sup>2</sup>

You may perceive that the Rebels of the Continent are indefatigable in spreading their poison, and that even Bermudas and the Bahama Islands abound with men under their influence, who though liable to be crushed with a single Blow are yet daring enough to be guilty of Robbery and Rebellion. Governor Bruere does not mention it, but I am informed 40 pieces of Cannon are in Store at Bermuda besides a number of fine Ordnance in the Forts round the Island, and that there is reason to apprehend the Rebels will endeavour to carry them off. I have therefore acquainted Governor Bruere that I will send a Ship for the preservation of the Kings Stores, and the Support of his Majesty's Government there, the moment it is in my power, which I shall accordingly do.

The *Halifax* anchored at Nantasket the first inst and Lieut. Grame arrived from Virginia in the *Mercury*, with Captain Macartney under an Arrest in consequence of a Complaint against him by Lord Dunmore Governor of Virginia, of which Complaint I acquainted you in my Letter August 17th and transmitted Copies of Lord Dunmore's accusation, of my Answer, and of Captain George Montagu's Answer upon my requiring him to inform me of such Facts relative to Captain Macartney's misconduct as had come to his knowledge. I now inclose a Copy of another Letter to me from Lord Dunmore, two from Captain Macart-

ney and my Answers; these contain the whole of this Business that I am acquainted with: It is at present impossible for his Lordship to come here to prosecute his Charge. The accusation is so controvertible that if a Court Martial was ordered to sit, in all likelihood from want of evidence no satisfactory Judgement could be given, and above all the Service at this Juncture not admitting of long trials, I have granted Captain Macartney's request to send him to England, there to be disposed of as their Lordships may think best. My Letter to Lord Dunmore on receiving his Lordship's accusation against Captain Macartney fully shewed the opinion I entertained of that Gentleman's abilities as an Officer; farther in justice to him I desire to represent that the Account of Proceedings on his passage to Virginia, transmitted to me before he knew of his suspension, met my entire approbation. I shall continue Lieutenant Grame acting by my order in the *Mercury*, and not discharge Captain Macartney until I am honoured with their Lordships Commands.

His Majesty's Sloop *Raven* arrived the 4th inst after a long and tedious passage from Plymouth; By Captain [John]. Stanhope I received their Lordships Orders and your Letters agreeable to the inclosed List.

Finding that forbearing to punish the people of the four New England Governments, for their many rebellious and pyratyical Acts, only encouraged them to go greater lengths, I determined to observe a different Conduct, and if possible destroy some of their Towns and Shipping. To this end I sent General Gage a Letter dated Sepr 1st a Copy of which and of his Answer is inclosed: many difficulties occurred in the procuring and equipping the *Symmetry* Transport and *Spitfire* Sloop with proper Stores for the Expedition, and, the weak State of the Garrison hardly allowing any Draughts to be made, General Gage could spare but One hundred Men, commanded by Captain Lieut. Forster of Marines with a subaltern Officer. The Command of the whole consisting of the Vessels as pr Margin I have given to Lieut. [Henry] Mowat of the *Canceaux* armed Ship, solely from his being well acquainted with the Pilotage of the Coast, where his operations are to be carried on. I have ordered him

*Canceaux* armed Ship

*Hallifax* armed Schr

*Symmetry* armed Transpt

*Spitfire* armed Sloop

to take the Advantage of Wind and Weather and enter any of the Harbours to the Eastward of Boston, and if possible first to go to Cape Anne where the Rebels thought proper to fire upon the *Falcon* and where they took several

of her Officers and Crew, and sent them prisoners in the Country; Lieut. Mowats Orders are to burn and lay waste the Towns and destroy the Shipping in Harbours when they cannot with Ease be taken away. This flying Squadron lay ready to depart when the *Raven* arrived. Their Lordships Orders by her coinciding exactly with what was then doing gave me great pleasure; The few little advantages the Rebels have had over us have given them confidence, and there is no doubt of his Majesty's Ships being fired upon and opposed in every place where the Rebels can do it with impunity or with a Shadow of success. I have ordered Mr Mowat to protect the person and property of his Majesty's loyal Subjects wherever they can be distinguished; And he sailed Yesterday the 8th instant from Nantasket.

On the 5th instant the *Nautilus* returned with three Brigs, two of them Captain Collins had taken,<sup>3</sup> and according to his Orders carried them to Rhode Island, from whence Captain [James] Wallace sent them to Boston; I inclose a Copy of Captain Wallace's Letter.

The *Fowey* sailed Yesterday for Halifax. The *Nautilus* is to cruize a few days in the Bay, where a Rebel Schooner last Saturday chaced and fired four Shot at one of the Transports coming in from Newfoundland.

General Gage being ordered to England takes his passage in the *Pallas* Transport. I have appointed the *Mercury* to convoy his Excellency over St George's Bank and I expect he will sail Tomorrow.

I have ordered the *Raven* to lie in Nantasket, and the *Scarborough* to come up to be caulked, which she is in great Want of.

Inclosed is the State and Condition and Disposition of his Majesty's Squadron under my Command and a State of the Hospital. I am Sir &c

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 143-145, BM.
2. Bruere's letter of August 19, 1775. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122,350.
3. The two prizes taken by the *Nautilus* were the sloop *Polly*, George Walker, master, with coffee from the French West Indies to Philadelphia, and the schooner *Tryal*, James Warden, master, with coffee, cocoa and tin, from St. Eustatius for Philadelphia. Both vessels were condemned and sold in Boston. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, II, 36-38, BM.

DISPOSITION OF SHIPS UNDER THE COMMAND OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

Rate	Ships	Commanders	Disposition
4	<i>Preston</i>	V. A. Graves Jno Robinson	Moor'd before the Town
3	<i>Boyne</i>	Bk Hartwell	Off Castle Island
6	<i>Scarbro</i>	Aw Barkley	At Nantasket
5	<i>Cerberus</i>	Jno Symons	betwn Chas Town & Boston
6	<i>Mercury</i>	Lt Graeme p order	Boston Moor'd before the Town
Slo.	<i>Raven</i>	Capt Jno Stanhope	
Store- sp	<i>Adventure</i>	Lt Jno Hallum	Do Do
Schr	<i>Hope</i>	Geo. Dawson	haul'd ashore to be Caulk'd
6	<i>Rose</i>	Capt Js Wallace	} At Rhode Island
"	<i>Glasgow</i>	Tyrm Howe	
Slo.	<i>Swan</i>	Js Ayscough	} Ditto, Ordered to Boston
Brig	<i>Bolton</i>	Lt Thos Graves	
3	<i>Asia</i>	Capt Geo Vandeput	New York
Slo.	<i>Viper</i>	Saml Graves	On his Passage to Do
"	<i>Otter</i>	Matw Squire	At Virginia
"	<i>Kingsfisher</i>	Jas Montagu	Do
"	<i>Cruizer</i>	Fras Parry	No Carolina, Order'd to Boston
"	<i>Scorpion</i>	Hble Tollemache	Do
"	<i>Tamar</i>	Capt Ed Thornbro	At So Carolina, Order'd to Boston

Rate	Ships	Commanders	Disposition
Schr	<i>St. Lawrence</i>	Lt Jno Graves (1st)	At St Augustine
"	<i>St John</i>	Wm Grant	At the Bahama Islands
Slo.	<i>Falcon</i>	Capt Jno Linzee	Expected to arrive in about a Week from new Providence with two Transports with Ordce Stores
6	<i>Lively</i>	Thos Bishop	At Penobscot Bay with Trans- ports sent for fuel
"	<i>Tartar</i>	Ed Medows	} Bay of Fundy with Transports getting forage & fuel
Slo.	<i>Merlin</i>	W. C. Burnaby	
"	<i>Senegal</i>	Wm Dudingston	} At Halifax
3	<i>Somerset</i>	Ed LeCras	
Schr	<i>Hinchingbrook</i>	Lt Alexr Ellis	Gone to Newfoundland
Slo	<i>Savage</i>	Capt Hu. Bromedge	Do Quebec
"	<i>Hunter</i>	Thos Mackenzie	At Montreal
Brig	<i>Gaspee</i>	Lt Wm Hunter	Gone to Halifax to Careen
6	<i>Fowey</i>	Capt Geo. Montagu	Cruizing in Boston Bay
Slo.	<i>Nautilus</i>	Jno Collins	} On an Expedition along the Eastern Coast against the Rebels.
Ard Ship	<i>Canceaux</i>	Lt Hy Mowat	
Schr	<i>Halifax</i>	Jno De la Touche	

Preston Boston 9th Octr 1775

Saml<sup>1</sup> Graves

(A Copy)

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 35.

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

Octr 1775

Cape Code S E b S 3 Leagus

Monday 9th

at 1 A M made Sail the great Brewster W S W at 3 hove too do  
Duble reef the Top sails at 6 fresh gales and Squally close Reefs  
the Topsails handed the Mizon T S at 10 Cape Ann N N W 7 or  
8 Leagues do bore up for Cap Code the *Halifax* Schooner Joind  
Company at 4 P M come too under the Beach of Cape Code  
Harbour in 18 fm Water Saw a Schooner under the Et Shore at  
anchor Sent the *Halifax* and *Spitfire* after her at 7 Saw the  
flashes of [several] guns between them at 10 the above vessels  
Joind us and Run the Schooner ashore

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.

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

October 1775                    N W End of Ho[g] Island Et  
 Monday 9                    6 A M weighd and came to Sail Co as before at 1 P M Stand-  
     ing off and on between Bristol & ferry the *Swan* run on board us  
     caried away our Spritsl Yard and Jibb Boom

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Swan*, CAPTAIN JAMES AYS COUGH <sup>1</sup>

Octr 1775                    at Single Anchor in the Strea[m]  
 Mondy 9th                    [off Bristol] weigh'd & Came to sail as did the Rest of the Fleet  
     Fir'd Several Shot of[f] Bristol Ferry working Backwards & Fore-  
     wards, & Firing at the Ferrys Came too in 8 fms Water Bristol ferry  
     E N E Distce of[f] Shore 1/2 a Mile -

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

*Newport Mercury*, MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1775

Newport, October 9.

By the motions of some of the men of war and transports, in this harbour, last Monday [October 2], it was suspected they intended to take off live stock from the farms on the south part of this island, called Brenton's Neck, the ensuing night; whereupon a number of persons went down in the evening and brought off about 1000 sheep and between 40 and 50 head of horned cattle from several farms: But there still remained a considerable number of cattle, sheap and hogs, on two farms belonging to Jahleel and Benjamin Brenton, great part of which 'tis supposed were by them there collected for and sold to the men of war, to be sent to Boston, for the express purpose of supplying our inveterate enemies. - The next day the ships took off, from said Brentons farms, about 25 head of cattle and 150 sheep; on Wednesday they took 5 or 6 more cattle. There being still left on the farms of James, Jahleel and Benjamin Brenton, between 60 and 70 head of cattle. On Wednesday, and Thursday morning, about 300 *Minute-men* arrived here from the county of Providence, Tiverton and Little Compton, under the command of the Cols. Eseek Hopkins and William Richmond, Esqrs; and as soon as they had refreshed themselves, they marched into the Neck, and brought off 66 horned cattle, some sheep, hogs, and poultry, the ships the same time lying within gun shot, and discharged several cannon at them, but without any effect.

This town having been threatened to be fired on from the men of war, on account of the armed force which made its appearance here, a great many of the inhabitants moved part of all their effects out; and many families have left the town. The carts, chaises, riding chairs, and trucks, were so numerous that the streets and roads were almost blocked up with them. Thursday and Friday being rainy and muddy, the poor women and children were much exposed in looking out for some place of safety; the people continued moving out very fast all Saturday and yesterday with their effects.

It is almost impossible to conceive what infamous rascally tricks have been made use of, to distress this town, by the abandoned set of ministerial tool here.

The ships in this harbour, last week seized several vessels, loaded with wood, from Long-Island; which vessels, we are well assured, had Capt. Wallace's permission to fetch wood for the supply of his town!

Saturday afternoon the ships *Rose*, *Glasgow* and *Swan*, a brig with 6 guns, and 1 or 2 small kind of bomb mortars, 3 or 4 tenders, 2 transports, and several wood-vessels, &c. making in all 15 sail, weighed anchor and went up the river, entered the harbour at Bristol, and demanded three hundred sheep, which not being complied with between 8 and 9 o'clock they began a he[a]vy fi[r]e on s[a]id town, and continued it upwards of an hour; [in] which time, a number of shot went through the houses of William Bradford, Esq; Capt. Ingraham, damaged the church a little, and several shops, stables, &c. The women and children, in great distress, (dark and rainy as it was) were obliged to leave their habitations, and seek shelter in the adjacent country. Between 9 and 10 o'clock, a committee was appointed to go on board, who settled the matter by giving or selling 40 sheep. In the small defenceless town of Bristol, were near 100 persons very sick, and dead, at the time of this firing, and are assured two sick people actually died of the night.

We hear the men of war have cut up a quantity of corn at Poposquash or Hog Island.

Early on Thursday morning sailed, the *Viper* sloop of war, wind N. E. supposed to be gone to New York.

GEORGE BENSON TO NICHOLAS BROWN <sup>1</sup>

Sir –

Newport. the 9th Octor 1775.

I recd your Letter Date 3d & 5th Inst shall Endeavour to do the best I Can respectg the Business &c Tho nothing is now Done but hurrying from this Distressd Town, have Inclosd this Days paper to which refer – am surprizd that Chaloner shoud say he had paid Cole the remaindr of Thurstons Debt, which he assur'd me he had Done – he has been missing since the Late Commotion & tis supposd is Shelterd on board one of the Ships Which with Tenders &c are at prest absent Their Gallant attempt on Bristol you've Doubtless heard – Cowardice & Cruelty are Insep[ar]able Companions, – tis suppos'd they will soon return here & Exercise their Barbarous Bravery – The fate of Newport I believe is Determind – alas! how Uncertain and Transitory Are all Terrestrial Injoymts – a few Days – a few Hours or Indeed a few moments Essentially alters our State here, or Irreversibly fixes it in a Permanent Eternity, – how Seasonably at this alarming Crisis, how Pertinent is the Apostles Exhortation, “Let those that have &c, be as tho' they had not” Intend to return to Providence this Week, in the Course of Which Time hope my Dear friends (some Are movd) will find a more safe or at least a more quiet abode than this Town at present affords, – The Case of the Poor is very Deplorable no Provision (that I Can learn) is yet made for their relief or support. O! That all These Events may be Duly Sanctified is the Earnest Desire Of yours [ &c.]

Geo. Benson

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

Newport 4<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> Octo<sup>r</sup> 1775.

Sir

I rec<sup>d</sup> your letter dat<sup>d</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>l</sup> & shall  
endeavour to do the best I can respect<sup>ly</sup> the Business &  
tho. nothing is now Done (but hurrying) from this  
disturb<sup>d</sup> Town, have Inclos<sup>d</sup> this Day's paper to which  
refer - am surpris<sup>d</sup> that Chaloner should say he had had  
bore the remainder of Thurston's Debt. which he owed,  
me he had Done - he has been missing since the  
late Commotion & his supposed is sheltered on board  
one of the Ships all Whilk with Tenders & are at  
pres<sup>nt</sup> absent. Their Gallant attempt on Bristol  
you & Doubtless heard, Cowardice & Cruelty are Inevitable  
Companions, - tis surpris<sup>d</sup> they will soon return here  
& Exercise their Barbarous Bravery. The fate of  
Newport I believe is Determin<sup>d</sup> - alas! how uncertain  
and Transitory are all Terrestrial Enjoyments - a  
few Days - a few Hours or indeed a few Moments  
Effectually alters our State here, or Inevitably  
fixes in a Permanent Sterility - how Seasonably  
at this alarming Crisis, how Pertinent is the  
Apostle's Exhortation, "let those that have the  
tho, they had not ~~the~~ Inten<sup>t</sup> to return to Providence  
this Week, in the Course of Whilk Time, hope my  
Dear friends, from your moves, will find a more  
safe or at least a more quiet abode than this  
Town at present affords. - The want of the Poor is very  
deplorable no Provision that I can think of is yet  
made for their relief or support - O. that all their  
Counts may be duly Sanctified in the Earnest Desire  
Of yours

with a respectful Esteem

Geo. Benson



MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Lebanon] Octor 9th, 1775.

Capt. Hall, of the brig *Minerva*, at the request of the Continental Congress, is ordered on a cruise with said brig, which this committee hath given orders for in pursuance of the directions of Congress, as per Mr. President Hancock's letter of Octo 5th, 1775.

Capt. Jeremiah Wadsworth is appointed and directed to supply said brig with all the necessary provisions and warlike stores for said cruise, as per his orders appears.

Gave an order to Capt. Wadsworth on Mr. Nathl Shaw Junr, for six hundred wt. of powder for the use of the *Minerva* on her cruise, and also gave Capt. Wadsworth directions to furnish said brig with stores and provisions for six months.

*Voted*, That an order be drawn in favor of Capt. Niles on the Committee of the Pay-Table for one hundred and fifty pounds, for the use of the schooner *Spy*. Order given Octor 9th, by Mr. [Benjamin] Huntington,

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 131, 132.

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

Sir

Lebanon 9th October 1775

Pursuant to request from the Continental Congress this day received have given orders to Capt Giles Hall Commander of the Brigantine *Minerva* to sail with all possible dispatch on a cruise to the River St Lawrence or thereabouts in quest of two vessels from England bound to Quebec with Arms, &c as I presume you will be fully advised of before this reaches you by the same express from the Continental Congress, and it is supposed sundry armed vessels will be dispatched from the Colonies of Massachusetts Bay and Rhode Island for the same purpose— This enterprize, as yet, remains a profound secret with us and the orders are given to Capt Hall not to be opened untill he is out of sight of land. The *Minerva* will sail in a few days—

I am most respectfully Sir [&c.]

J T———1

1. Trumbull Papers, vol. 29, 207–208, ConnSL.

NEWS ITEM FROM NORWICH, CONNECTICUT <sup>1</sup>

Norwich, October [9]

We are this moment informed, that a brig [from] New-York, loaded with flour for the use [of the] ministerial army at Boston,<sup>2</sup> ran ashore on Saturday last [October 7] on a reef of rocks off Stonington. — Capt. [Robert] Niles, of an armed vessel belonging to this town, is now along side and easing her of the cargo.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, October 23, 1775.

2. The ship *Peggy*, William Barron, master.

*New York Gazette*, MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1775

New York, October 9

We hear that the Men of War at the East End of Long-Island, have taken four large Vessels, from the West-Indies bound to New-England, laden with West-India Produce, and sent them to Boston; three of them belong to Jerathmael Bower, of the Massachusetts-Bay, in which Mr. Bower has lost upwards of 10,000£. Lawful Money.

His Majesty's Sloop of War the *Viper*, arrived here last Saturday [October 7], in 30 Hours from Rhode-Island. She left England after the News arrived there of the Battle of Bunker's-Hill, is but 14 Days from Boston, and has brought Dispatches for all his Majesty's Governors on the Continent: We hear she is to sail in a few Days for the Southern Governments.

We are informed from undoubted Authority, that Lord William Campbell, Governor of South-Carolina, has fled with the utmost Precipitation, on board the Man of War in the Harbour. The committee of Charlestown having very fortunately discovered that his Excellency had employed one Cameron, an Indian Commissary in the interior Parts of that province, to engage the Indians in the Ministerial Service, who had actually enlisted 600 of them, and furnished them with every Necessary in order to Butcher the back Inhabitants. This Plan was discovered by a Gentleman who seized the Express on his Way from said Cameron to the Governor, whom he knew to be disaffected to the American Cause, and conveyed the Dispatches to the Provincial Committee. The above Gentleman disguised himself in a Drover's Habit, and attended the Express to the Governor's House, and heard the Conversation between them, and then discovered the whole Plot to the Committee.

We hear Capt. Wallace has made a Demand from the Inhabitants of Newport, of all the Live Stock they could spare from the Island. The Inhabitants had only three Days to consider of the Matter.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, H.M.S. *Asia*, TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New York 9th October 1775.

The town is at present much more quiet than it has been, those people who in consequence of our firing had removed to the Country are all returned, and such as are known to be friends to Government do not seem to be under so great apprehensions as they were a short time ago – I cannot pretend to say what occasions their present quiet, but it is thought by some that several of their principals are not so sanguine as they have been; they find that they have lost all their Friends in England, and it has been reported that they have met with a considerable loss at Saint Johns, but they keep every thing that is against themselves so secret, that the truth cannot be come at; All the Connecticut Rabble that were here are gone up the Country to join the rest; at the Isle aux Noix – Nothing transpires that is doing at the Continental Congress, only that we hear there has been a dispute amongst the Delegates whether Hancock or Randolph shall be President. [John] Adams denies having written the Letter that was intercepted, but they dont believe him – The 29th of last Month was the day on which the City Magistrates



were Chosen, it was imagined that the Mob Party wou'd do every thing in their Power to get some of their Set Elected for this purpose Hand Bills were distributed about the day before with a list of those Men whom they recommended, and the *Sons of Liberty* were invited to meet on the Morning of Election, at the Liberty Pole this appeared like advertising for a Mob, but these proceedings availed nothing every thing went on very quietly and the Magistrates of the last Year were rechosen; Who, (tho I know not any thing they have ever done to deserve to be regarded) are yet much better than many who might have been put in their places – The Governor continues on shore unmolested, but I cannot help saying, that I wish he was on board; I send you Enclosed two Extracts from Letters from Lord Dartmouth to his Excellency which he transmitted to me about three weeks ago.

Captain [Samuel] Holland resides at Amboy in the Jersey's in which town I understand the people are in general well affected. He has sent to England his most valuable Drawings, should he make any Application to me I shall be sure to give him every possible Assistance.

I have this Morning received advice, which I believe to be certain, that Doctor Franklin, Mr [Thomas] Lynch of South Carolina and Colo [Benjamin] Harrison of Virginia have been sent from the Continental Congress as a Committee to Cambridge, it is pretended here, that they are gone with Orders to Washington to attack the King's Troops before the Reinforcements which are expected from Europe Arrive.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.

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

State House [Philadelphia] Monday, October 9, 1775

On motion made, Resolved, That Mr. [James] Duane be appointed to apply to the Committee of Safety of this Province and request them to lend one ton of gun powder, which is to be sent to New York, and from thence, what of it can be spared, be by the provincial convention of New York immediately forwarded to Genl Schuyler.

A number of Letters from General Schuyler, with an enclosed letter from Genl Montgomery, and sundry other papers enclosed were laid before the Congress and read.

On motion made, *Resolved*, That a Comee of five members be appointed to take into consideration the letters from Genl Schuyler and the several matters therein contained, and report an answer.

The ballots being taken and examined the following members chosen, viz Mr John Adams, Mr Jno. Rutledge, Mr [Samuel] Chase, Mr R[obert R.] Livingston, and Mr [Silas] Deane.

A Letter from the Convention of N. York enclosing a proposal for procuring powder <sup>2</sup> was taken into consideration.

*Resolved*, that the same be referred to the secret powder Comee.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 284–286.

2. See the Journal of the New York Provincial Congress, October 4, 1775.

JOHN HANCOCK TO THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen –

Philadelphia, October 9th, 1775.

Your letters of the 6th inst. have been laid before Congress; they have issued an order for one ton of powder to be sent to New-York. But I am directed to inform you, if you can with safety spare it, or any part, it is the wish of Congress, you immediately forward it to Gen. Schuyler.

In answer to your letter respecting the brigantine *Mary*, Capt. [Robert] Wallace, which put into your port to repair, I am ordered to acquaint you that the Congress recommend that she proceed on her voyage, with the cargo, after being refitted.

In consequence of your letter to Congress, enclosing a plan and estimate of the fort erecting on the Highlands of North river, I now enclose you the resolution of Congress thereon, to which I refer you. I also enclose you a resolve of Congress; respecting those who are in your opinion dangerous, by being at large, to which also refer you.

Your proposal enclosed, respecting the importation of gunpowder, is submitted to a committee; the resolution of Congress thereon shall be transmitted you

I have written to Gen. Wooster at Albany, by order of Congress, to proceed to the fort now building at North river, and there leave as many of his troops as the conductor of the works shall think necessary to expedite the works, and with the remainder to proceed to New-York and there remain.

By desire of your Delegates, I enclose you some extracts of letters from London laid before Congress. I am, gentlemen, [&c.]

John Hancock, Prest.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 171–172.

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

[Philadelphia] October 9th.

Mr. [Thomas] Wharton, Colo. [Anthony] Wayne, Mr. [Owen] Biddle, & Mr. [Bernard] Dougherty, agreeable to a Resolve of Yesterday, Report that they went to the Carpenters up and down Town, and that they have muster'd a Number of hands, and gone down to Gloucester to assist floating the Machine for the obstruction of the Channel.

Several of the Captains of the armed Boats attending this Board, agreeable to orders, had directions, as an Encouragement for good Seamen to enter into the Service on board said Boats, to allow them such small sum in advance as a Majority of the Captains may agree on, over and above what is allowed them by this Board by the printed Pay list. And the Captains had a charge given them to push on with vigour and expedition the fitting and Manning their respective Boats, so that they may be in readiness to oppose any Hostile attacks at a moment's warning. At the same time, they were made acquainted that [Dr. Benjamin] Rush was appointed Surgeon & Physician to the armed Boats; that J[ohn] M[axwell] Nesbitt was appointed Pay Master, John Ross, Muster-Master; & Capt. Peter Long, Ship's Husband.<sup>2</sup>

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 360, 361.
2. Long's duties are described in the Minutes of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, October 12, 1775.

CONTRACT BETWEEN THE NEW YORK DELEGATES AND THE SECRET COMMITTEE  
OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

Philadelphia – Committee Chamber October 9th 1775. –

Be it rembered that it is agreed by & between the following persons to wit Philip Livingston John Alsop and Francis Lewis of the city of New-York merchants and Samuel Ward John Langdon Silas Deane Thomas Willing & Thomas M:Kean Esquires a Quorum of the Committee of Secrecy appointed by the Honble Continental Congress for the Thirteen United Colonies of North America that a voyage or voyages shall be forthwith undertaken for the speedy procuring fifty tonns of powder twelve brass six pounds cannon a thousand stand of good soldiers muskets & bayonets and two thousand good double-bridled gun-locks and in case all the powder mentioned cannot be obtained then as much saltpetre & sulphur as will make the quantity that may be deficient – that the vessel or vessels shall be chartered for the use of the continental Colonies afsd and a skilful & prudent supercargo or supercargoes employed by the said Philip Livingston John Alsop & Francis Lewis at the expence of the said Colonies and that the said supercargoes may be allowed five per cent commissions – that thirty six thousand dollars continental currency shall be forthwith advanced to them the said Messrs Livingston Alsop & Lewis for which they are hereafter to render an Account to the United Colonies who are to bear the whole risk of the afsd adventure and that the said Messrs Livingston Alsop & Lewis shall be allowed for their trouble five per cent commissions on the first cost of the afsd articles or as much of them as shall be delivered – All the articles mentioned are to be put on shore in some safe and convenient place in some of the United Colonies to the Eastward of Chesepeake-bay and notice of the place given as soon as conveniently may be to a Quorum of the Committee of Secrecy for the time being. Witness our hands the day & year aforesaid. –

Phil Livingston	John Langdon
Fran <sup>s</sup> Lewis	Silas Deane
John Alsop	Tho <sup>s</sup> Willing
Sam: Ward	Tho M:Kean

1. Rufus King Papers, vol. 84, NYHS.

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

Pointe à Pitre Guadalupe  
9th October 1775

Copy/.

Sir M. de Choiseul Commandant at Martinique in my absence has just given me an account of the improper and thoughtless behavior engaged in by Mr. Grant Gordon commanding the English frigate *Argo* at anchor in St. Pierre road. This conduct compels me to make a formal protest and it places me in the position of requesting your Excellency for an explanation in order to know whether that Officer has been authorized to examine several ships anchored under the Cannon

of the road, among them one flying the French Flag which he has caused to be lowered in order to substitute that of Great Britain.

This violent act can not have your approval, and I hope that Your Excellency will give Orders to the Officers commanding men of war, that in the future they will conduct themselves in such manner as to give no offense to the good understanding which ought to be maintained between our two nations, and that he will let me know his intentions in this regard, in order that I can give an account to my Court, I am unable to conceal from Your Excellency, that a repetition of this nature will compel me to close our Ports to English men of war, and to repel with force those who would undertake any enterprise contrary to the law and the honor of the Nation.

The event of Mr. Grant Gordon's irregular conduct occasioned a disturbance among the populace of St. Pierre, which without the presence of M. de Choiseul could have been difficult for the Officers, and for the English Sailors who found themselves ashore: It is of the utmost importance not to tolerate similar imprudences, and I flatter myself that Your Excellency will feel, like me, the extreme importance of it, and that he will cooperate with me toward the most secure means to continue the union and friendship which has reigned until now between the respective governments of these Colonies

I have the honor to be with the greatest esteem and the highest consideration, Sir [&c.]

Electe de Noziere

S. Ex. Mr Young, Admiral &ca &ca &ca

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 53h; translation.

10 Oct.

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

[Exeter] Oct. 10th, 1775.

Received a Letter from the Committee of Portsmouth, informing of the Capture of the Ship *Prince George*, by a Sub Committee, with a Copy of Genl Washington's Letter to sd Committee, about the Cargo of said Ship.

Ordered George King, Esqr to take Charge of the Cargo of the Ship *Prince George*, & to deliver to Samuel Cutts, Esqr one hundred Bbls. of Flour, at such Times & in such Quantities as he may need it to Supply the Soldiers at the Batteries in Piscataqua Harbour.

1. *Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society*, VII, 20.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO TRISTRAM DALTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir I am impowerd by His Excellency General Washington to appoint Agents in the different ports, to take care of any prizes that may be sent in, by three Arm'd schooners fitted & now fitting out to distress the enemy in Boston, shoud any or either of Sd Schooners send in or bring in a prize into this Harbor of Newbury Port, you will please to take charge of her, & with all papers of whatsoever nature that may be found on board such prizes. you will immediately send of[f] an express, to Head Qrs & be governd by Such instructions as you will receive from

thence, the terms on which you are to be compensated for your trouble are 2½ Pct on the sales of any Cargoe that you may have orders to dispose of in this port, & the same on the necessarys which the schooners may want from you, your puntual Compliance, is not at all doubted; & I hope the success the Schooners may have will make this matter worth your attention I am [&c.]

Newbury [Port] 10th October 1775

Stephen Moylan

1. Washington Papers, LC.

INTERLEAVED ALMANACS OF JOHN WHITE, SALEM <sup>1</sup>

Oct. 10, 1775.

A small Ship of War came in to our Harbour off the Watch-House Point and Fired on a Schooner which was armed by this Country.<sup>2</sup> We of this town carried down to the Point two Field Pieces and fired several shot at the Man of War, which obliged her as soon as the tide permitted to go off. No man killed on either side as we know of. David Newall's hand blowed off in loading one of our Cannon.

1. *Essex Institute Historical Collections*, XLIX, 92.

2. An account of this incident gathered from eye-witnesses is in Edwin M. Stone's *History of Beverly, Civil and Ecclesiastical from its Settlement in 1630 to 1842* (Boston, 1843), 64-66, and reads as follows:

One morning in the autumn of 1775, a privateer schooner sailed from Beverly on a cruise. She had not been out long, when she was discovered by the British ship of war *Nautilus*, of twenty guns, who immediately bore down upon her. The superior force of the enemy induced the captain to put back. The chase was continued until he gained the harbor and grounded on the flats. It being ebb-tide, the *Nautilus* came to anchor outside the bar, and opened a fire on the town. The meeting-house being the most conspicuous object, several shots were aimed at it, one of which penetrated the chaise-house of Thomas Stephens, destroying his chaise, and another struck the chimney of a house on the opposite side of the street, scattering its fragments in every direction. This unceremonious assault proved too much for the equanimity of its patriotic occupant. He seized his musket, and rushing to the beach, returned the compliment with hearty good will. Immediately upon the commencement of firing, many females residing in exposed situations, hastily retired to places of greater security. There were some, however, who, "made of sterner stuff," paid little attention to this demonstration of hostility, and continued their domestic occupations as though nothing uncommon was going on. Of this class, was a good lady, the wife of a devoted friend to American freedom, who was at the moment engaged in preparing a batch of bread for the oven. The house she occupied was directly in the range of the meeting-house, and liable to be struck by every discharge. Her brother, anxious for her safety, came in, and informing her of the danger, desired her to take her child, and proceed by a circuitous route to a place beyond the reach of the enemy's guns, while he would rally a company to resist any attempt to land. To this she demurred; she felt no alarm. Besides, her oven was heating, the bread was nearly ready, and as to leaving before it was set in, she could not think of it! She was finally prevailed on to forego this resolution and retire. As she was passing around the south-eastern corner of the common, curiosity prevailed over apprehension, and, climbing upon the wall, she stood in full view of the enemy's vessel, surveying the scene, until a cannon-ball striking the earth near her, gave decided intimation that it was time to depart.

The alarm spread rapidly, and soon men were seen with their fire-arms hurrying from every quarter to the defence of the landing. Among the earliest on the ground, was Col. Henry Herrick, an active member of the committee of correspondence, and whose patriotic spirit greatly contributed to the energetic action of the town in furnishing men and supplies for the army. The confusion of the moment did not

make him forgetful of the dignity of his official character; and with characteristic regard for effect, and disregard of danger, he appeared on the beach in full military costume, a conspicuous mark for the enemy's aim. The commander of the *Nautilus* soon found himself in an awkward position. Owing to an unlucky choice of anchorage, the receding tide left his vessel aground, which careened so that he was unable to bring a single gun to bear. In the mean time, the citizens of Salem opened a fire upon her from the Hospital point, with several four and six pounders, while a number of good marksmen, concealed among the rocks on the Beverly side, rendered it hazardous for an officer or man to appear on deck. In this condition, without power to offer a single token of his good or ill will, he lay until dark, when, the tide floating his vessel, he weighed anchor and stood out to sea, carrying with him no very pleasant recollection of his introduction to the citizens of this town.

INTERLEAVED ALMANACS OF WILLIAM WETMORE, SALEM <sup>1</sup>

October 10.

The *Nautilus* of 14 or 16 guns (6 lb) chased the Bevy Privateer in a Bevy harbr – & fired upon her after she had run aground and was stripped for abt 4 hours. The Salem people, to the no of 200 or more went down upon Salem Neck & were preparing to fire upon the Ship with their field pieces when she fired the first shot among a party of them wo were collected upon a hill. I was myself present. Our men then began to play their 4 lb guns & after making 8 or 10 shot apiece they levelled them well. The Ship fired several times at us but after our Guns began to play she fired but seldom, and hoisted sail to go off – when she got aground – she got off agn abt ½ after 7 P.M. – for 4 hours we fired upon her constantly & tis supposed that she recd some of our shot – We fired very badly many times.

1. *Essex Institute Historical Collections*, XLIII, 117–118.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS <sup>1</sup>

October 1775                      Half way Rock [Boston Bay] WbN½N 5 Miles  
 Tuesday 10                      Mod and fair Wr at 1 P M Tkd and Stood into Marble Head in  
    Chace of a Schooner at ½ pt 3 Came too of[f] Beverly near the  
    said Schoonr who had Slipt and ran onshore found her to be a  
    Privateer belonging to the Rebels. Beverly Church N W b N ½  
    Mile Veerd ⅓ of a Cable, began to fire on the Schooner, seeing  
    a Number of Rebels Assembled about her, getting things out of  
    her. at 4 they had got 3 Pieces of Cannon & began to Play upon  
    Us: also they firing with Small Arms. got a Spring on the Cable  
    wh Broke. got a nother Spring. broke it in heaving. found the Ship  
    grounded. Carried out a Stream Anchor, to heave the Ship of[f]  
    as the Tide flowed. Cut the B.B. Cable & Spring. Stream Cable  
    Left behind the Bt Br Anchor & Cable & Stream Anchor & Cable  
    with the Bueys & Rope[s] – att which time the Rebels Kept firing  
    upon us with the Above Cannon & Small Arms. wh Shatterd our  
    Rigging & Sails & Hull very much, as also some of our Shrouds  
    Cutt by their Shott. Spritsail Topsail Yard Shot away in the  
    Slings & Lost both yard & Sail as also a New top gallant Steering  
    Sail Yard & Sail which was Likewise Lost Standing out to Sea

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.

APPRAISAL OF THE *Speedwell*<sup>1</sup>

we The Subscribers Being desired By Coll John Glover to apprize the Schr *Speedwell*<sup>2</sup> of Seventy two Tuns Taken up for the Service of the united Colonies, (of America) Belonging to Mr Thos Grant of Marblehead, have Cearfully Examined the hull, her Age, the Sails Riggen Cables & Anchrs together – with the Boat Stores & C., as She Now Laws at Beverly wharfe do Value Saide Vessell in our Judgements to be worth Three Hundred Thirty one pounds Six Shillings & Eight pence £331,6,8

Jonathan Glover  
Edw<sup>d</sup> Fettyplace

Beverly Octb. 10, 1775

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 25, LC.
2. The armed schooner *Hancock* of Washington's fleet.

APPRAISAL OF THE *Eliza*<sup>1</sup>

we The Subscribers Being desired by Coll John Glover to Apprize the Schr *Eliza*<sup>2</sup> of Sixty Tuns Taken up for the Service of the united Colonies (of America) Belonging to Mr Archable Seliman [Archibald Selman] of Marblehead have Cearfully Examined the hull her age, the Sails, Riggen, Cables & Anchrs together with the Boats Stores & C. as She now Lays at Beverly wharfe, do Value Saide Vessell in our Judgments, to be worth three Hundred pounds three Shillings and Eight pence – £300.3.8

Jonathan Glover  
Edw<sup>d</sup> Fettyplace

Beverly, Octb. 10, 1775

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 13, LC.
2. The armed schooner *Franklin* of Washington's fleet.

AN ORDERLY BOOK KEPT AT CAMBRIDGE IN 1775<sup>1</sup>

Head Quarters Cambridge 10th Otr 1775

Parole Dartmouth –

Counter Sign Essex

General [Nathanael] Greens Orders

The officers of the Rhode Island Forces are Requested to Furnish Capt Martingale<sup>2</sup> with a Party for a Sea Expedition if a sufficient Number cant be got out of the three Regiments the Colonels officers of the other Regiments in general Greens Brigade are Desird to Suply the Remainder –

1. American Manuscripts, 611, HSP.
2. Sion Martindale commanding the armed brig *Washington* of Washington's fleet.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES<sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Tuesday, October 10, 1775.

Mr. John Lowell then came in, and laid upon the Table the Resolve of this Court, appointing a Committee to examine into the Captures that may be carried into the Eastern Parts of the Colony.

Afternoon.

Ordered, That the Committee appointed to consider the Proceedings of the Committee of Deer-Island, relative to the Schooner *Nightingale*, sit thereon, and Report as soon as may be.

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

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

[Boston] Octr 10 1775

The *Mercury* sailed with Orders (after seeing General Gage over St George's Bank) to cruize for a month between Cape Anne and Cape Cod and then come up to Boston.

At this time a Vessel arrived from Quebec with Dispatches for the General and News of the Rebels having taken St Johns &c. Whereupon General Howe, to whom the command by Land had devolved, immediately ordered several Transports to get ready to sail for Quebec with a Detachment from the Garrison at Boston, and applied for a Convoy, and the Admiral appointed the *Cerberus* for that purpose, she having a few days before compleated her Provision, and being in all respects ready.

1. Graves's Conduct; I, 146, BM.

DAVID COBB TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Taunton October 10th 1775

My Dear Sir I have receiv'd your two Letters from Philadelpa & am conscious of an omission in writing, but I dare say you'll not impute to neglect when you are inform'd that I have had neither sleep to my Eyes nor slumber to my Eyelids since you left Taunton.

A number of Men of War & Transports appear'd off Bristol last Saturday & there demanded a quantity of Cattle & Sheep, upon refusal of the Inhabitants (who by the bye, where then very sickley) they Cannon'd & Bomber'd the Town for three hours, but happely without distroying any lives, except Parson Burt, who died thro' fear, as is suppos'd, being found dead in his Cornfield the next morning; the Inhabitants being thus distress'd & terrefied desir'd the Ships to stop their firing & they wou'd accomidate the matter, accordingly they consented to leave the Town if they wou'd give 'em 40 Sheep, which was accordingly comply'd with, thus ended this pritty d——ble affair – a fine precedent for the future to git provisions. – Our Friends & Famelies are at present all well . . . Salt Petre business I shall inform you more particular about hereafter; there is little or nothing done about [it], with us at present – Our public affairs you must be better informd of than I can possible do it . . . Remember me to the Deligates of this Provence.

David Cobb

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS. Paine was a Massachusetts delegate in the Continental Congress.

Providence Oct<sup>r</sup> 10. 1775

Sir

C +

I have this Moment received by Post, Orders from the Honble Continental Congress to dispatch the two armed Vessels belonging to the Colony on a Cruise after 2 Ships that sailed from England on y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> August last for America to 6000 Pound of Amm<sup>o</sup> Powder &c. — I think it my Duty to inform your Excellency that the large Ship hath not yet returned from her Bermuda Expedition; and that the small One is unfit for Service unless it see in our Rivers; so that it is not in my Power to take any Measure for intercepting these Ships. I also give the same Information to Gen<sup>l</sup> Trumbull.

I am

Sir Your Excellency's

Most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Nich<sup>l</sup> Cooke

2253  
Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington

Nicholas Cooke to George Washington, October 10, 1775.

NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence Octo 10th 1775.

I have this Moment received by Express Orders from the Hon'ble Continental Congress to dispatch the Two armed Vessels belonging to the Colony <sup>2</sup> on a Cruize after 2 Brigs that sailed from England on the 11th August last for Quebec wth 6000 Stand of Arms Powder &c — I think it my Duty to inform your Excellency that the large Sloop hath not yet returned from her Bermuda Expedition; and that the Small One is unfit for Service unless it be in our Rivers; so that it is not in my Power to take any Measures for intercepting those Vessels. I also give the same Information to Gov. Trumbull. I am Sir [&c.]

Nich<sup>s</sup> Cooke

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The armed vessels were the Rhode Island sloops *Katy* and *Washington*.NICHOLAS COOKE TO THE RHODE ISLAND DELEGATES IN CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen,

Providence Oct 10th 1775.

I have just received a Letter by Express from Mr President Hancock with Orders to dispatch our armed Vessels to intercept Two Brig's from England to Quebec. Our large Vessel is upon a Voyage to Bermuda and the small One is unfit for the Service. I have given Information of this to Genl Washington & Gov. Trumbull that they may not make any Reliance upon our assisting in this important Expedition. — I have strongly recommended to the latter to employ their Colony Brig which is fitted and mounts 14 Carriage Guns in this Enterprize. I am not without Hopes however that the large Sloop will return in a Day or Two; in which Case I shall have her immediately cleaned and dispatch her. I am Gent. [&c.]

Nich<sup>s</sup> Cooke

P.S. A great Number of Guns have been fired down the River this Morning. It is feared they are fired upon Newport.

S. Hopkins &amp; S. Ward Esqrs

1. Nicholas Cooke Papers, vol. 1, RIHS.

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

October 1775

Abrest of Go[at] Island. —

Tuesday 10

10 A M made Sigl to Anchor Do Anchd Off Hope Island 5 fm  
Empd getting off Stock

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

TESTIMONY OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM THOMPSON BEFORE THE NEW YORK  
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

New York October 10th 1775. —

Capt. William Thompson informs, that he left London the 13th of August & left Tarbay on the 19th — That it was generally reported in England that Troops were to go from Ireland to Boston; That five Regiments were the Number men-

tioned – That Transports were actually sailed to take in those Troops – That it was supposed the Troops were ready as they had been collecting from April –

That a Train of Artillery was shipping and in part shipped for America – That four Companies of Artillery are coming out therewith from London –

That a Brigantine was at Tarbay with Artillery Arms and Ammunition and that the Officer who had the Care of the Artillery &ca told him that they were destined for Quebec, & had on Board 10,000 Muskets, 300 Barrels of Gun powder, & six field pieces, three pounders, & a proportionable Quantity of Lead – That the Vessel with those Arms & Ammunition is a Small Brigantine about 100 or 110 Tons – That She was under Convoy of the *Lizard* of 28 Guns, who was to take her in Tow if necessary – That there were four Companies of Artillery with a Train above mentioned destined for America besides this Store Vessel –

That the Captain of the said Brigantine at Tarbay informed him that another Vessel with the like Quantity of Stores was to Sail for Virginia for the use of the Negroes there – but that the officer who had the Charge of those Arms &ca gave him no information of that matter

That he heard soon after the receipt of the News of Bunkers Hill that Hanoverian or Hessian Troops were to be sent for – That three Thousand Ton of Transports were taken up immediately after the Arrival of the Bunkers Hill News, & generally reported to be taken up for the Hanoverian Troops – That those Transports were not sailed to his Knowledge when he left Britain – That after the News of Bunkers Hill arrived, as many Members of parliament as could be Collected near London were called & consulted – that from what he heard at the Exchange the Voice of the Landed Interest seemed to be for the Measures of Administration & the Mercantile Interest against them – That there was not any talk of a Change of Administration – That the people were in Expectation of Overtures from the Congress – That it was generally reported that General [Thomas] Gage would be recalled as inactive & General [Jeffery] Amherst Sent to take the Command – That he counted Seventy two Vessels with Brooms at Mast head between Deptford & London Bridge besides many others to be sold – That they believed a Non exportation would take place in America That there were very great Complaints among the American Merchants and manufacturers of the Stagnation of Trade – That he heard nothing of the west India Merchants in particular – That the Ship Carpenters had chiefly abandoned the yards – That it was currently reported that the Manufacturers some of their people, and that one in the wollen Branch told him that he had discharged a dozen of his Hands – That there is discontent among the lower Class of people - That there had been a large demand for Wollens from Rusia and larger than usual, but that it was in a great Measure Satisfied; That the Rusian Demands has assisted to keep down the Murmurs of the people –

That there were orders to put ten Sail of Ships in Commission – That Stock had fallen a very little to wit half per Cent, & risen again  $\frac{1}{4}$  Pr Cent.

That the News of Ticonderoga & Crown point being Seized had been long arrived & that the taking of those places was generally condemned –

That the appointments of the Generals Washington Lee Putnam &c.&c. and the Striking paper Money was known in London – That the Officers were tho't to

be & spoken of as proper Men & good Officers; and that General Washington was spoken of in a very high Character as a General – That some people laughed at paper Money –

That there was money for paying Troops and many rich presents for the Indians on Board of the *Lizard* Frigate of War for Quebec –

That they had accounts of the Conduct of the people of Georgia & looked on the Union of the Colonies as compleat – That they had formerly been taught to believe that a handfull of Men could conquer the Colonies – That they say in England that if they do not conquer America now She will thro off all obedience & become a republic –

On the Tenth day of October 1775 Capt William Thompson was examined before the provincial Congress at New York – I then took notes of the Substance of his Information, which I read to him in Congress and he acknowledged that they were truly taken – The preceeding is a true Copy of the said Notes by me so taken and read to Mr Thompson in Congress –

John M<sup>c</sup>Kesson Secry –

For Major General Schuyler

1. Schuyler Papers, vol. XVI, NYPL. This was not the first time Captain Thompson had provided intelligence. See Livingston to the New York delegates in the Continental Congress, June 14, 1775, Volume 1, 682–683.

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

[New York] 10 Octr 1775

This Morning Mr. Tryon came over and informed Mr. [John] Plenderleath that last Night the King's Stores in the Garrett of the lower Barracks were carried away by armed Men in 12 Carts, & that he wished him to inform me of it – adding that he had demanded Restitution of the Magistrates & written to Capt Vanderput that he expected to be seized, in which case he wished him to execute his orders, & he expected a firing upon the Town. I went to the City Hall & called my Brother [Thomas Smith] out of the [Provincial] Congress. He said they were informed of the Transaction – That it was the Feat of a drunken Guard in the Barracks Commanded by Colo [John] Lasher as Capt. of the Grenadiers. That the Congress thought themselves ill used, & would order immediate Restitution. They did so and Restitution was made before 2 A.M. . . . The Congress were unanimous on this Occasion & were some of them for breaking the Officers concerned in the work. . . . The Soldiers concerned in this Business had a Review on the Afternoon preceding it, & as a Proof of their being treated with Liquor, they mounted Guard in the lower Apartments of the very House in which the goods were and sent them to [Peter] Curtenius's the Provincial Commissary where they were less secure.

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

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Asia New York Octor 10th 1775.

Sir, Having received a Letter of which the inclosed is a Copy, from David Wooster, One who commanded a Body of Men from Connecticut, at that time en-

camped about eight Miles from the City of New York, I take the earliest opportunity of transmitting a Copy of the same to you it relates, with the inclosed Affidavits to the Case of a Man whom I took out of a Passage Boat, and have detained on the Charge, of the Midshipman and Boats Crew belonging to the Pinnace, for having forcibly obliged them to go above a Mile to the House of the said Wooster, who thereupon gave the Orders which he sets forth in this Letter; the Prisoner whose Name is Edd Tiley says he is an Ensign in the Connecticut Militia, raised by the Governor and Assembly of that Province, and in his Justification affirms that having endeavour'd in vain to dissuade the Mob from Seizing the Boat, that his motive for taking the Crew to his Officer was to protect them from any Injury that might be done them by the People of the Town, what followed is I believe truly stated in Woosters Account, & by the Affidavits. Wooster's Letter I did not answer. But beg leave to refer the Case to you, and to have your Order about the Man. I am Sir [&c.]

Geo. Vandeput

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.

THOMAS JEFFERSON TO FRANCIS EPPES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia, Oct. 10th, 1775.

The ministry were determined to push the war with vigor, a measure in which they were fixed by the defeat of the Spaniards by the Moors. 90. brass cannon were embarked from the tower and may be hourly expected either at N. York or Boston. 2000 troops were to sail from Ireland about the 25th. Sep. These we have reason to believe are destined for N. York. Commodore Shuldham was to sail about the same time with a great number of frigates and small vessels of war to be distributed among the middle colonies. He comes at the express and earnest intercessions of Ld. Dunmore, and the plan is to lay waste all the plantations on our river sides. Of this we gave immediate notice to our committee of safety by an express whom we dispatched hence last Friday [October 6], that if any defence could be provided on the rivers by fortifications or small vessels it might be done immediately. In the spring 10,000 men more are to come over. They are to be procured by taking away two thirds of the Garrison at Gibraltar (who are to be replaced by some Hessians) by 2000 Highlanders and 5000 Roman Catholics whom they propose to raise in Ireland. Instead of the Roman Catholics however some of our accounts say foreigners are to be sent. Their plan is this. They are to take possession of New York and Albany, keeping up a communication between them by means of their vessels. Between Albany and St. John's they propose also to keep open the communication; and again between St. John's, Quebec, and Boston. By this means they expect Gage, Tryon and Carleton may distress us on every side acting in concert with one another. By means of Hudson's river they expect to cut off all correspondence between the Northern and Southern rivers.

1. Julian P. Boyd, ed., *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson* (Princeton, 1952), I, 246-247. Hereafter cited as Boyd, ed., *Jefferson Papers*.

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

[Philadelphia] October 10th.

Doct'r [Benjamin] Rush waited on this Board and informs that he cannot find a person that he thinks proper for the Station of Surgeon's Mate on Board the armed Boats, and that Doct'r [Samuel] Duffield will act with him as a Surgeon & Physician, and that they are content to take the pay of a Surgeon & Surgeon's Mate, between them, as a sufficient Sum for their Services.

*Resolved*, That Doct'r Duffield be appointed a Surgeon & Physician to the People employed on Board the Armed Boats; And that he and Doct'r Rush, agreeable to their own Agreement, have each 16 Dollars P month for their Services.

Capt. John Moulder of Marcus Hook, not thinking himself capable of the Command of the armed Boat he was appointed to, this Day Resigned his appointment.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records X*, 362.

FEES RECEIVED BY DEPUTY COLLECTOR SAMUEL CHAMBERLAINE, PORT OF OXFORD, MARYLAND <sup>1</sup>

when recd	Masters names.	Vessels names. -	Fees. -		
1774 Oct 17th	Jas Thomas	Ship <i>Patience Success</i>	2.	17.	6.
22.	Thos Robinson	Sloop <i>Polly</i>	1.	2.	6.
24	Thos Coward	Ship <i>Chopt Frigate</i>	2.	17.	6.
Nov 12.	Sam Wellman	Sloop <i>Phila Packet</i>	2.	5.	0.
25.	Jas MLean	Ship <i>Crawford</i>	2.	12.	6.
1775. Jan 3.	Thos Moore	Ship <i>Fortune</i>	2.	17.	6.
13.	Richd Jones	Ship <i>Johnson</i>	2.	17.	6.
14.	Lamb Wickes	Ship <i>Ceres</i>	2.	17.	6.
15.	William Williams	Schr <i>Sukey</i>	2.	5.	0.
Feb'y 18.	Josa Parsons	Schr <i>Hannah</i>	2.	5.	0.
18.	Benja Cook	Schr <i>Hope</i>	2.	5.	0.
18.	Rob Peacock	Ship <i>Matty</i>	2.	17.	6.
					30. . 0. . 0.
Mar 14	James Small	Sloop <i>Swan</i>	2.	5.	0.
April 5.	William Trippe	Schr <i>Two Brothers</i>	1.	2.	6.
5.	William Paddison	Schr <i>Industry</i>	1.	2.	6.
8.	Peter Maxwell	Sloop <i>Oxford</i>	1.	2.	6.
11.	Richd Harden	Schr <i>Endeavour</i>	1.	2.	6.
22.	James Longmuir	Ship <i>Baltimore</i>	2.	17.	6.
25.	John Stewart	Ship <i>Oxford</i>	2.	12.	6.
June 6.	James MLean	Ship <i>Crawford</i>	2.	12.	6.
July 6.	Willm Paddison	Schr <i>Industry</i>	1.	2.	6.

when recd	Masters names.	Vessels names. -	Fees. -			
1775						
Augt 4	Nichs Woolfe	Brig <i>Robt &amp; Elisabeth</i>	2.	12.	6.	
10.	Willm Coward	Schr <i>Fanny</i>	1.	2.	6.	
24	Hugh Sherwood	Sloop <i>Polly</i>	1.	2.	6.	20..17..6
		Carried up				£50..17..6.
		Brought up				£50..17..6
Augt 28.	John Nicols	Ship <i>Albion</i>	2.	12.	6.	
Sep 6.	Peter Amiel	Ship <i>Ranger</i>	2.	12.	6.	
6.	Andrew Green	Ship <i>John &amp; Bella</i>	2.	12.	6.	
9.	James Longmuir	Ship <i>Baltimore</i>	2.	12.	6.	
9.	Peter Maxwell	Sloop <i>Oxford</i>	1.	2.	6.	
9.	Rob Love	Ship <i>D of Richmond</i>	2.	12.	6.	
9.	Jas Thomas	Ship <i>Hanbury</i>	2.	12.	6.	
9.	Robt Peacock	Ship <i>Matty</i>	2.	12.	6.	
11.	Henry MLachlan	Brig <i>Pallas</i>	2.	12.	6.	22..2..6
						73..0..0.
						One third is 24..6..8.
						leaves £48..13..4

1. Register of the Port of Oxford, MdHS. Benedict Calvert, Collector of Patuxent District, acknowledged on October 10, 1775 the receipt of the above sum as the "2/3 of all Fees."

DR. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL TO ST. GEORGE TUCKER <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Norfolk Octr 10th 1775

I write you last, by Capt Williams who Sailed, about three weeks, as there has been no Arrivalls from your Island, I am Still without any Accts from my famely, of whose wellfare I am very Solicitous to hear; -

I can not give you any more news from this than Mrs Campbell & Fanny will Communicate to you - The Situation of this Town is really precarious, Nothing less is talkd of by the Warm Patriots than destroying it, for fear it Should fall in to Lord Dunmore's hands, who I am told, momently expects, four or five hundred Men Should they arrive its imagind he will take immediate possession at any rate property here is very insecure, Most of the Inhabitants have removed their effects, as they are equally allarmed, at the regulars or Provincials being Masters of it. Our reguler Provincial Troops are I am told rised but, they meet with a good deal of Difficulty in rising Minute Men. if Matters are not Soon Accomodated, this will be a very disagreeable Country to live in & I am determined tho I know my Interest will Suffer greatly to remove my Self this winter, and Hope to eat My Christmas Dinner with you. -

There is papers from England down to the 2d of August, there are five thousand Men more coming out & fifty Sail of Men of War, to be on the American Station and from all Accounts they mean to Inforce their Supremecy over the Colonys; On the other hand there is no Doubt but it was agitated in Congress to through [throw] of[f] their dependance on Great Brittain. – Nothing Material from the Norward, but what a few Papers I have inclosd will give you – You See our Press is Stopt by an Arbitrary Actt of Lord Dunmores, & of Coarse you loos your Norfolk Paper, but As his Lordship we hear intends to publish one Soon its to be hoped he will Supply Holts former Customers – <sup>2</sup>

I must again intreat you to have an Eye over Archies Education and See that he applys Closely My warmest respects to your father & famely & all friends & I am Dr Sir [&c.]

Arch<sup>d</sup> Campbell

P.S. Should have write Billy Hall but I imagine he is by this time of[f] the Island

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, CW.
2. On September 30, upon Dunmore's orders, the press of John Hunter Holt, in Norfolk, was seized and carried on board one of Dunmore's ships.

#### ACCOUNT OF THE COLLECTOR OF THE PORT OF ROANOKE, NORTH CAROLINA <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]	
Time of entry	October 2
Ship or Vessel's name	<i>Joseph</i>
Master's name	Empr Mosely
Kind of built	Do [Brig]
Tons	60
Men	7
where & when built.	No America. 1762
where & when registered	This Port 20 Jany 1773
Names of the Owners.	Joseph Hewes
From whence	Liverpool
[Imports]	2400 bu Salt.

1. James Iredell Papers, vol. 4, UNCL. An abstract of all Entries and Clearances from the Port of Roanoke after December 1, 1774, will be found in Appendix B. This extract is from quarter ending October 10, 1775.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL COUNCIL OF BERMUDA <sup>1</sup>

At a Council held at the Government House on Tuesday the 10th day of October 1775.

Present

His Excellency the Governor. –

The Hono'ble	George Forbes Esqr	Jonathan Burch Esqr
	Thomas Hunt Esqr	John Harvy Esqr
	Thomas Smith Esqr	Henry Tucker Esqr
		John Hinson Esqr

His Excellency made the following Speech –

Gentlemen of the Council. –

I am sorry that I think it necessary to mention as a Prelude, the Insult that Government hath received by the breaking into the Magazine, and the Robbery of the Gun Powder in the Night of the 14th of August. –

And It is the greatest doubt with me if the like insult may not be repeated and some of His Majestys Cannon stole off in the like manner. –

I therefore as His Majestys Representative do give my Consent that Captain Tollemache, do take Charge of as many of His Majestys new Cannon as he may think proper and convenient to take with him – and I shall be glad to find all the Gentlemen of the same opinion.

George James Bruere –

Bermuda, St Georges

Tuesday 10th October 1775. –

The Board having Considered His Excellency's Speech Thought it most Advisable that the Hono'ble Captain Tollemache of His Majesty's Ship the *Scorpion* now lying in St Georges Harbour should be requested to remain with the Ship under his Command untill another of His Majestys Ships of War may arrive here – And that an Address be Presented to His Excellency requesting that he will be pleased to Represent the matter to Captain Tollemache & request him to remain here with his Ship untill the arrival of another Ship of War. Whereupon the Honorable Thomas Smith Jonathan Burch and Henry Tucker Esquires were appointed a Committee to prepare an Address accordingly.

The Board Adjourn'd 'till to Morrow

1. Proceedings of the Governor's Council, 295–297, Bda. Arch.

11 Oct.

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

Sr

Octr 11th 1775 –

The Committee of Safety for the Town of Portsmouth have represented to us that the Ship *Prince George* Capt Richard Emms Master from Bristol bound to Boston with Provisions for the Army there, is now in their Port & in their Custody, that they had represented the Matter to your Excellency, & that You had desired the whole Cargo might be forwarded to the Army under your Command — This Colony have upward of a hundred Soldiers stationed at the Batteries erecting in our Port, and often Two hundred more in a Day from the Country working on the Batteries and there is not, nor has there been for some Weeks past a single Barrel of Flour to be purchased within this Colony; We therefore thinking it necessary for the Promotion of the Common Cause have ordered a hundred Barrels of the Flour to be taken for the use of the said Soldiers, & doubt not it will Meet with Yr Excellencie's Approbation – And as the Town of Portsmouth is in great want of Bread, we should be exceeding glad if the Circumstances of the Army will admit of it, that about Five hundred Barrels of the Flour might be sold to the Inhabitants of said Portsmouth & the

Money desposited in the hands of some faithful Person until the Determination of the Continental Congress relative to the said Cargo may be known

The Sailors appear to be pleased with the Capture, but are uneasy about their Wages, & we would request your opinion whether or not they should be paid by the Sale of some Part of the Cargo.

We would also propose to your Excellencys Consideration whether the transporting the Flour round Cape Ann will not be dangerous; We conceive it more prudent to convey it in Small Vessels to Ipswich, tho the Land Carriage from thence is further than from Marblehead than to risque it round the Cape –

Your Excellencys Sentiments on these Matters will much oblige us— In behalf of the Committee – I am [&c.]

W<sup>m</sup> Whipple Char P. T.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

#### MINUTES OF THE PORTSMOUTH COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Committee Hall, Octr 11th, 1775.

Whereas a Letter has been rec'd this day from Joseph Reed Esqr Secretary to his Excellency Genl Washington, setting forth that he has given directions to Mr. Moylan Muster-Master General, to receive the Cargo of Flour on board the ship *Prince Geo.* Richard Emms, Master, and transport the same to head Quarters for the use of the army; and, Whereas the Commtee have applyed to the Provincial Comtee of Safety, who have represented to his Excellency the necessity of preserving a part of the said Cargo for the use of the Inhabitants of this Colony, in their present necessitous state, – an answer to which is not yet received: Therefore –

Voted, That there be forthwith delivered to the said Mr. Moylan twelve hundred & ninety barrells of Flour, part of the aforesaid Cargo, & that Messrs Geo. King, Joshua Wentworth, Saml Sherburne, Pearse Long & Geo. Wentworth be a Committee to assist the said Moylan in shipping the same.

By order of the Comtee of Safety.

H. Wentworth, Chairman.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 620.

#### COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO STEPHEN MOYLAN AND COLONEL JOHN GLOVER <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen, Yours of the 9th Inst. came Safely to hand – It is Some Dissappointment to us that the Vessels cannot be got ready sooner, as we have just received very important Advices respecting the Dispatch of a Number of Transports from England which may be hourly expected on the Coast. The General therefore directs that you will immediately set every Hand to Work that Can be procured & not a Moment of Time be lost in getting them ready. One of you will also proceed immediately to Newbury & take up a fourth Vessel on the Same Service, there are Carpenters, Guns &c, to be had there in plenty & let the Same Expedition be also used as to this Vessel – One Day [before] the Vessels are ready to Sail you will give us Notice that we may dispatch the Crews –

In the Equipment of the two first Vessels let the Agents lay in the Provisions for 6 Weeks with Water accordingly for 70 Men – Should Mr Moylan be gone to Portsmouth Colo Glover is directed to forward the Express with this Letter that he may immediately return to Newbury Port to take up the 4th Vessel – Which he will do on the best Terms & let us know what he will want to equip the Vessel for the Sea. The General approves of the Steps taken respecting those already engaged – I am Gent [&c.]

JR

The Instructions for the Agents will be forwarded in a Day or two – Cambridge Octo 11. 1775 –

To Col Glover & Stephen Moylan Esqr Marble-head or Salem –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Wednesday, October 11, 1775

The Committee on the Proceedings of the Committee of Deer-Island, relative to the Schooner *Nightingale*, reported. After Debate thereon, the Question was put, whether said Report be accepted; and it was pass'd in the negative.

It was then moved that a Committee be appointed to bring in a Resolve directing the said Committee of Deer-Island, to retain the Schooner above-mentioned in their Custody, 'till the further Order of this Court—and the question being put, (after much debate thereon) it pass'd in the negative.

It was then on a Motion made, Voted, That the Vote for Non-accepting of the above Report be re-considered, and that Four o'Clock in the Afternoon be assigned for a further Consideration thereof.

Afternoon.

Message from a Majority of the honorable Council, viz.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

We have taken under Consideration your Message of the Ninth Instant, relative to certain armed Vessels at Long-Island, near Penobscot, to protect and guard those who are employed in cutting and transporting Wood to Boston, for the Use of the Ministerial Army; and after the strictest Enquiry, we find that there are now, or very lately have been, sixteen Vessels at Long-Island, one twenty Gun Ship, one of sixteen Guns, two Tenders, ten large Transports, and two Wood Sloops who are taking Wood from thence. And that Col. [James] Cargill had ten Days since, collected about five Hundred Men, with sixteen Days Provisions, and a sufficient Number of Boats to transport them from the Main to the said Island; that he apprehended he had a Force sufficient to prevent the Enemy's executing their Purpose. It does not therefore, appear to us necessary at present to make any further Provision.

Read and Ordered to lie.

The House resumed the Consideration of the Report of the Committee relative to the Schooner *Nightingale*. It was then moved that the same be now accepted, and the Question being put, it passed in the Negative.

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

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS <sup>1</sup>

October 1775 Thatchers Island NbE½ E. 3 Leagues  
 Wednesday 11 at 8 A M Halfway Rock N N W 2 M: at 5 Saw a Sail to the E.ward Made Sail & Gave Chace at 7 Brot too a Schooner from Barbadoes Laden w Cocoa bound to Salem Put a Petty officer & 3 Men on board her <sup>2</sup> at 10 Made Sail & Took her in Tow P M Tkd Ship working up Boston Bay

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.

2. The schooner *Charming Polly*, John Guliker, master, from Cayenne, not Barbados, with cocoa, soap and Geneva wine. She was condemned and sold in Boston. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, II, 36-38, BM.

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

Octr 1775 Cape Elisabeth wood Island NW½ W 3 or 4 Leagus  
 Wednesday 11 at 1 A M Saw a Sail in the N E qr at 2 Saw ½ way rock bearg Wt 2 miles at 3 modr and Cloudy Tkd at 4 hove too with the head Sails to the mast at 5 Made Sail at 8 Cape Ann Light House NEbN 3 miles at 9 sitt Studding Sails Saw a Schoon to the Eterd Standing under the Cape made the *Halifax* <sup>2</sup> Sigl to Chace to the NE at 10 She brought too the chace She Proved a schooner with Salt all her People had Quite her Halbut Point SW 4 miles in Compeny as before fresh breezes and fair Wear at 4 [P.M.] in the 2d Reefs Topsails at Boer Island WNW 3 or 4 Leagus at 9 fresh breezes with thunder and Lightning all Round ship head to the Soerd

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.

2. The *Halifax* was one of the squadron under Lieutenant Henry Mowat, consisting of the *Canceaux*, armed transport *Symmetry*, armed sloop *Spitfire*, and brig *Halifax*. She had sailed from Boston on October 9, 1775. See Graves's Narrative, October 6 and 8, BM.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

[Preston, Boston]

The next day [October 11] . . . it was suggested to the latter [Graves] that before the Transports could possibly get to the mouth of the River St Lawrence, Winter would be too far set in, and that Snow Storms would so endanger both Men and Vessels that it was very unlikely they should be able even to enter the River; And that therefore it was utterly improbable they should ever reach Quebec or even make their way back again to Boston, where the Cruizers already found the greatest difficulty in keeping their Stations. The excessive swift descent of the Tide in the River St Lawrence (the Ebb running for nine hours together and often after the rate of ten miles an hour, and the flood making but three hours)

very greatly increased the peril and difficulty of the navigation, which were again augmented by the intense obscurity of Fogs, and the violent impetuosity of the N.W. Winds prevailing at that Season: all combining rendered the art of the Navigator useless; nor could the most skilful Pilot venture much beyond what the Sight would conduct him to. It would be impracticable to anchor, the strongest Cable being incapable of holding a Ship against the rapidity of the Tides, and to keep under Sail would be almost certain destruction; insomuch that Ships had been frequently obliged to quit the River from its inclement Coast and retreat across the Atlantic to Europe. Upon these Considerations the Admiral, whose Earnestness to send Succours had induced him to hold the *Cerberus* in readiness for that Service, thought it behoved him to take the opinion of Pilots and Seamen, & in particular to consult Captain [Broderick] Hartwell, who had commanded the *Neptune* under Sir Chas Saund[ers] at the Siege of Quebec, and was judged well acquainted with the River St Lawrence, and the time of the Winters setting in there. They all concurred in opinion: & the very experienced Officer just mentioned declared frankly that as the Transports could not be ready to sail for several days to come, they must arrive too late in the Gulph of St Lawrence to get up; that they would be in the utmost peril of being lost, and that, should nothing fatal happen to them, they would be obliged to run for England: he therefore strenuously advised the Admiral by no means to think of putting the Lives of so many men in such Jeopardy. Captain Macartney, who had wintered at Quebec, agreed with Captain Hartwell; And both urged so much and so strongly against the measure proposed that the Admiral at last adopted their Sentiments, and by Letter to General Howe communicated the same to him.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 146-148, BM.

*Connecticut Journal*, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1775

New Haven, October 11.

Last Sunday, was conducted, into New-London by a Norwich Vessel, a Ship belonging to Virginia, which had been dismasted in the Storm of the 2d of September; <sup>1</sup> she has 8000 Bushels of Grain, on Board, which the Captain says he was carrying to England, but the Matter is to be enquired into <sup>2</sup>

1. Ship *Peggy*, William Barron, master.

2. *Connecticut Journal*, October 18, 1775; "The ship mentioned in our last, to be carried into New London, is gone from thence, with her cargo, to Norwich."

CHRISTIAN BERGH AND OTHERS TO THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

New-York Jail, October 11, 1775.

To the Gentlemen of the Congress.

The humble Petition of Timothy Doughty, Christian Bergh, Jun., and Adam Bergh, sheweth:

That your petitioners have been confined almost six weeks, expecting to be brought to trial for a certain misdemeanor laid to their charge; and your petitioners have expended all their money, and must now suffer, without they have a speedy delivery. Your said petitioners also have large families (of twenty children) at

home, not able to maintain themselves, because of their infancy. Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Gentlemen of the Congress will take the same into consideration, and give your petitioners a speedy hearing, or at least permit your petitioners the liberty of the Town, so that they may go to their acquaintance, and obtain a living with them until such time as they shall be called upon to have their hearing. Your petitioners promise not to leave the Town till they shall be duly discharged; they also will appear every day at the Hall, if it is required; and your petitioners will ever pray.

Christian Bergh, Jun.,  
Adam Bergh,  
Timothy Doughty.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 1016.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW JERSEY PROVINCIAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Trenton] Wednesday, October 11, 1775.

This Congress having received information that, a few days since, a small vessel supposed to be a tender to some man of war, was taken near Barnagat, with three persons on board; and this information appearing to be true, this Congress think it proper that the said vessel be detained for the present, and that the persons taken on board be secured in some safe place in the County of Monmouth, until this Congress can obtain satisfactory information respecting those persons, their business and destination. And this Congress request the Committee of Monmouth to make diligent inquiry into the above matter, and to report to this Congress whatever discovery they may be able to obtain; of which the Secretary is ordered to give the said Congress notice.

1. *Minutes of the Provincial Congress and the Council of Safety of the State of New Jersey* (Trenton, 1879), 204–206. Hereafter cited as *New Jersey Provincial Congress*.

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

Sir,

Philada Octr 11th 1775.

The Congress have considered your Letters of the 19th and 29th of Sept last, and directed me to assure you, that they are very sensible of the Difficulties under which you labour, and your unremitting Dilligence to remove such as may in any wise obstruct the public service. They most heartily lament the Loss of your Health, as well on your own, as on Account of the Public, but find some Pleasure in thinking that you are not without Consolation, when you reflect, that the Obligations of your Country are Encreased in Proportion to the Sacrifices you make to her Interest. Their Concern for the Public is greatly allivated by the Abilities and Zeal of Genl Montgomery, in which they cannot but place the highest Confidence.

The Congress see the Necessity of attending to the Situation of Canada, but trust that your Care and Prudence will render any Delegation from this Body unnecessary, at least for the present. What they expect from your Endeavours is, that the Canadians be induced to accede to an Union with these Colonies, and that they form from their several Parishes a Provincial Convention and send Delegates to this Congress. And as in the present unsettled State of that Country, a



regular Election can hardly be expected, we must acquiesce in the Choice of such Parishes and Districts as are disposed to join us.

You may assure them that we shall hold their Rights as dear as our own, and on their Union with us, exert out utmost Endeavours to obtain for them and their Posterity the Blessings of a free Government, and that Security to their Persons and Property, which is derived from the British Constitution. And you may further declare that we hold sacred the Rights of Conscience, and shall never molest them in the free Enjoyment of their Religion.

If our Arms should be crowned with Success, you will consult with your principal Officers about the Number of Troops that will be necessary for the Defence of Canada, and for the different Posts of Crown Point and Ticonderoga, and the best Method of procuring Men for those Services. If you should observe in the Canadians an inclination to take up arms, you may immediately, at the Expence of the Continent, raise a Regiment and appoint such officers as you conceive will be most agreeable to them, and serviceable to us.—The Congress will endeavour to attend to the Cloathing of your Troops, and approve of your design to purchase Woollens at Montreal, which they sincerely hope it may be in your Power to accomplish. You may depend upon their Compliance with all Contracts made by you for the Supply of the Troops under your Command.

The Establishment of a Civil Government in Canada is a Subject of great Consequence, and requires the most deliberate councils. The Temper, the Disposition and local Circumstances of our Brethern in that Colony must be known, before we can form a proper Judgment on so important a Question. You will endeavour therefore to collect the Sentiments of the most discreet and sensible among the principal Canadians and English on this Head, and communicate their opinion, with your remarks to the Congress.

It is the Determination of the Congress at all Events, to keep the Command of Lake Champlain. They would therefore have the most effectual Measures adopted for that Purpose; and, if our Enemies should be expelled Montreal, will exert their utmost Endeavours to secure the River St Lawrence, and prevent by Batteries, Vessels, and every other Obstruction the ministerial Troops from regaining the Possession of that Town.

The Congress approve of the Presents made to the Coghniwagas, also of the Disposition of the prisoners, and have borrowed one Ton of gun Powder from the Committee of Safety of this Colony, and directed it to be sent to the Provincial Convention of New York, with a request to transmit to you the whole, or such a Part of it, as they can spare: Nails will be supplied you, by the Convention of New York, when they receive your Direction on that Head. They, together with the Committee of Albany, and the Governor of Connecticut will on Application, furnish such Carpenters and Blacksmiths, as you may want over and above what may be procured from among the Troops. As for the Artificers taken from thence, you will pay them the customary Allowance if you think their Services entitle them to any Reward. The Congress are pleased with the Mode in which you propose to settle with and pay those, who took and garrisoned Crown Point, and desire that the Accounts may be transmitted to them as soon as possible.

Mr [Elisha] Phelps will be considered as Deputy to Mr Levingston [Walter Livingston] for the New York Department, and be paid as such at the Rate of forty Dollars per Month from his Entrance into the Service.

The Congress are greatly hurt at the Misconduct of a Part of the Troops, and hope they will take the earliest Opportunity to obliterate their Disgrace. It is their earnest Wish, that the strictest Discipline be observed; For, as on the one Hand, they are resolved to reward those, who deserve their Favour, so on the other, a Regard for their Country forbids them to overlook the Offences of such as neglect their Duty, or basely betray their trust.

I cannot conclude without assuring you, that the Congress are highly sensible of the Spirit, Activity, and Zeal, of Mr. James Levingston [Livingston], from which they cannot but promise themselves Advantages, that will be entitled to their earliest Recompense. I have the Honour to be &c

J H Prest

1. Papers CC (Letter Books of the President of Congress), 12A, IV, 13-16, NA.

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

[Philadelphia] October 11th.

The following is a List of Military Stores agreed to by the Committee of Safety for each of the armed Boats; and the Commissary is directed to provide each of them accordingly, but if the full quantity of each article cannot be obtained, he is to furnish each Boat an equal proportion of what can be got.

4 Chests Powder	15 Stand Small Arms,	20 Pistol Do., [Cartridges]
30 Round Shot,	15 Cartridge Boxes,	500 Musket Balls loose,
10 Double Haded	do., 20 Cutlasses,	2 Cohorns,
20 Chaint	do., 10 Pikes,	4 Powder Horns,
30 G Grape	do., 10 Pair of Pistols,	1 Cartridge Case,
100 Swival Round,	300 Musket Cartridges,	1 Pouch Barrel,
4 Cheeses of Wadd,		
Some tanned Hides for the Magazines.		

*Resolved*, As it is necessary to keep the knowledge of the passage through the Chevaux De Frize as secret as possible, That the ten following Pilots be the only Persons permitted to Pilot Vessells through the said passage, And between this City and Chester, viz't:

William Marshall,	James Roberts,
Daniel Gordon,	Nehemiah Maull,
John Schneider,	Joseph Gamble,
William Molleston,	Matthew Strong,
William Ross,	Michael Dawson.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 362-363.

*Pennsylvania Journal*, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1775

[Philadelphia, October 11.]

Since our last arrived here the Captains [Thomas] Reed and [John] Barry from London, by whom we have the following advices.



*Major General Artemas Ward. By Charles Willson Peale, c. 1794-95.*

London, August 1, 1775

The armourers in the Tower work sixteen hours (in the room of twelve) by order of the Board of Ordnance.

August 2. It is said Governor [James] Wright, of Georgia, is made prisoner by the people. (A Tory Lie.)<sup>1</sup>

The Americans seem to out number us in Generals, there appearing from several of their accounts to be the following, viz. General [Israel] Putnam, Gen. Pomroy [Seth Pomeroy], Gen. Washington, Gen. [Charles] Lee, Gen. [Artemas] Ward, and Gen. Doctor [Joseph] Warren, killed in the late engagements, besides other superior Commanders, as Col. Ethan Allen, at Ticonderoga, and Col. [Patrick] Henry, at Virginia, &c.&c.

August 3. The public may be assured, that by orders from *above*, a frigate of twenty-eight guns is fitting up at Woolwich, for sea, with all practicable speed, the officers cabins are upon the quarter deck, or in the gun-room, the great, or Captain's cabin is lined with crimson baize; she is otherwise prepared and decorated with every thing commodious and proper for her intended destination, which is *Virginia*, where she is to accomodate the governor Lord Dunmore, and *enable* him to receive deputations from the Council and Burgesses of that province, when assembled, with greater conveniency; she may also serve to receive delegations from the Caghnawaga Indians, to induce them to takè up the hatchet, and boil the war-kettle – Lady Dunmore is just arrived in England, or it might have *enabled* her Ladyship, with equal propriety, and perhaps, with equal success, to have given balls on board, to the Planters Ladies upon the intervening days! – What a deep business! What a secrecy! What dispatch is necessary! Who can wonder at the many councils which have been lately held!

August 4. In consequence of General Gage's new Commission, the Patents of all the Governors of the Provinces in America, we hear, will be recalled, and others made out consonant thereto.

General Washington, who was lately appointed Generalissimo over the Provincials, has refused any Salary, and is to attend to the hazardous duty allotted him from principle only. A most noble example, and worthy of imitation in Great-Britain, particularly at this time; for if there were a few disinterested Patriots, like Washington, the Supplies of the Mother Country would soon lessen the national debt without any requisition from the Colonies.

Eight men of war, from forty to fifty guns each, are ordered for the American station; some ships now there being ordered home, as too large for the service.

*A plan for reducing the rebellious Colony of New-England, and for the support of a legal Constitutional Government in America.*

To fortify Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. –

To garrison each place with 3000 troops. –

To keep cruising upon the American Coast three squadrons, each consisting of three 74 gun ships, three armed sloops, three schooners, three bomb vessels, and a battalion of Marines. – These three maritime pendulums moving upon the American Coast, would support the three garrisons, maintain the power of

government, prevent illicit trade, and give full protection to fair and just Commerce. During the winter, two Squadrons of the fleet to rendezvous at St. Augustine, for reasons too obvious to mention. –

To disarm the Commercial Colonies. –

Upon petitioning Government, to receive any military force that may be necessary, during war, to supply a number of recruits only for army and navy. –

Martial law to be fixed in the Colony of Connecticut, till full submission is made to Government. –

All forfeited estates to be granted to loyal Americans.

Canadian troops to possess Connecticut till all Rebellion ceases. –

The cordon of forts from Quebec to the Mississippi, to be garrisoned from thence, and by the Indian subjects. –

All ships trading in America, to be registered as British ships, and registered in some English port, commanded by an Englishman. – One third of the crews natives of England. –

The Agent of each Colony resident in England, to be recommended by the Upper Assembly of each Colony, and paid by Government in England, from the American Revenue, the annual salary of 1500£. (A pretty plan of Slavery)

August 5. It is whispered that government has ordered Gen. Gage to offer five thousand pounds to any person or persons who will bring him Gen. Putnam's head; this has been privately communicated to most of the royalists in and about Boston, who could be confided in.<sup>2</sup>

By Capt. Barry [arrived in the ship *Black Prince*] we learn, that some of the transports sailed from England for Ireland the beginning of August, to take in the five regiments for America.

1. The parenthetical remark is by the editor of the *Pennsylvania Journal*.

2. The advices of Captains Read and Barry included a number of other items culled from London newspapers. These will be found in the *European Theatre*.

*Pennsylvania Gazette*, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1775

Philadelphia, October 11.

Captain [Thomas] Read, from London, on the 24th ult. in Lat. 39:30, spoke the Ship *Peggy*, Capt. [William] Barron, out 19 Days from New-York, bound for Falmouth, who, on the 11th, lost his Main and mizenmasts, had his Boats stove, and lost most of his Water, which obliged him to put back. The Night after the Gale Captain Barron saw a Sloop almost sunk, with her Masts alongside, but could not perceive any Person on board.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU <sup>1</sup>

October 1775                      Moored in Elizbth River Virginia Abreast the Town of Norfolk

Wednesday 11    PM Stopt A Schooner wth A Rebel in going for powder    took him prisoner

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE <sup>1</sup>

October 1775 Elizabeth River [Virginia]  
 Wednesday 11 A M Seized a Sloop belonging to Portsmouth fitted her out  
 as a Tender. Sent the Mate & 10 Men on board her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

MINUTES OF THE WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

October 11th 1775.

At an Occassinal Meeting of the Committee

Mr Daniel Sutherland applied for leave to import a Cargo of Salt from the  
 Wt Indies; Whereupon the question being put, this Committee declined giving  
 any Opinion and refer'd it to the [Provincial] Committee of Safety. –

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

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL COUNCIL OF BERMUDA <sup>1</sup>

At a Council held at the Government House on Wednesday the 11th day  
 of October 1775 –

Present

His Excellency the Governor

The Hono'ble	George Forbes Esqr	Jonathan Burch Esqr
	Thomas Smith Esqr	Henry Tucker Esqr
	John Hinson Esquire	

The Hono'ble Thomas Smith Esq[r] Reported from the Committee ap-  
 pointed Yesterday an Adress to His Excellency the Governor which was Read and  
 contains as follows (vizt.)

August 31st 1775;

To His Excellency The Governor

The Address of His Majesty's Council of Bermuda. – May it please  
 Your Excellency

We His Majesty's most faithful Subjects the Council of Bermuda  
 have considered Your Excellency's Speech of Yesterday with all the Attention  
 which the Importance of the matter recommended to us so justly demands. –

We assure Your Excellency We are still Affected with the deepest  
 and most unfeigned Concern for the Robbery committed on the Powder  
 Magazine, and tho' we are happy in reflecting that every Method was  
 immediately taken for the Detection of the Perpetrators of that most atrocious  
 and execreable Act – which the united Wisdom of the Legislature could  
 suggest, Yet we at the same time Sincerely lament that the Offenders have  
 hitherto remained undiscovered. –

We join with Your Excellency in Opinion that in our present defence-  
 less State (arising principally from that most villainous Robbery) the utmost  
 care shou'd be taken of the Cannon, but we rather beg leave to Advise that  
 Your Excellency would be pleased [to] use Your Influence with Capt: Tolle-

mache to continue here 'till he can be relieved by some other Vessel of War, and we are the more strongly induced to give this Measure a preference to that recommended by your Excellency, as a large, arm'd Sloop (supposed to be from some of the North American Colonies) has for several Days past been seen hovering about our Coast, – This Circumstance is truly alarming and gives us the greatest reason to imagine that some Attempt may be made against the Island, which, (should it even be with a Vessel of but small Force) for want of Powder and from the ruinous Condition our Fortifications are now in, we should be unable to defeat; We therefore flatter Ourselves that Captain Tollemache will readily comply with a request of this Nature from your Excellency, as it must not only tend to secure the Cannon alluded to in Your Excellency's Speech but also the Cannon on the several Forts and Fortifications, which we conceive to be in imminent Danger for the Reasons we have just mentioned. – By Order of the Board. –

October 11th 1775. –

Geo: Forbes, President.

The said Address being Approved of,

It was Signed by the president of the board and by him Presented to His Excellency – His Excellency was thereupon Pleased to acquaint the board that a Copy of their Address accompanied with a Letter from himself should be delivered to Captain Tollemache to Morrow Morning

The Board Then Adjourned. –

1. Proceedings of the Governor's Council, 297–299, Bda. Arch.

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

Sir

Point a Pitre, Guadeloupe, 11 October 1775

I have received the letter which Your Excellency did me the honor of writing, dated 7th October, which has been sent to me here by the frigate of his Britannic Majesty which has anchored at Basse Terre: By this dispatch you tell me that Captain [Grant] Gordon, commanding the frigate *Argo* having put into the harbor at St. Pierre in Martinique has reported that a very pernicious trade is taking place there, [the] furnishing [of] powder and other munitions of war to the colonials of New England.

I can assure Your Excellency that I have no knowledge of it, I gave my orders a long time ago that no one was to allow anything of that nature to leave our ports: But St. Pierre is a trading place where all the commodities of Europe are traded with every foreigner, without distinction; and it is quite possible that the merchant with only his own interest in view traded in some of these articles without my having any knowledge of it nor of their destination.

Your Excellency tells me in the second place that these kinds of merchandize were exported in American Ships, which had on board French masters, and that the vessels of his Britannic Majesty, which encountered them at sea, seized them as contraband.

I have the honor of replying on this subject to Your Excellency that, following our own laws, a French master would not be enough to characterize the vessel he

commands as such it is necessary also that the greater part of the crew be composed of nationals, and that the ship be furnished with French sailing orders in good form and specifying its destination. Every ship in the state I have just described to Your Excellency could not be seized by those of his Britannic Majesty without a clear infraction of maritime rights recognized among civilized nations unless however in the actual situation they are encountered in the vicinity of New England carrying munitions of war for that colony.

As for the improper action of Mr. Gordon in the roadstead at St. Pierre which M. de Choiseul has told me about, I refer to what I had the honor of writing to Your Excellency by the Signeur de Montaigu commander of His Most Christian Majesty's troops, I shall add only that Captain Gordon was not able to visit under any admissible grounds ships which anchor in a French roadstead, being under the protection of His Most Christian Majesty, this act of violence would not be suffered even in time of war in any neutral port, and Captain Gordon has carried his delinquency to the greatest excess by acting to haul down the colors of His Most Christian Majesty in order to substitute those of his Britannic Majesty.

Therefore, I can only approve the action followed by Count de Choiseul concerning the indiscreet request Captain Gordon made to him in regard to seizing ships in our ports: The imprudent acts of Captain Gordon cannot be excused in any case, not even under the special pretext of an utmost Zeal for the service of his Britannic Majesty and I am entirely persuaded that Your Excellency cannot think otherwise.

The desire I have of maintaining union and friendship, which, I hope still exists between our respective nations, will cause me to pay particular attention to the choice I make of the officers who can visit your ports, in order that their conduct cannot diminish the harmony which has always existed between the governments of these colonies, and I hope that Your Excellency will do the same in recommending to all those under his orders an equal prudence when they are in our ports.

I have the honor of being with the greatest esteem &c.

The Count de Noziere

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122; translation.

## 12 Oct.

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

Octr 1775	Remarks &c at Quebec
Thursday 12	at 4 AM weighed and came to Sail under Single Reefd Topsls ½ past 8 came too with the Best Bower in 18 fathom water off the Town of Quebec Veerd away and Moored Ship a Cable each way the best Bower to the Noward and Small to the Soward found riding here an armd Ship and som[e] Transports and Merchtmn P M received several Men from the Merch't Vessels in clearing Ship for Action hove 3 Barrels and one half Barrel Overboard sent a Boat to row Guard

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO THEIR DELEGATES IN THE  
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

In Committee of Safety, Exeter, Octr 12th, 1775.

Gentlemen – On the 2d of this Inst. the ship *Prince George*, Richard Emms, Master, from Bristol bound to Boston with 1892 Barrels of Flour for the use of General Gage's army, came into our Harbour & was boarded by a number of men under the command of Lieut. Pickering of the Matross Company, & Brot up to Portsmouth, where she is detained. Gen. Washington has been consulted concerning her and has desired that the Cargo may be sent to the army and has promised to write to the Congress for their directions in what manner the Cargo should be disposed of, and what should be allowed the Captors &c.

As there is not a Barrel of flour to be sold in this Colony, & we were under a necessity of taking a Hundred Barrels of the Flour for the support of our soldiers & workmen at the Battery erecting on Seavey's & Pierce's Islands, there being employed thereon upwards of a Hundred soliders besides workmen; which we have since represented to Gen. Washington with a proposal to sell 500 Barrels to the inhts of Portsmo & deposit the money safely until directions from the Congress should be obtained. . . .

Our Batteries are almost compleated. The work done on them will surpass your Imagination. Several hundreds of men from the Country round about having voluntarily labored thereon, a considerable part of the time since they were begun.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 624.

APPRAISAL OF THE *Two Brothers* <sup>1</sup>

we The Subscribers Being desired Collo John Glover to Apprize the Schr *two Brothers* <sup>2</sup> of Seventy four Tuns taken up for the Service of the united Colonies (of America) Belonging to Mr Thomas Steavens of Marblehead, have Cearfully Examined the hull her Age the Sails Riggen Cables & Anchrs together with the Boat Stores &c as She Now Lays at Beverly wharfe, do Value Saide Vessell in our Judgements to be worth three Hundred and Fifteen pounds Eight Shillings – £315:8:

Beverly Octb. 12, 1775

Jonathan Glover  
Edw<sup>d</sup> Fettyplace

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 267, LC.

2. The armed schooner *Lee* of Washington's fleet.

APPRAISAL OF THE *Hawk* <sup>1</sup>

we The Subscribers Being desired By Collo John Glover to Apprize the Schr *Hawk* <sup>2</sup> of Sixty four Tuns taken up for the Service of the united Colonies (in America) Belonging to Mr John Twisdon of Marblehead, have Cearfully Examined the hull, her Age Sails Riggen Cables. & Anchrs together with the Boat

Stores &c. as She now Lays at Beverly wharfe do Value Said Vessell in our Judgements to be worth three Hundred & forty pounds ten Shillings – £340.10.

Beverly Octb. 12. 1775

Jonathan Glover  
Edw<sup>d</sup> Fettyplace

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 141, LC.
2. The armed schooner *Warren* of Washington's fleet.

DEPOSITION OF WILLIAM COWLEY <sup>1</sup>

Middlesex sst Octr 12th 1775.

William Cowley of lawful Age, being duely sworn deposeseth and saith that he has lived with Major John Conolly of Fort-Pitt in the Character of a Servant for two years last past – that the said Conolly was obliged to quit that Place fearing some Injury from the Inhabitants who suspected him of being an Enemy to his Country – that some Time in August last the said Conolly paid a Visit to Lord Dunmore on Board of his Lordship's Ship the *Royal William* then lying at Portsmouth in Virginia, and took this Deponent as his Servant – that the said Conolly stayed fourteen Days on Board of the said Ship and afterwards went to Boston in his Lordship's Tender *Arundel* with Dispatches to Genl Gage from Ld Dunmore where he was for the Space of ten Days – This Deponent further saith that after their Departure from thence the said Conolly asked this Deponent if he was willing to go with him into the Indian Country, told him that he had been with Genl Gage to get a Commission and Orders to go into the Indian Country to raise the Indians & French – that there was some Part of the Royal Irish (at Fort Charter's this Deponent thinks he said) who had in Command from Genl/Gage to join him, and who had nine twelve Pounds – that assoon as he had settled his Business with Lord Dunmore after his Return, he intended, as he dared not go Home thro the Heart of the Country to take his Lordship's Tender, go to St Augustine, there get guides to lead him through the Cherokee Nation, Shawanese, Mingo, & Delaware – that he was to get Commissions from Lord Dunmore for Capt. White Eyes, and Corn Stalk, and others of the Chiefs, and designed to make them Presents, in Order to encourage them to join him – that he intends to stay at Detroit this Winter to furnish himself with Boats & Canoes, to bring his Forces and Cannon up the Ohio River – that he then intends to attack Fort Pitt, after taking which he supposed all that Part of the World would join him, especially as he had Orders to give 300 Acres of Land to every Man that would enlist under him, – this Deponent further saith that the said Conolly informed him of another Scheme he had in View, namely to proclaim Freedom to all Convicts & indented Servants, then to march down to Alexandria in Virginia where he expects a Reinforcement from Lord Dunmore, and to meet with some Men of War, with which he intended to sweep the whole Country before him.

William Cowley.<sup>2</sup>

[Endorsed] William Cowley the Subscriber to the within Deposition made Oath to the Truth of the same before me

Ab<sup>m</sup> Fuller Just Peace

THE CONTRAST.



*Let us not Cut down the Tree to get at the Fruit.  
Let us Stroke and not Stab the Cow; For her Milk, and not her Blood, can give us real Nourishment and Strength.*

1. John Hancock Papers, vol. II, 58, LC; enclosed in Washington to Hancock, October 12, 1775.
2. See Cowley's letter to Washington, October 4, 1775.

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

[Extract]

Camp at Cambridge, Octr 12th 1775.

Before I was honoured with your Favour of the 5th Inst. I had given Orders for the equipment of some armed Vessels to intercept the Enemyies Supplies of Provisions & Ammunition. One of them was on a Cruize between Cape Ann & Cape Cod when the Express arrived. The others will be fit for the Sea in a few Days under the Command of Officers of the Continental Army, who are well recommended as Persons acquainted with the Sea, and capable of such a Service. Two of these will be immediately dispatched on this Duty, and every Particular mentioned in your Favour of the 5h Inst litterally complied with.

That the Honble Congress may have a more complete Idea of the Plan on which these Vessels are equipped, I enclose a Copy of the Instructions given to the Capt. now out (No 4)<sup>2</sup> These, with the additional Instructions directed, will be given to the Captains who go into the Mouth of St. Lawrence's River. As both Officers & Men most chearfully engage in the Service on the Terms mentioned in these Instructions, I fear that the proposed Encrease will create some Difficulty, by making a Difference between Men engaged on similar Service. I have therefore not yet communicated this Part of the Plan, but reserved an Extra Bounty as a Reward for extraordinary Activity. There are no armed Vessels in this Province, and Govr [Nicholas] Cooke informs me the Enterprize can receive no Assistance from him, as one of the armed Vessels of Rhode Island is on a long Cruize, and the other unfit for the Service. Nothing shall be omitted to secure Success. A fortunate Capture of an Ordnance Ship would give new Life to the Camp, and an immediate Turn to the Issue of the Campaign.

Our last Accounts from Col. Arnold are very favourable. He was proceeding with all Expedition, and I flatter myself making all Allowances, he will be at Quebec the 20h Inst., where, a Gentleman from Canada (Mr Brice) assures me, he will meet with no Resistance . . .

From the various Accounts received from Europe, there may be Reason to expect Troops will be landed at New York, or some other Middle Colony. I should be glad to know the Pleasure of the Congress whether upon such an Event it would be expected that a Part of this Army should be detached, or the internal Force of such Colony and its Neighbourhood be deemed sufficient, or whether in such Case I am to wait the particular Directions of Congress.

The Fleet mentioned in my last has been seen standing N.NE, so that we apprehend it is intended for some Part of this Province, or New-Hampshire, or possibly Quebec . . .<sup>3</sup>

A Person who has lately been a Servant to Major [John] Conolly a Tool of Lord Dunmore has given an Account of a Scheme to distress the Southern Provinces which appeared to me of sufficient Consequence to be immediately transmitted. I have therefore got it attested, and do myself the Honour of enclosing it No. 5.

1. John Hancock Papers, vol. II, 53–56, LC. Printed in Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 22–25.
2. The instructions to Nicholson Broughton, September 2, 1775.
3. The squadron under Lieutenant Henry Mowat. See Washington's letter of October 5, 1775.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO COLONEL JOHN GLOVER <sup>1</sup>

Sir I was under Some Mistake with Respect to the Proportion of the two Vessels who advance farther – Their share of Prizes will be the Same, & any Special Service will be recommended to the Congress for farther Bounty – Therefore you need say nothing upon this Head – Lose no Time – every Thing depends upon Expedition – I am Sir, &c.

J R

Head Quarters [Cambridge] Octo 12 – 1775

1. Washington Papers, LC

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO CAPTAIN NICHOLSON BROUGHTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir You are to recruit your present Crew to 70 Men including Officers but not out of the Companies stationed at Marblehead for the Security of the Coast without the Consent of the Committee. You will have further Instructions in a few days in the mean Time you are to follow the Orders of your Colonel. I am Sir [&c.]

J R

Head Quarters [Cambridge] Octo 12. 1775

Copy of Same to Capt. [John] Sellman –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

*New England Chronicle*, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 TO THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12,  
1775

Cambridge, October 12.

Last Tuesday [October 10] one of our Privateers from Beverly,<sup>1</sup> having been on a Cruize in the Bay, was followed, on her Return into Port, by the *Nautilus* Man of War. The Privateer run aground in a Cove a little without Beverly Harbour, where the People speedily assembled, stripped her, and carried her Guns, &c. ashore. The Man of War was soon within Gunshot, when she also got aground; she however let go an Anchor, and bringing her Broadside to bear, began to fire upon the Privateer. The People of Salem and Beverly soon returned the Compliment from a Number of Cannon on Shore, keeping up a warm and well directed Fire on the Man of War for 2 or 3 Hours, and it is supposed did her considerable Damage, and probably killed and wounded some of the Men; but before they could board her, which they were preparing to do, the Tide arose about 8 o'Clock in the Evening, when she cut her Cable, and got off. Some of her Shot struck one or two Buildings in Beverly; but no Lives were lost on our Side, and the Privateer damaged very little if any.

1. The armed schooner *Hannah* of Washington's fleet.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Thursday, October 12, 1775.

It was moved, That the Vote of this House for a non-acceptance of the Committee's Report on the Proceedings of the Committee of Inspection of Deer-Island, relative to the Schooner *Nightingale*, be re-considered; and after a long Debate thereon, it was moved that the Question be determined by Yeas and Nays; and the Question being put; it passed in the Negative.

The question was then put; whether the House will reconsider the Vote for a non-acceptance of said Report, and it passed in the Negative.

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

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Boston 12 October 1775

From different Conversations I have had on the subject of navigating in the River St Lawrence at this time of the year, and on the probability of Vessels getting to Quebec, I have been led to take the Opinions of Captains [Broderick] Hartwell and [John] Macartney upon the likelihood of the *Cerberus* and Transports arriving at Quebec, supposing they were now ready to depart: these Gentlemen assure and authorize me to say, the Attempt is extremely dangerous and that to persevere after getting into the River will be fatal to the whole, and that they look upon the Scheme to be impracticable: the reasons they have given me are so forcible, that I am intirely of their Opinion, and think it not adviseable to attempt it. I am Sir &c

Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 98, BM.

CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Sir

*Nautilus* Boston Bay 12 Octr 1775

The 10th instant saw standing into Salem a Schooner, the one I supposed I was in quest after, and followed her into a little Bay near to Beverley Bar, in which she run ashore, and I got in as near as possible just within Grape; after firing some Shot they left her, as she was aground and very near the beach thought it best to endeavour setting her on fire, immediately hoisted out the Boats, and got Combustibles ready for that purpose, but by this time she was quite dry, and render'd it impracticable, and I continued firing a Number of Shots into her, this Alarm brought great Numbers of armed people to different Stations of Security and a smart fire of Musquetry and Swivels took Place, soon after a fire from Salem Side with three Pieces of Cannon, at different Stations, so well chosen that I could not see them with my Glass; and at such a distance as to put it out of my power to return the Complement with that effect I could have wished, so that after exchanging Shot for some time to no purpose, not being able to destroy the Schooner, thought it time to get under way which could not be effected but by bringing a Spring on the Cable to cast her, as the Wind blew on the Bank to which

I was very near, and obliged me to leave the Anchor; notwithstanding this precaution very soon after took the Ground, and, in this Situation received a great many Shot mostly in my Rigging and Sails, about 20 through the Hammacoes and Hull, one Gun dismantled, and a Swivel shot in two; one man has lost his Leg, and another wounded in the Side. 'tis very lucky they fired so high. I have sent in the *Charming Polly* Schooner with a foreign Cargo of Cocoa.<sup>2</sup> I am Sir &c

John Collins

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 97-98, BM.

2. See the journal of the *Nautilus*, October 11, 1775.

STEPHEN SAMPSON'S BILL FOR IRON WORK FOR THE ARMED SCHOONER  
*Harrison* OF WASHINGTON'S FLEET<sup>1</sup>

Dr The Schoonr. *Harrison* to Stephen Sampson for Sundry Iron Work

1775

Octr 12	To 6 lb nails a 8d pr		4. . 4
	To 6 lb Speck a 7d pr	3. . 6	
	To 18½ [illegible] a 8d pr	12. . 4	
	To Strap for the mast 2/	2. . 0	
	To 12 thimbles 3/ 1 pr hinges 2/8	5. . 8	
	To 6 lb Specks 3/6 6 lb Eye Bolts a 4/	7. . 6	
	To 19½ o Bolts a 7 pr	11. . 1	
	To 10 Rings a 1/2 pr	11. . 8	
	To 10 Straps	13. . 0	
	To 2 folocks /2 keays 2 Stapels	2. . 0	
	To 2 thimbels 1/4 munkystail 2/6	3. 10	
	To Large Pot Bail 3/4	3. . 4	
	To 24 hocks & thimbles a 1/8 pr	1. 14. . .	5. . 9. 11
	To hand Specks Irond a 1/4. pr	10. . 8	
	To Swifel for Gun 6/	6. . 0	
	To 11 lb Balls 5/5 [illegible] 2 Swifels 6/	11. . 5	
	To tramel 4/8	4. . 8	
	To 8 Double & 8 Single hoops	3. . 0	
	To 10 Primen wires a 6/ pr	5. . 0	
	To 2 Copper Ladels a 4/ Pr	8. . 0	
	To 2 Double Wormers a 2/ pr	4. . 0	
	To 5 Single Ditto a 1/4 pr	6. . 8	
	To 7 Stapels 6 lb a [?]d pr	3. . 6	
	To 2d Bradds a 8 pr 1/4	1. . 4	
	To 30 folock & Revoton	7. . 6	
	To 4 thimbels a 6 pr	2. . 0	
	To 7 Ring Bolts 4/8	4. . 8	
	To 1 Iron Square 6/ Bolt a 6/8	12. . 8	
	To one trynel angle 6/8	6. . 8	
	To adds 5/4 mall 6/	11. . 4	
	To 8d nails 5/4 To 10 Specks 5/10	11. . 2	
	To Ironing 6 Oars a 1/ pr	6. . 0	
	To 6 Stapels a 5d pr	2. . 6	

To 3 Copper Ladels a 3/8 pr	11..0	
To 10 Straps for the timbr[e] heads 1/10	18..4	
To 2 Corken Irons 4/	4..0	
To 1 maken & one Sharp Iron	4..0	
To one Crow 16 o	9..4	8.15..5
To hasp & Staples	1..0	
To fleck Fork 1/8 hammer 1/4	3..0	
To 3 o Bolts 1/9 To 30 bradds 2/	3..9	
To 35 Straps a 7d pr	1..0..4	
To 8 Bonds for the timbers 10/8	10..8	
To hasp & Stapels 1/2	1..2	
To 2 Straps for the gunwaill	5..0	
To 1 Candel Stick 10	0.10	
To drilling new touch hole in Cowhern 6/	6..0	
To 1 Strap for the Guns 1/4	1..4	
To 1 Boat hook 3/	3..0	
To tiller Iron 3/	3..0	
To 2 Large Staples 1/6	1..6	
To 5 thimbels a 7d pr	2.11	
To 2 lb Bradds 1/4	1..4	3..4.10

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£ 17. 14. . 6

## The Schooners Debt Carred Over

[Page 2]

The Schoonr Dr. Brought Over		£ 17. 14. . 6.
To 2 Large hooks a 3/4	6..8	
To 1 Copper Ladel 4/	4..0	
To Dead Berin 4 Carriage guns	1..0..0	
To Transporting 4 Cannon } from Midelborough 13 mils }	1..0..0	
To 5 Carriages Redy Irons	15..0..0	17.10..8

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£ 35. . 5. . 2

Errors Excepte pr. Stephen Sampson

Recd. the Contents of Watson &amp; Spooner p Stephen Sampson

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 69, L.C. This is an example of the itemized accounts for the *Harrison*, which, together with those for the armed brig *Washington*, were submitted to General Washington by William Watson, Continental Agent at Plymouth, along with his general account for both vessels on December 19, 1775. The general account will be found in Appendix C.

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

Remarks on Thursday 12 Octr. 1775

12 [Noon] Cape Elisabeth &amp; Wood Island N W b W 3 leags

Fresh Breezes & hazy 1/2 past [8] Made Sail *Symmetry* brought too a Sloop wt Wood from New Medows.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO CHRISTOPHER LEFFINGWELL, NORWICH, CONNECTICUT,  
MERCHANT <sup>1</sup>

Sr

Providence Oct. 12, 1775

The Bearer here of Mr Benja – Comstock & his Brother Capt Jos Comstock the latter of wch is lately from the West Indies with a small Vessel & Cargo now at your Place in wch we are some part Concernd The Prest State of the Enemys Crusers Abot this Collony are such that we think it not safe she should Come round Just Now – Any Advice or Assistance they May Stand In need of Given upon Applycation Will be graiftfully Acknowledged by us, who are with offers of our best servises Your [&c.]

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

LETTER FROM BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND, TO A NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir,

Bristol, Oct. 12, 1775.

Having observed in the last *Newport Mercury*, an imperfect account relative to the conduct of his Majesty's ships, under the command of Capt. Wallace at Bristol, last Saturday night [October 7]. I embrace this opportunity to give you a true and particular detail of facts, that took place, from their anchoring in the harbour till they left the town. – – On Saturday the 7th instant, P.M. appeared in sight of this harbour, a very formidable fleet, consisting of 16 sail, viz. three men of war, one bomb ketch, and other armed vessels, all which, excepting the *Glasgow* (who ran ashore at Paquash point) drew up in a line of battle, from one end of the town to the other: soon after they had moored, a barge came from the *Rose*, to the head of a wharf, with the Lieutenant, who asking if there were any gentlemen on the wharf? William Bradford being present, answered yes; whereupon the Lieutenant informed him, Captain Wallace had a demand to make on the town, and desired that two or three of the principal men, or magistrates of the town, would go on board his ship, within an hour, and hear his proposals, otherwise hostilities would be commenced against the town. the above gentleman replied as a magistrate, that, in his opinion, Capt. Wallace was under a greater obligation to come ashore, and make his demands known to the town, than for the magistrates to go on board his ship to hear them, and added, that if Capt. Wallace would come to the head of the wharf the next morning, he should be treated as a gentleman, and the town would consider of his demands; with this answer the Lieutenant returned on board the *Rose*. The inhabitants being made acquainted with the above conversation, repaired to the wharf, and waited with the utmost impatience for a reply from Capt. Wallace, till an hour had expired, when the whole fleet began a most heavy cannonading, and the bomb vessel to bombard, and heave shells and carcasses into the town; which continued without intermission, an hour and an half.

In the mean time Col. [Stephen] Potter, in the hottest of the fire, went upon the head of the wharf, hailed the *Rose*, went on board and requested a cessation

of hostilities, 'till the inhabitants might choose a committee to go on board and treat with Capt. Wallace; which request was complied with; and six hours were allowed for the above purpose. Col. Potter returned and made a report to the Committee of inspection, who chose a select committee to hear Capt. Wallace's demands, which, after they had gone on board, Capt. Wallace informed them were a supply of 200 sheep and 30 fat cattle. This demand, the Committee replied, it was impossible to comply with; for the country people had come in and drove off their stock, saving a few sheep and some milch cows.

After some hours had expired, during the negotiation, without coming to any agreement, Captain Wallace told them, I have this one proposal to make, "If you will promise to supply me with 40 sheep, at or before twelve o'clock, I will assure you that another gun shall not be discharged." The committee, seeing themselves reduced to the distressing alternative, either to supply their most inveterate enemy with provisions, or devote to the flames the town, with all the goods, besides near 100 sick persons, who could not be removed without the utmost hazard of their lives; I say, seeing themselves reduced to this dreadful dilemma, of two evils reluctantly chose the least, by agreeing to supply them with 40 sheep at the time appointed, which was punctually performed.

The Rev. Mr. John Burt having been confined to his house by the camp distemper, when the cannonading began left his habitation, to seek some place of safety; and the next day was found dead in a neighbouring field. It is conjectured that being overcome with fear and fatigue, he fell down and was unable to raise himself up, and so expired. A child also of Capt. Timothy Ingraham, having been removed in the rain, died the next day.

What equally challenges our administration and gratitude to God is, that no more lives were lost, or persons hurt, by such an incessant and hot fire; the streets being full of men, women and children, the whole time; the shrieks of the women, the cries of the children, and groans of the sick, would have extorted a tear from even the eye of a Nero.—But I forbear—words can't describe the dreadful scene.

After the ships had received their supply, and stole about 90 cheeses, and some poultry, from Papaquash, they weighed anchor, and moored at Papaquash point; the next day (being Tuesday) they went into Bristol ferry way and fired a number of shot at the houses and people on each shore, where three of them got a ground; but the tide rising towards evening, they left us, and have not molested us since.

A great number of dwelling-houses &c. were shot through; but suffered very little damage. A cannon ball entered a distill-house, then passed through three hogsheads and barrels of rum, and spilt their contents.

[Footnote added by editor of the *New York Gazette*] The Rev. Mr. Burt was born in Boston, and having received a liberal education at Harvard College, he was ordained pastor of the Congregational church in Bristol, where he laboured in the work of the ministry 34 years. He was a gentleman of a respectable character.

1. *New York Gazette*, October 23, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

At a Town Council Newport October 12th 1775

Present	Ebenezer Richardson	} Esqrs Members of sd Town Council
	William Read	
	Robert Taylor	
	Thomas Freebody	
	Daniel Halloway	
	John Pitman	

Mr Francis Malbone have Informed said Town Council that he being on board his Majestys Ship *Rose* this day, James Wallace Esqr—Commander of said Ship informed him that he was Willing to Conferr with a Committee that Should be Appointed by the Town to Settle Affairs between the Inhabitants of the Town and Said Commanding officers of his said Majestys Ships that Peace may be Restored to the Said Inhabitants of said Town and the Said Commanders of said Ships and Companys

Whereupon the said Town Council in behalf of the Said Inhabitants have Appointed Job Bennet Esqr Messrs William Read Francis Malbone Simon Pease Robert Ferguson and John Malbone to Wait on Capt Wallace to Consult such Measures as they may think Necessary for the Service of the Town and they to Make Report of their Doing to the Said Town Council As Soon As Conveniently may be. Given under my hand by order and in Behalf of the Said Town Council

Witness Wm Coddington Council Clerk

1. Nicholas Cooke Papers, II, 18, RIHS.

BERNARD ROMANS TO THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

Honourable Gentlemen – Fort Constitution, October 12th, 1775.

By order from the Committee of Safety I am up here for the purpose of constructing this fort; said gentlemen gave me their words that I should be appointed principal engineer for this Province, with the rank and pay of colonel. As I have been now actually engaged in this work since the 29th August last, I should be glad to know the certainty of my appointment, and therefore humbly pray that my commission may be made and sent. I have left the pursuit of my own business, which was very considerable, and endangered my pension from the crown, by engaging in our great and common cause; these matters considered, I hope my request will be thought reasonable, and therefore complied with. I remain, with the utmost respect, [&c.]

B. Romans.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 174.NATHANIEL WOODHULL TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir New York, October 12th 1775.

Captain Thompson lately arrived from London was examined before the provincial Congress here—some parts of the Information he gave are important

At a Town Council Newport October 12<sup>th</sup> 1775

Present Ebenezer Richardson

William Read

Robert Taylor

Thomas Incebody

Daniel Halladay

John Pitman

Esq<sup>s</sup> Members of  
Town Council

Mr Francis Malbone have informed said Town Council that he being on Board his Majestys Ship Rose this day, James Wallace Esq<sup>r</sup> Commanden of said Ship informed him that he was willing to confer with a Committee that should be appointed by y<sup>e</sup> Town to settle Affairs between the Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town and said Commanden of said Majestys Ships that Peace may be restored to y<sup>e</sup> said Inhabitants of said Town and y<sup>e</sup> said Commanden of said Ships and Company

Whereupon the said Town Council in behalf of y<sup>e</sup> said Inhabitants have appointed Job Bennett Esq<sup>r</sup> Messrs William Read Francis Malbone Simon Peaple Robert Ferguson and John Malbone to wait on Capt Wallace to consult such Measures as they may think Necessary for y<sup>e</sup> Service of the Town and they to make Report of their Doing to y<sup>e</sup> said Town Council as soon as Conveniently may be Given under my hand by order and in Behalf of y<sup>e</sup> said Town Council

Witness W<sup>m</sup> Goddington Council Clerk

& may not be fully known to you—I therefore take Liberty to enclose You notes of Mr Thompson's Information,<sup>2</sup> and have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect & Esteem [&c.]

Nath<sup>el</sup> Woodhull Presidt

1. Washington Papers, LC. Woodhull was president of the New York Provincial Congress.
2. See Thompson's information, October 10, 1775.

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

[New York] Die Jovis 9 HO.A.M. October 12th, 1775.

Capt. John Lawrence being by request attending at the door, was called in and examined, and notes of his examination taken which were filed, and are in the words following, to wit:

Capt. John Lawrence sailed from London the 2d of August; left Falmouth the 14th: says, he made it his business to get all the intelligence he could with respect to the intentions of Government against the Colonies. That 23 ships from 40 guns and under were fitting out for the American service, to relieve the ships which were deemed too large, which he understood were to be recalled. That they were not all to come out this fall on account of the carpenters leaving the yards; that he understood 5 regiments were to come from Ireland, 3 regiments from England and Scotland, and 5 companies of artillery; that a large quantity of ordnance was shipping for America, and that five transports with provisions were sailed for Boston before he sailed; that he understood the troops were destined for Boston; that he heard that 4 or 5 of the transports had sailed for Ireland, to take the troops on board before he sailed; that he saw 4000 stand of arms shipped for Quebec; that 2 brigs sailed out of the Downs in company with him laden with warlike stores; that they sailed without convoy; that they had a lieutenant on board each but no troops; that he understood the arms were for the use of the Canadians; that he did not hear of any troops going to Quebec; that he did not hear of any artillery or stores or troops were to be sent to the southern Colonies, or to this Province; that he understood that 10,000 tons of transports were taken up to go to Embden, and 16,000 Hessians and Hanoverians were intended for America; But whether they were to proceed immediately to America or touch in England was not certain; reports differing relative thereto. That the report of employing Hessians and Hanoverians took place before the account of Bunker Hill battle; that the people seemed to be much exasperated against the Americans on receiving the account of Bunker Hill that the merchants in general were opposed to the Americans; that they were much pleased on hearing that 15,000 of the provincials were killed and taken prisoners by about 1700 regulars; but when the true state of the battle arrived they made long faces; that he did not hear of their building any flat-bottomed boats; that the news of taking Ticonderoga, &c. was by no means relished; that it was supposed the Parliament would be called sooner than usual, on account of calling the Hessian and Hanoverian troops; that Capt. Effingham Lawrence told him that he had been informed by Lord [Henry] Gage, that they intended to make up their army in America to 30,000 men this fall;

that there was no complaint of the manufacturers wanting employ, and it was generally supposed that the administration kept them employed; that the people in general thought New-York worse than any of the other Colonies for disappointing them, not only by joining the other Colonies, but by acting more vigorously than the rest; that he heard there was more than ordinary demands for British goods by the Mediterranean; that the manufacturers in Ireland were quiet, but wished well to the Americans; that the people in England were anxious to hear from the Congress, expecting some offer of accommodation. That it was reported that on the news of Bunker Hill, the stocks fell a little, but afterwards rose again; that he heard of no disunion in the councils of administration; that great numbers of vessels were laid up in the Thames owing to the stopping of the American trade; that it was generally expected in England that the next news from America would be that Maj. [Philip] Skeene was hanged.

Ordered, That the master of the brigantine *Mary* have notice that he has leave to depart this Colony as soon as she is refitted and fit for sea.

A draft of a letter to the commissioners at the fortifications in the Highlands was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Provincial Congress, New-York, October 12th, 1775.

Gentlemen—The enclosed resolution which we received last evening from the Continental Congress will show you the objects they have in view, with regard to the fortifications now building in the Highlands, and also their sentiments as to the necessity of fortifying several other places on the river. We desire that you would take the matters recommended by the Congress into consideration, without loss of time; go to the several places mentioned in the resolutions; give us your opinions as to the fortifications necessary to be built at these places, with an estimate of the expenses, and what will be wanting from this city to complete the works. You will take Mr. Romans to your assistance, and use all possible despatch in making your report to this Congress. We have only to add, that you conduct this business with as much secrecy as the nature of the transaction will admit.

We are, gentlemen, Your [&c.] By order.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 171–174.

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

[Philadelphia] October 12th –

*Resolved*, That Capt. Thomas Moore be appointed to the Command of the Boat *Hancock*.

Agreeable to an Order of the Board, Directions for Peter Long, Gentleman, as Ship's Husband to the Armed Boats was this day drawn up, approved of, and is as follows:

In Committee of Safety.

To Peter Long,

Gentleman: You are hereby appointed Ship's Husband to the Pennsylvania Fleet, and empower'd to do all such matters and things as may be necessary for the due Execution of the said Office.

You are to make known to all Commanders & other officers employed in the said Fleet, that they are to apply through you for all Stores and necessary's required for the Service. You are to receive their Indents or Lists of what is wanted, Report the same as often as necessary to this Committee, and when the approbation of the Board is obtained, You are to procure the sundry articles, of the best quality, each in its kind; and it is your particular Duty to buy them on the best terms in your power; You are to take each officers' receipt for the articles delivered to him, and you are to return the Bills or accounts of those you purchase for this Board, certify'd by you that the quantity's are what you received, and the prices what you agreed for, not being dearer than the Currant rates of each respective articles at the time of purchase.

You are empower'd to inspect and inquire on board the Fleet at least once in every month, and as much oftener as you may think necessary, whether all Stores and necessary's are taken proper care off, and not negelected, wasted or embezzled, and make Report according, as you find to this Board.

This Board, being ever desirous to serve the Public faithfully, so recommend the most prudent economy in the Outfits & Supplys of the Fleet; they must have every thing necessary, but avoid all expensive Superfluitys, and in the purchase of what is wanted, give a preference to such persons as are known to be Zealous supporters of the American cause, deviding the business amongst as many of such as can be done with conveniency, and consistantly with the public good.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 363-365.

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

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] Octr. 12, 1775

I have inclosed a Paper upon which I will make no Remark: But leave you to your own Conjectures – only I must absolutely insist that it be mentioned to nobody. It may gratify your Curiosity and give some Relief to your Cares.<sup>2</sup>

I most earnestly pray that all my Friends would exert themselves to furnish me with Intelligence of a particular Nature. I mean with a List of all the Dep-radations committed upon our Trade; a List of all the Vessels which have been taken by the Cutters, Cruizers, &c.; the Names of the Vessells, Masters, owners; Burthen of the Ship, the Nature of the Cargo's, and the Value of both. Nothing will contribute so much to facilitate Reprizals, as an exact Account of our Losses and Damages. I wish our General Court would take it up and examine it thoroughly.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 134, 135.

2. Outline of Proposal for Procuring Powder. See next entry.

OUTLINE OF PROPOSAL FOR PROCURING POWDER<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia, October 12]

As the Article of Powder is much wanted to carry on the operations vs. the Ministerial Army, and as the british Ministry have taken Every Step that human Nature could devise to prevent the Americans obtaining so essential an Article; it is humbly Submitted to the wisdom of the Cont. Congress, whether it will not be prudent to Supply themselves with that Article at the Expence of the said Ministry by taking it wherever they can get it. It is therefore recommended that 2 Vessells properly mann'd be sent to the Island of Antigua one of which may anchor at old Road on the South Side of the said Island (where there are only a few Houses) in the Evening under Dutch Colours; passing for a Vessell bound on a forced Trade, to the French Islands; in the night they may land, and take away all the powder; there being not above one or two Persons, in the fort to prevent it. As soon as the Powder is obtained the Vessell may proceed down to Johnsons Point Fort, at the S.W. point of the Island; and take what is there; there being only a single Matross in the said Fort; the other Vessell must be commanded by a prudent Man, well acquainted with the Bar and Harbour at St. Johns; if any Man of War be anchored without the Bar; it will not be prudent to attempt any Thing, but should there be none; the Vessell may then go over the Bar, and anchor close under the fort; as is commonly the Custom. There are generally 10 or 12 Soldiers in James Fort Situated on a Point on the larboard Hand, Seven miles distant from the Town; the Magazine is in a hollow; on the Left hand just after entering the Gate, and commonly contains from 500 to 1000 Blls. of Powder, or more. 2 miles from thence to the northward is a Small fort called Corbresons point fort; and 2 miles from this northward is another Small fort called Dickensons bay fort, in either of which there is not above a Single Matross. All this Powder may be easily obtained without any Opposition, if conducted with Prudence; it will be necessary that the Captn should have some Money, to distribute among the Soldiers, to assist in taking it away; He may go into the Fort in the afternoon (and See how the Land lies) under pretence of Sailing that night, and thereby guide his operation.

The same Thing may be done by other Vessells at Montserrat, Nevis, Charles fort at Sandy point, St. Kitts, also at St. Martens; without any Risque.

I would advise the continental Congress to make a general Sweep of all the Powder, at St. Eustatius, it may first be taken and then paid for afterwards as the Dutch refuse to sell it to us; I am well persuaded the whole of this Plan may be executed, and that near 3000 Blls of powder may be obtained in the Course of 3 or 4 months.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 135-136. Enclosed in John Adams to James Warren, October 12, 1775.

CONTEMPORARY LIST OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ROW GALLEYS <sup>1</sup>

Date of Commission	Commencement of Pay	Captains	Date of Commissions	Commencement of Pay	Lieutenants	Names of the Armed Boats	Built by
1775			1775				
July 17.	dd	1 Henry Dougherty	August 29th		1 Nathan Boyce	<i>Washington</i>	John Wharton
18.		2 John Rice	Sept 18		6 James Allen	<i>Dickinson</i>	John Rice
24.		3 Charles Alexander	Augt 30		2 {Robert Pomeroy resign'd }	<i>Chatham</i>	Casdorp
Augt 1.		4 Nicholas Biddle	Sept 2		4 Thomas Houston	<i>Franklin</i>	Emanuel Eyres
2.	dd	5 John Hamilton	Septemr 1st	dd	3 Hugh Montgomery	<i>Congress</i>	Emanuel Eyres
3.	dd	6 Allen Moore	Octr 3rd		13 [John] Hennessy	<i>Effingham</i>	Caswell
31.		7 James Montgomery	Sept 15th	dd	5 Gibbs Jones	<i>Ranger</i>	Saml Robins
Sept 4		<del>Robert Eyres</del> <sup>2</sup>	Sept 23d		10 Benjamin Thompson	<i>Experiment</i>	John Wharton
Sept 21st		10 Saml Davidson	Sept 19		7 Jeremiah Simmons	<i>Warrer.</i>	Marsh
Sept 19	dd	8 James Blair	Sept 20	dd	8 John Chatham	<i>Burke</i>	Warwick Coats
Sept 20		<del>Samuel Davidson</del>				<i>Chatham</i>	
Sept 29	dd	9 Richard Eyres	20th	dd	9 George Garland	<i>Camden</i>	Sherlock
Oct 12		[Thomas] Moore			11 David Ford	<i>Hancock</i>	Wm Williams
Sept 29		11 John Moulder <sup>3</sup>	20th				
Oct 2	dd	12 Alexr Henderson	Oct 3		12 John Webb	<i>Bull Dog</i>	El Eyres

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers (January 3, 1775–July 29, 1776), Pa. Arch; endorsed "List of Galley Officers."

2. At the date of this return, October 12, 1775, no captain had been appointed by the Committee for the galley *Experiment*.

3. John Moulder refused appointment, and Thomas Moore was elected in his place.

CAPTAINS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FLEET TO THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia, October 12]

The Memorial of the Captains belonging To the Pemsylvania Fleet –

Sheweth that your Memorialists find by those Who have been down the River, that their Expences Are greater than they at first expected, and beg leave To reccomend it to your Serious consideration –

That the Officers belonging to the Boats Are too few for the number of men, and think a Second Leiutenant necessary –

That they find the 15th Article—Relative to Captures, disscourages the men from Entering into the Service freely. They therefor humbly Pray you to take the Above into your consideration

We your Memorialists remain – [&c.]

Alex <sup>r</sup> Henderson	Jn <sup>o</sup> Hamilton
James Blair	Allen Moore
H Dougherty	Rich <sup>d</sup> Eyres
Charles Alexander	Sam <sup>l</sup> Davison
Nicholas Biddle	

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, Case 5, Box 27, HSP.

JOHN HUNTER HOLT TO THE PUBLIC <sup>1</sup>

Norfolk, October 12, 1775

The subscriber having been prevented from continuing his business, by a most unjustifiable stretch of arbitrary power, begs leave to inform the publick, that he has some expectations of procuring a new set of materials, which, if he should be so fortunate as to succeed in, will enable him once more to apprise his countrymen of the danger they may be in from the machinations and black designs of their common enemy. The particular place where the office will be erected is not yet fixed, but it will be so near Norfolk as to give an opportunity of receiving the earliest and most authentick information of the proceedings of the gentlemen of the army and navy, and of sounding the alarm whenever danger approaches. As his paper has hitherto been free and open to all parties, he intends to observe the same caution and impartiality in his future publications, and cannot but flatter himself that his conduct has been such as will entitle him to the future encouragement of his subscribers and the publick.

John Hunter Holt.

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, October 13, 1775.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE <sup>1</sup>

October 1775	Elizabeth River [Virginia]
Thursday 12	A M Sailed hence the Sloop <i>Caroline</i> Pink on a Cruize

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

13 Oct.

BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD MONTGOMERY TO MAJOR GENERAL  
PHILIP SCHUYLER <sup>1</sup>

Dear General,

Camp near St. Johns Octr. 13th

Some Time ago I informed you of my Intentions to make my approaches on the West Side, as soon as the expected Reinforcement enabled me to undertake it. I had had a Road cut to the intended Ground & some Fascines made when I was informed by Major Brown that a general Dissatisfaction prevailed, that unless something was undertaken in a few Days there would be a Meeting, & that the universal Sense of the Army was to direct all our Intentions to the East Side. The Impatience of the Troops to get Home has prevented their seeing the Impossibility of undertaking this Business sooner, the Duty being hard for the Troops even on the present confined State of Operations.

When I mentioned my Intentions I did not consider I was at the Head of Troops who carry the Spirit of Freedom into the Field & think for themselves.

Upon considering the fatal Consequences which might flow from a Want of Subordination & Discipline should this ill Humour continue my unstable Authority over Troops of different Colonies, the Insufficiency of the military Law, & my own Want of Power to enforce it, weak as it is, I thought it expedient to call the Field officers together. Enclosed I have sent you the Result of our Deliberations.

I still suspect the Garrison intend an Elopement, and there is some Reason to think they are getting Flat Boats ready to go down the Rapids. This Intelligence is just come.

The Canadians who have befriended us begin to be exceedingly uneasy at their Situation should we not succeed. I have ventured to assure them, should any Accident oblige us to retire without effecting our Business, that I would take Care of all those who were afraid to remain in the Country.

You will see the Propriety of putting Tionderoga in a State of Defence against a Winter Coup de Main, which in my Opinion will be best effected by a Stockade, and also of having a Post at Crown Point. The Vessels should lie in Stockade also, the Garrison be well provided with Vegetables and every Thing necessary to make them comfortable; otherwise it will be difficult to keep them there; And such Preparation made for a naval Armament in the Spring that the Troops may move down to the Isle Aux Noix before Mr Carleton has Time to establish himself there should those unhappy Troubles continue. I am &c.

Rich<sup>d</sup> Montgomery

[Endorsed] Read [in Continental Congress] Octr 31 [1775].

1. John Hancock Papers, III, 263-264, LC; copy in Schuyler to Congress, October 14, 1775, Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 226, 227, NA.

BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD MONTGOMERY'S REPORT OF HIS CONFERENCE  
WITH HIS OFFICERS <sup>1</sup>

I proposed establishing a battery of all our spare heavy Cannon on the rising ground exactly opposite the Stone house in the North redoubt, - (in the West face of which there is but one embrasure open) at the distance of about 100 yards,

Securing this battery with a work Capable of being well defended by 200 Men. From this battery our approaches might be continued to the ditch, & by the time we arrive there, the fraze round the berm would be destroyed, the rampart in a ruinous state, & the large house (which is said to be their principal barrack) would be destroyed, as every Shot that missed the rampart must take the house. Two four pounders on the East Side would answer the end of seeing the west rampart in reverse, & thereby slackening the opposition of the enemy. By this mode of proceeding, if our ammunition held out, there would be in my opinion some prospect of success, notwithstanding the superior artillery of the Garrison, which could not be mounted in its proper place time enough to prevent the erection of our battery. The field Officers were to a man of opinion that my reasons were insufficient, being afraid the design'd ground was at this season too wet for approaches, & Strongly of opinion our heavy cannon on the east side would more effectually distress the enemy by annoying their buildings, the Fort having a Gentle slope to the river & which was urged as the strongest motive by destroying their Schooner. In vain I represented if every building was destroy'd, the garrison could not surrender without a probability of an assault, which could never arise from any attack on the opposite side of the river that the vessel could not be destroyed, because she would change her place in such a manner as to elude our batteries that we had little powder or time to throw away on experiments that I had a moral certainty they would find themselves mistaken & finally that they must take it upon themselves; for I would not oppose the general sence of the army, & should enforce the measure by every effort in my power.

I cannot help observing to how little purpose I am here. Were I not afraid the example would be too generally followed & that the publick service might suffer, I would not stay an hour at the head of Troops whose operations I cannot direct – I must say I have no hopes of Success from the garrisons wanting provisions.

Richard Montgomery

Camp near St. John's October 13th 1775

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 228, NA; enclosed in Montgomery to Schuyler, October 13, 1775.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Second Portage from Kennebec  
to the Dead River. 13th Octor 1775

May it please your Excellency

A person going down the River presents the first Opportunity I have had of writing to your Excellency, since I left Fort Western, since which we have had a very fatiguing time, the Men in general not understanding Batteaus have been obliged to wade & haul them more than half way up the River – the last Division is just arrived – three Divisions are over the first Carrying place, & as the Men are in high Spirits, I make no doubt of reaching the River Chaudiere in Eight or Ten Days, the greatest difficulty being I hope already past.

We have now with us about twenty five days provisions for the whole Detachment, Consisting of about Nine hundred & fifty effective men. I intend making



*Brick hearth on board a small American armed vessel of the Revolutionary period.*

an exact return, but must defer it until I come to Chaudiere – I have order'd the Commissary to hire people acquainted with the River & forward on the Provisions left behind (about 100 barrells) to the great Carrying place, to secure our retreat the expence will be Considerable, but when set in Competition with the Lives or Liberties of so many brave men, I think it trifling, & if we Succeed, the Provisions will not be lost.

I have had no intelligence from Genl [Philip] Schuyler or Canada, & expect none 'till I reach Chaudiere Pond, where I expect a Return of my Express, & to determine my plan of operation which as it is to be govern'd by Circumstances, I can say no more than if we are oblig'd to return I believe we shall have a sufficiency of provisions to reach this place where the Supply order'd the Commissary to send forward, will enable us to return on our way home so far that your Excellency will be able to relieve us, if we proceed on we shall have a sufficient Stock to reach the French Inhabitants (where we can be supplied) if not Quebec—

Your Excellency may possibly think we have been tardy in our march, as we have gained so Little, but when you Consider the badness & weight of the Batteaus, and large quantity's of Provisions &c. we have been obliged to force up against a very rapid Stream, where you would have taken the men for Amphibious Animals, as they were a great part of the time under water, add to this the great Fatigue in Portage – you will think I have pushed the men as fast as they could possibly bear, the Officers, Volunteers & Privates in General, have Acted with the greatest Spirit & Industry. I am—[&c.]

Bened<sup>t</sup> Arnold

1. John Hancock Papers, III, 305–307, LC.

LETTER FROM REV. JACOB BAILEY<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Falmouth, October 13.]

On Friday, the 13th of October, the inhabitants were alarmed by the appearance (of a fleet) consisting of six sail, which passed the harbour, and stretched along the eastern shores; the wind blowing in heavy squalls from the north west.

1. Falmouth Collection, MeHS.

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

Remarks Friday 13 Octr 1775

10 [A. M.] *Halifax* Chaced to the SW Strong Gales & Cloudy 3 [P. M.] Came too wh the best bower 18 Fm Mud Bottom in Townsend Booth bay So Part of Dama[ri]scover Island S b W Cukolds S W b W Et Pt Squirrel Isld about ½ a Mile N b E handed Sails wore to a Cable came in & Anchored wh Us the *Symmetry Spitfire* a Sloop & a Schooner Prizes

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Portsmouth 13th Octobr 1775

I arrived here the 11th inst. & deliverd Colonel [Joseph] Reeds Letter to the Chairman of the Committee in Consequence of which he calld a meeting of the members, the result was, that they woud deliver to my care 1200 barrells of the flour, and let me know what woud be done, with the rest of the Cargo, when they received an Answer to a Letter they had wrote to your Excellency, in which (they inform me) they express the great want of that article in this province – As even a half a Loaf woud be better than no bread I told them I woud take immediate charge thereof, and yesterday I engaged two sloops, to begin the transportation, one of them will take in, this day.

I have engaged in behalf of the Continent to insure (against the enemy only) the Vessels, the Committee will appraise them, they are to receive one shilling Lawfull money p barrell, which at this season of the year is not extravagant,—I find by haveing had a few barrells weighed, they fall short 3 . . 4 . . & 5 pounds, of the weight Marked on them, & as it will probably become a Continental Charge, I have thought it best to have them all weighed, that the publick, or the Com-misary into whose hands they fall, may not pay for more flour than they realy have

As there are people in this town inimicall to the Cause, I think best (in part) to keep it secret where this flour is to be Landed, the engagements I have made are, that they must proceed to Newbury, Ipswich, Cape Ann, salem or Marble-head, according to the orders, I shall give them when going to sea. A Coppy of these orders, I have the honor of inclosing to you, – I have appointed Trist. Dalton Esqr of Newbury agent for the Armed schooners, & any Prizes they may Carry into that port, & Colonel Joshua Wentworth for this Province, they are to obey all Orders they will receive from Headquarters I have the honor to be [&c.]

Stephen Moylan

P.S. Your Excellency will be pleasd to order, two hundred and forty Dollars to be sent me by the bearor, that I may pay the freight and other Charges attend-ing this business –

[Enclosure]

Portsmouth 13th Octobr 1775

## Instructions for Captain of the sloop

You are to proceed with the first fair wind to the Port of Salem, and deliver your Cargo Consisting of       barrels of flour to the Care of Mr Hask. Darby at his Wharf, who will give you a receipt for the Same –

You are by no means to go farther out to Sea than is absolutely necessary for the preservation of your vessel & Cargo. Hugg the shore all the voige as much as possible, Avoid every vessel you See and make all the dispatch you possibly can –

by complying with these instructions, you will render the risque of the enemy trifeling, you will merit the Confidence of your Country, and you will be entitled to receive one shilling Lawfull money p barrell for your freight

Stephen Moylan

1. Washington Papers, LC.

INSURANCE FORM FOR TRANSPORTATION OF CAPTURED FLOUR CARGO FROM  
PORTSMOUTH TO SALEM <sup>1</sup>

I Stephen Moylan Commissary General of Musters to the Army of the United Colonies, being impowerd by His Excellency George Washington Esqr Commander in Chief, to Negotiate the transportation of a Cargo of Flour, from this Port to any other Port or Ports on this Coast, And Whereas Captain [blank] of the Sloop [blank] has engaged to proceed to the Port of Salem with a Load of said flour on the following Conditions – that he is to receive one shilling, Lawfull Money for every barrell of flour he delivers to the Care of Mr Hask. Darby of Sd port

that his vessel is to be insured against the danger of being taken by the enemy in the prosecution of this voige – by Virtue of the power aforesaid; I do hereby insure said vessell in the sum of three hundred pounds Lawfull Money against the said risque

Stephen Moylan

Witness My hand Portsmouth the 13th October 1775

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL  
CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

Sir I am to thank you for your Favour of the 4th Instt inclosing the Advices from England of 26t July & 8. August –

A few Days ago I apprized the Committee of New York of the sailing of a small Fleet from Boston with Artillery to bombard a Town. I did not then know that the Provincial Congress was s[i]tting or the Advice would have been directed to them. – I now Sir, beg Leave to acquaint you that the Fleet then mentioned has been seen standing N.N.E. So that we apprehend it is destined against some Town on the Coast of this Province, New Hampshire, or perhaps to Quebec.

We have no Occurrence in the Camp worthy of Notice: Both sides are making all Preparation for Winter. –

I am with the most respectful Regards to the Provincial Congress, Sir [&c.]  
G<sup>o</sup> Washington

Camp at Cambridge Octr 13th 1775

1. HUL. Abbreviated copy in Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL  
CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

Sir beg Leave to acquaint you that the Fleet I have mentioned has been standing N.N.E. So that we apprehend it is destined against some Towns on the Coast of this Province, New Hampshire, or perhaps to Quebec.

We have no Occurrence in the Camps worthy of notice: Both sides are making all Preparations for Winter.

I am with the most Respectfull Regards to the Provincial Congress Sir, [&c.]  
 GW

Camp at Cambridge Octo 13. 1775

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO NICHOLAS COOKE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Camp at Cambridge, October 13]

I am favourd with yours of the 10th & am sorry it has so happened that the proposed Scheme of Intercepting the Enemy's Ordnance Stores cannot have your Assistance. The Experience your Officers & Men have had by an earlier Attention to Sea Service would have made them very acceptable on the proposed Enterprize –

The Fleet which sailed out of Boston a few Days ago & of which I apprized you on the 6th Inst has been seen standing N.N.E. From which we suppose they are destined against some Town of this Province or New Hampshire – or possibly to Quebec –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

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

[Extract]

Camp at Cambridge, October 13, 1775.

I have also, finding we were in no danger of a visit from our Neighbours, fitted, and am fitting out, several Privateers with Soldiers (who have been bred to the Sea) and have no doubt of making Captures of several of their Transports, some of which have already fallen into our hands laden with Provisions.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 25–28.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR. <sup>1</sup>

Instructions for Captn Bowen.

Sir, His Excellcy having determined to equip an armed Vessel out of Plymouth has impowered you to negotiate this Business, in which you are to observe the followg Directions.

1. You are to inquire for Captn Daniel Adams who went down a few Days ago to set the Carpenters at Work upon his Schooner – you are to inquire in Plymouth what Character she has as a Sailor if not a good one take up one instead of her which can be well recommended if she is a Stranger in the Port & nothing said agst her proceed in fitting her out –
2. Apply to the Gentlemen of the Committee to nominate proper Persons to appraise the Vessel – the Appraisalment when made to be sent to Head Quarters
3. The Hire of the Vessel to be agreed for with the Owner at a Sum not exceeding 5/Sterlg p Month – P Ton the Owner to fit her up with Sails suitable for the Service particularly Topsails.

4. You are to endeavour to get Guns both Carriage & Swivel at Plymouth upon Loan if possible – their Value to be paid – if left in the Service the General to pay for them –
5. You are assoon as possible to send down formers & proper Directions for making Cartrdiges suitable for the Guns –
6. Go by Water Town & apply to Col. [James] Warren to nominate a proper Person as Agent to procure Provisions for 1 Month for 50 Men & to manage such Prizes as may be sent in – instructing him to give as early information as possible of all Captures & a List of the Cargo as far as he can do it from Papers. This Person when fixed upon by you to receive farther Instructions from Head Quarters & to receive the same Commission as other Agents at Salem & Marblehead for the like Services – If Col. Warren is not at Water Town you must take the Advice of the Committee on this Business – He is to be a Person of approved good Character & known Substance. – All Agreements you make to be put in Writing
7. All Agreements made by you in this Service the General will ratify & confirm – You are to let us know by the first good Oppy what Prospects you have of getting the Vessel ready – & what Guns you can get
8. Keep a Journal of your Proceedings – & an Accot of all your Expences to be rendered on your Return –

Agent's Instructions [Camp at Cambridge] Oct. 13. 1775.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO THE PLYMOUTH COMMITTEE <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen The Bearer Captn [Ephraim] Bowen is despatchd by his Excellly General Washington to superintend the equipping of an armed Vessel to intercept the Enemy's Supplies – As he is somewhat of a Stranger the General begs your kind Assistance to him in this Business Particularly in procuring Guns suitable for the Vessel – We make no Apology for the Trouble we may give you as your Spirit & Zeal in the publick Cause make it unnecessary –

I am by his Excellys Order Gent, [&c.]

Camp Octr 13, 1775

Jos Reed Secy

1. FDRL. Contemporary copy in Washington Papers, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Sir Boston 13 October 1775

In consequence of your Letter which I had the Honor to receive last night, respecting the dangers that would attend the *Cerberus* and Transports attempting the Navigation of the River St Lawrence at this late Season of the year, and giving such forcible Reasons for declaring the Measures proposed neither adviseable nor practicable, I have dropped the Idea of sending the Reinforcement to Quebec in that manner, and shall now endeavour to procure smaller Vessels for the reception of the Troops which are thought better calculated for the Service required.

My Success in this point is at present doubtful, but if it can be accomplished, I will do myself the Honor to confer with you further on the Subject, and am with great Regard and Esteem Sir &c

W. Howe

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 98-99, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO SIR GUY CARLETON <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Preston at Boston 13 Octr 1775

I take the Opportunity of a Schooner going to Quebec to acknowledge the Receipt of your Excellency's Letter of the 6th of September. General Howe has communicated to me his desire forthwith to send some Regiments to Quebec, and I had appointed the *Cerberus* to convoy the Transports thither, who would have sailed perhaps within a Week, but the Captains of the Squadron acquainted with the River St Lawrence are positive in declaring the Attempt is exceedingly dangerous, and that there is not the least probability of the Man of War and Transports getting to Quebec this Fall. General Howe is therefore endeavouring to get small Vessels in which I shall chearfully and readily assist.

Mr. [Robert] Duff at Newfoundland communicated to me your Application to him for Men. I am concerned it is not in either of our Powers to assist at a time that the King's Service under your Excellency's Care appears to require every possible Aid from all his Majesty's Servants

I hope the *Hunter* Sloop, small as she is, will arrive in time and prove of some Service to you this Winter, and that the *Lizard* with the Transport from England will get up without any Accident. I am &c

Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves

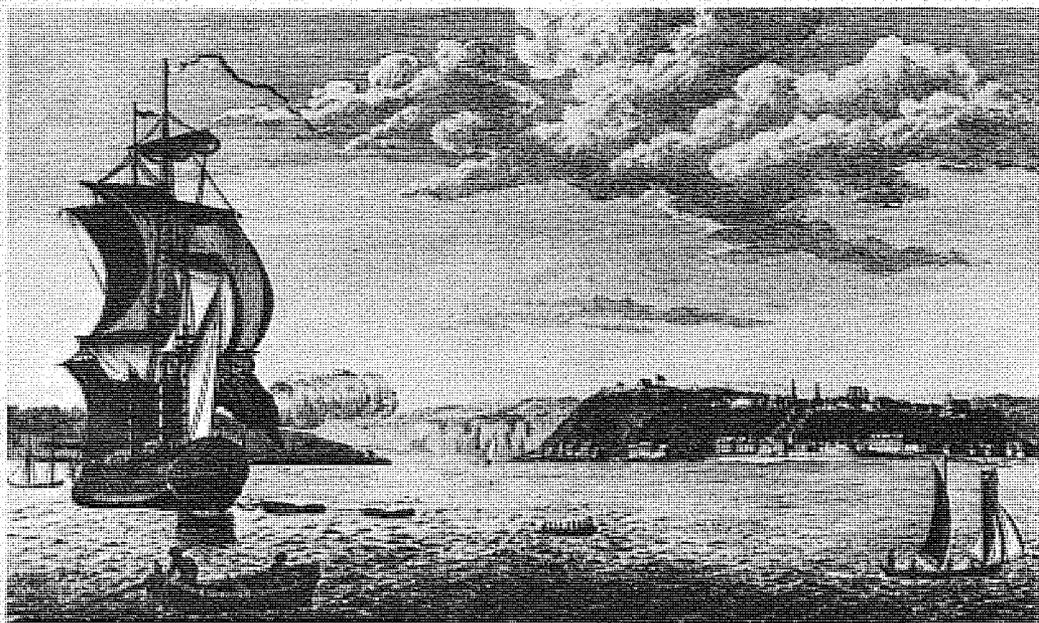
1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 99, BM.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

[Boston] Octr 13

Captain Collins of the *Nautilus* acquainted the Admiral that on the 10th instant he had chased and driven a Schooner on Shore near Beverly Bar and intended to set her on fire, but that while preparation was making for that purpose the tide left her, that he continued firing at her until great numbers of armed people came to her assistance, when he thought it best to leave her; that the *Nautilus* by casting the wrong way, obliged him to leave an Anchor behind, yet not without getting aground, and in that Situation receiving a number of Shot through her Hull Sails and Rigging and having two men wounded besides other Damage: That his Carpenter suspecting the head of his Main Mast to be sprung, he desired the Admiral would allow him time to lift his Rigging and examine all the Masts, which he had not an Opportunity of doing since he left England: and that he had met and convoyed in a Vessel with live Cattle and Carcases of Beef from Halifax for the Ships at Boston.

By this vessel the Admiral received Letters from Governor Legge and Commodore Le Cras; the former thanking the Admiral for his great care in protecting the Western Coast of Nova Scotia by keeping a Force in the Bay of Fundy, and desiring that the men of War might touch at Passamaquody; and the latter



*(Top) The City of Quebec, 1778. (Bottom) Governor Sir Guy Carleton. By an unidentified engraver, 1782.*

informing of the *Fowey's* arrival at Halifax, whose Masts were found to be rotten, and that the *Somerset* had been hoven down, and was from the Wharf, wanting only a few inconsiderable Jobs to be done to compleat her for Service.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 149, BM.

PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF NEWPORT AND CAPTAIN  
JAMES WALLACE, R.N.<sup>1</sup>

Agreeable to the within Appointment<sup>2</sup> we waited on Capt Wallace who has given full assurance and his promise that on the Removall of the Armd Force now on the Island, that He will permit the Ferry Boats Market Boats & wood Vessells for the supply of the Town to pass and that He will not take any more Stock of[f] the Island of Rhode Island, on His receiving from the Town unmolested the Supplys of Beef Beer &c necessarys for his Ships and He further Promises that in case He should be under the Disagreeable necessity hereafter through any Breach of the Present agreement, that He will not fire upon the Town without giving the Inhabitants sufficient warning, although He has positive Instructions to destroy any Town when any armed Force appears Therefore the safety of the Town Depends on their withdrawing from it

Dated on board the *Rose*

Octor 13. 1775

Job Bennet	Fran <sup>s</sup> Malbone
W <sup>m</sup> Read	Rob <sup>t</sup> Ferguson
Simon Pease	Jn <sup>o</sup> Malbone

1. Nicholas Cooke Papers, II, 18, RIHS.

2. See Minutes of the Newport Town Council, October 12, 1775.

*Connecticut Courant*, MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1775

New-London, October 13.

Last Monday [October 9] was brought in here by an armed Schooner in the service of this Colony, a large ship—[William] Barron, Master,<sup>1</sup> which she met with near Stonington. The Ship had on board 8000 bushels of wheat, which she took in at Baltimore, and cleared out from New York for Falmouth in England, but on the 10th of September, in Lat. 38, Long 65 met with a Gale of Wind, in which she was overset and lost her Main mast; after which, it is supposed she intended for Newport, but meeting with head Winds, they put into Stonington. She is owned by Christopher Champ[li]n, in Newport, and is said to be the same Vessel and Master which some months since cleared from Baltimore for Ireland, with a Load of Flour, and was taken by some of the King's Ships on this Station, and carried into Newport. She is gone, with her Cargo, to Norwich.

1. The ship *Peggy*. See *Pennsylvania Gazette*, October 11, 1775.

WILLIAM TRYON TO WHITEHEAD HICKS<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

New-York, October 13, 1775.

From undoubted Authority from the City of Philadelphia, and the Continental Congress have *recommended* it to the Provincial Congress, to seize or take up the officers of this Government, and particularly myself by Name: I am

therefore to desire you will inform the Corporation and Citizens of this City, that I place my Security here in their Protection; that when that Confidence is withdrawn, by any Seizure of my Person, the Commander of his Majesty's Ships of War, in the harbour, will demand that the Inhabitants deliver me on board the Fleet; and, on Refusal, enforce the Demand with their whole Power: Therefore anxious to prevent, if possible, so great a Calamity to this City, as well as Inconvenience to myself, I am ready, should the Voice of the Citizens be unfavourable to my staying among them, immediately to embark on board the *Asia*, requesting that the Citizens will defeat every Attempt, that may be made, to hinder my Removal, with my Domestic and Effects, should that be their Wish, since I returned to this Province with every honourable Intention to serve them, consistent with my bounden Duty to my Sovereign. I am Sir, [&c.]

William Tryon

1. *New York Gazette*, October 23, 1775. Hicks was mayor of New York City.

NEW YORK CITY GENERAL COMMITTEE TO WHITEHEAD HICKS<sup>1</sup>

Sir, Committee Chamber, New-York, Oct. 13, 1775.

The Committee have taken into Consideration the Letter your Worship received from his Excellency Governor [William] Tryon, of this Date. From unquestionable authority, they are assured that the Provincial Congress have received no Order or Recommendation to seize his Excellency's Person, or the Persons of any of the other Officers of this Government.

It is with Pleasure, Sir, we can assure you, as far as we can judge, that his Excellency's Conduct has given general Satisfaction to our Fellow Citizens; and, confiding in his friendly disposition towards the Inhabitants of this Colony, it is our earnest Wish that He will continue to reside among us.

I am, with much Respect, Your Worship's [&c.]

By Order of the General Committee

Henry Remsen, Dep. Chairman.

1. *New York Gazette*, October 23, 1775.

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

[New York] Die Veneris, 9 HO. A.M. October 13th, 1775.

A letter from B[ernard] Romans, dated 12th inst., was read and filed; . . .

*Ordered*, That the same be taken into consideration when the proceedings of the Committee on that subject are read.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 174-175.

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

[Philadelphia] Friday, October 13, 1775

A letter from Genl Washington, dated 5th of Octr, with sundry enclosed papers being recd was read.<sup>2</sup>

The Congress, taking into consideration the report of the Committee appointed to prepare a plan, for intercepting vessels coming out with stores and ammunition, and after some debate,

*Resolved*, That a swift sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns, and a proportionable number of swivels, with eighty men, be fitted, with all possible despatch, for a cruise of three months, and that the commander be instructed to cruize eastward, for intercepting such transports as may be laden with warlike stores and other supplies for our enemies, and for such other purposes as the Congress shall direct.

That a Committee of three be appointed to prepare an estimate of the expence, and lay the same before the Congress, and to contract with proper persons to fit out the vessel.

*Resolved*, That another vessel be fitted out for the same purposes, and that the said committee report their opinion of a proper vessel, and also an estimate of the expence.

The ballots being taken and examined the following members were chosen, viz: Mr [Silas] Deane, Mr [John] Langdon, and Mr [Christopher] Gadsden.

*Resolved*, That the remainder of the report be referred for farther consideration to Monday next.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 293-294.

2. *Ibid.*, III, 293, endorsement on the letter: "That part of this letter wh relates to the capture of a vessel in New Hampshire referred to the committee appointed to bring in regulations for navy."

#### "NAUTICUS" TO PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia, the 13th of Oct, 1775.

This informs you of a method I have considered of to defend this City against any Vessels that may come up this River with an intent to do it damage; whether my proposals may be of any advantage, I will not presume to say, I leave that to your superior knowledge, And to whose Province it alone belongs; However, as an American, I think it my duty to contribute to promote the American cause as far as my abilities extends against its Enemies.

First.

The narrowness of the River and the rapid tide, Is a great advantage to the Steering fire Vessels on board the Enemy, By which means they may be burnt or Terrified in such a manner as to occasion them to quit the River. There is nothing can be thought of that will be of so much Service as fire Vessels rightly manned.

Secondly.

The method of fitting them for that purpose should be consulted by those who have a knowledge of fire works, which is to be filled with such Combustables as to make a furious, Instantaneous flame, And also to have some solider fuel, which when fired, will continue the Fire furiously.

Thirdly.

This should be done in such manner, that the fire Vessel should not be turned a Drift, which I think may be Effected by an Iron fixed on the stem of the fire

Vessel, with a sharp point ragged, and to give the fire Vessel such way through the water as to be sufficient to pierce or enter the side of the Ship so far as not to draw, and to have it made to break short off by the force of the Tide, and then with a Chain, one end fast to the part in the Ship, and the other end fast in the eye-bolt fixed in a proper place in the fire Vessel, will bring her up alongside with a force, that will drive sharp points ragged into the Ship, and the fire Vessel will be fast fore and aft, in such a manner as the Enemy will be at a loss to find out, as all this may be fixed under water where they cannot see, which will put the Enemy in Great confusion; (Lett the Ships be Large or small they will all burn.) I shall employ my thoughts on what may be of further Advantage if this is worth your notice; and experiment of the above Scheme may be seen and properly demonstrated for a small expence. I am, Gentlemen, your most humble Servant,

Nauticus

There is other ways of making use of fire masheins, but what I have now given an account of will be the least suspected of any, and is most likely to answer the purpose.

Directed.

To the worthy members of the Committee of Safety in Philadelphia, and any other part of the English America.

1. Hazard, et al., eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 666-667.

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

[Philadelphia,] October 13th. [1775] – At a meeting of the Committee of Safety.

The Instructions for the Captains of the Boats were this day read by articles, most of them agreed to, and the others to be re-considered tomorrow.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 365.

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

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] Octr. 13, 1775

Yours of October 1 and 2d I received this morning . . .

Our accounts from Schuyler's Army are as agreeable as yours from Arnold. We are in hourly Expectation.

Rejoice to hear of your Successes by Sea. Let [James] Cargill and [Jeremiah] Obrien be put into continental service immediately I pray.

We begin to feel a little of a Seafaring Inclination here.

The Powder at Quebec, will place us all upon the Top of the House . . . <sup>2</sup>

I believe We shall take some of the twenty Gun Ships before long. We must excite by Policy that kind of exalted Courage, which is ever victorious by sea and land – which is irresistible. The Saracens, had it – the Knights of Malta – the Assassins – Cromwell's soldiers and sailors. Nay, N. England men have ever had it hitherto. They never yet faild in an Attempt of any Kind.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 139, 140.

2. Adams refers to the resolution calling for interception of the powder ships headed for Quebec.



*John Adams. By John Singleton Copley, c. 1783.*

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

[Extract]

Philadelphia, Octr. 13, 1775

Your obliging Favour of the fifth Inst. I this Moment received . . .

If We should invite "all the Maritime Powers of the World into our Ports," would any one of them come? At least, untill they should be convinced that We are able, and determined to fight it out with G.B. to the last? Are they yet convinced of this, or will they be very soon? Besides, if they should, Would it be Sound Policy in Us to admit them? Would it not be sounder to confine the Benefit and the Bargain to one or a few?

Is it not wiser to send our own Ships to all maritime Powers, and admit private adventurers from foreign Nations, if by any Means We can defend them against Cutters and Cruizers, or teach them to elude them. I have upon this Subject a System of my own but am not bigoted to it, nor to any other. You will oblige me vastly by your Sentiments at large.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 136-139. This is Adams' second letter to James Warren of this date.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1775

Williamsburg, October 13.

We hear that lord Dunmore has just received a reinforcement of soldiers from St. Augustine, to complete his corps of *banditti* to the number of 500; and that, by and by, he expects five regiments of the *same story of trumpery* from England, with which, no doubt, he expects to perform deeds *worthy of his noble ancestors*

HENRY LAURENS TO BENJAMIN JENKINS<sup>1</sup>

Sir I am ordered by the Council of Safety to acknowledge the Rect of your Letter of the 10th Inst & to acquaint you that they have Issued the proper quantity of Gun Powder for the Colleton County Regiment & put it under the direction of Collo [Joseph] Glover to whom the Captains of the Militia & Volunteer Companies on Edisto Island must apply for their proportion.

Whenever you send a Boat, provided it shall be before the meeting of the Congress, the Council of Safety will order four four-pound Cannon together with a proper quantity of Corn Powder to be delivered for the service you point out, but they are informed that there are not any 4t Shot in Charles Town—perhaps you may think it best to postpone this business to the meeting of Congress<sup>2</sup> when other pieces of Cannon for which suitable shot may be found, may then be ordered.—I am Sir [&c.]

Charles Town 13 Octobr 1775.

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, II, 266.

2. Delegates to the Second Provincial Congress of South Carolina had been elected in August; the Congress was to convene November 1, 1775.

14 Oct.

MACHIAS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen, During the absence of Captn [Jeremiah] Obrien, the Committee of this place commissioned Captn Stephen Smith to take Charge of the Private-teeer,

& bring in here the Brigg *Loyal Briton* owned by Messrs Archibald Wilson, James Anderson, John Greenlaw, David Black and John Semple who had sent her to St John's River in Nova Scotia to load with Cattle &c. for the Army at Boston; & upon Capt'n Smith's Arrival there, he found the said Brigg loaded & weighing Anchor. He thereupon took Immediate possession of her, without opposition and after taking the provision found in the Fort, burning the Fort, and taking a Coporal & two Privates, with two women & five Children he proceeded with his Prize & Prisoners, (Mr John Semple of Boston and David Ross the mate excepted, who found means to Escape), directly to this Place. An exact Inventory of the Goods taken in the Brigg and in the Fort we send enclosed. The Cattle, sheep, Hogs, smoked Salmon & Butter; we have divided among the people, who took them, except one third part reserved in the Hands of the Committee for publick use: The other things are all Stored, & await the orders of the General Court. The two private Soldiers, with their wives & Children, at their earnest request, we have sent back to St Johns, taking it for granted that they would be not only useless, but expensive lumber in the western parts of this Colony: William Miller the Pilot of the Brigg and three seamen are permitted to ship on board the Private-teeer, and Capt'n Fredireck Sterling only, the Master of the Brigg, and the Corporal above-mentioned are sent to Court. Capt'n Sterling has much to say for himself, but his conduct is not altogether unexceptionable: All we can say is, that he is a North-Briton. We have given him part of his private venture, & reserve the rest 'till the pleasure of the General Court is known.

John Anderson Esqr was also on board the Brigg, as a passenger who was dismissed & suffered to return to his own Home, not because he appeared to be a cordial friend to the Cause, in which we have embarked our all, but because he belonged to another Province. Nothing material has since happened, for we can do but little. We now beg leave to return your honors our Humble & hearty thanks for the many favors already confereed upon us, of which we shall ever retain the most grateful remembrance. It would give us the highest satisfaction to find ourselves able, thro' the Aid you have graciously given us, both in the Land & sea Service, to protect & support ourselves, without giving your Honors any further trouble: But such are our Necessitous circumstances, thro' the almost total failure of our commerce, upon which we have hitherto subsisted & by which we have rose to such magnitude, as to be in some measure worthy of your Honors attention, the Admiration of this Vast Continent and the dread of Halifax, and the brittish Navy, that we have no other alternative, but Either to "sink" – or to make a most humble and dutiful application to our avowed, beloved, & beneficent Guardians. We are therefore under the disagreeable necessity of adding: That we have drawn a bill upon your Honors in favor of Mr Wm Shey of Philadelphia for a Cargo of provisions, a Copy of which, together with the Letter of advice given with it; we send enclosed. We could not but View the arrival of this cargo of provision as a very remarkable interposition of Divine Providence, in our behalf, & thought ourselves indispensably bound to treat the benevolent Instrument by which it came, with honor, But purchase we could not, Lumber would not answer, and all the Cash we could collect in the whole place was but barely sufficient to pay the freight. To suffer this provision to depart from us, & go elsewhere, would have

been the height of distraction, as we were then in want, and armed Plunderers infested all our coasts, and picked up all the provision they could find; and especially when we add, we had no prospect of either Quails or Manna. The sacred laws of self-preservation, therefore, deserved respect to Mr Shey, the tender obligations, that subsist between the Guardian & his beneficiary, & the Mutual affection of Indulgent parents & dutiful Children, all conspired to Justify; & even recommend a draught upon the General Court of the Colony. The bill is drawn, & a copy of it now lies before you. If it is duly honored, our Mills, our boards, our Shingles &c our houses and not to Mention the sloop *Mechias Liberty*, sloop *Unity*, the *Margeretta*, *Diligent*, *Tatamagouch*, or the *Infidel* reclaimed (once *Loyal Briton*) our all is yours, 'till the whole is repaid. This may soon be done, for we are both able & willing to pay the whole amount of said Bill in lumber, on Demand. If this bill is not Honored, we tremble at the consequence!

On this occasion we send Mr George Stillman, as our Representative, who was chosen by the Town for that purpose: And with him we send the Accounts of our expence, in burying the Dead, who fell in the day of battle, or died of the wounds they then received, in taking care of the wounded, & in supporting the prisoners & conveying them to Head Quarters, except the Doctrs Bill, & the persons who attended him, which we choose they should present themselves. The charges of those persons, who were lately at the General Court, & Mr Stephen Jones's we have sent as they brought them in to us. But all the rest we have examined, and Approved. We are heartily grieved to see our expences run so high, but we see no way to reduce them any lower without doing apparent injustice. We have other enormous expences among ourselves which we never mean to mention in the ears of Government, for the greater part of us have spent almost our whole time in public service Since the taking of the first Tender. We are but an handful & every publick exertion required the most of our strength. And were your Honors graciously to add, to your parental bounty in the land & Sea Service of this place, which we esteem a rich & signal favor, all the Prizes we have taken, we should still be sufferers. — we ask not a farthing more than we have merited; we expect, we are willing, to suffer with our brethren, for it is honorable & Glorious to suffer in this Cause. Your Honors are well Acquainted with our infant state, with our critical situation, & with all we have done in support of the invaluable priviledges of America, & Great Britain, and we rest assured that you will not permit us to suffer beyond Measure. . . .

We also beg leave to recommend to your Honors Notice the Widow McNiell & her orphan children who are left under very poor circumstances. Mr John Berry who has a family Ebenezar Beal of Old York, an old Man & Isaac Taft & James Cole, young men, may not be, perhaps, unworthy of Notice. These were all badly wounded, and it is doubtful whether they will ever be capable of business, as they were before, or not. The last mentioned is still confined. Before we conclude, we must observe, that on the 8th Instant Eleven Deserters from the *Somerset* at Halifax arrived here, who informed us that the *Tartar* & two Sloops of war are now up the Bay of Funday, & that a Schooner of 14 Carriage Guns & 50 men, was fitting out at Halifax in order to Join two other Tenders, and proceed directly against this place. — Eight of the said deserters are inlisted on board the

Sloop *Machias Liberty*. Should Armed Vessels come against us we should be in danger of falling a sacrifice, for we are very Scant of Powder; as almost all that was taken in the *Diligent* was destroy'd, Some body poured water into it privately. We earnestly beg therefore, that your Honors would please to send us more. --

We are Gentlemen most respectfully your most Dutiful & Humble Servants

By order of the Committee of Safety

Machias Octr 14th 1775

Ja<sup>s</sup> Lyon Ch. M.

P.S. Mr Stillman is accompanied by Dr Willm Chaloner

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 238-241.

ACCOUNT SUBMITTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE CAPTURE OF THE BRITISH  
SCHOONER *Margaretta* <sup>1</sup>

	£	S	D
Dr Colony Massachusetts Bay for Sundry Expences on Wounded Men & Prisoners Taken in the <i>Margueretta</i> armd Schooner (Viz)—			
To Nathel Sinclair for 3½ mo Shop Rent & fuel for wounded Men	1	1	0
Ralph Hacock for a Schooner & Self to go to annapolis for Surgeon for Do	5	8	0
Bartholomew Bryant for washing for Do	2	3	4
Nathan Longfellow for Taking Ichabod Jones		6	
Bradbury Merrill Making Cabbins for wounded Men & his keeping		5	8
Job Burnham for Boarding 3 wounded Men from the 19th of Augt 1775 To the 7th october 7 weeks a 36/	12	12	0
Do for washing Milk & Rum for Do	2	2	0
Love Kenney 3 Days guarding prisoner & keeping		17	
John Thomas for Making 2 pr breches for wounded		5	8
Amos Boynton for house Rent Nursing Veal Salmon fousl Rice washing & firing for John Berry 8 week a 16/4½	6	11	0
Jabez West 3 Days guarding Prisoners & Expences		17	
Joseph averell 13 Days attending 3 wounded men Night & Day a 4/8	2.	18	8
John Obrien for 35 Days on Express to the Congress To git information what Should be Done with the <i>Margueretta</i> Tender & the Prisoners	7	0	0
Abial Sprague for Do Do	7	0	0
Wm Tupper for Trouble in taking Ichabod Jones		6	
Jones Dyer 3 Days guarding Prisoner & Expenses		17	
Obediah Hill 15 gallons Milk for Hospitall		15	
John Watt & Wm Brown for Making Cradles Cruches & 5 Coffins for wounded & Killed	3	12	0
Saml Milberry for attending James Coolbroth 2 Days 1¼ Capt for Do 1/6 Diging Grave for Do 6/		18	10
	<hr/>		
	£55	16	2

[Page 2]

	Brought Over	£55	16	2
Jonas Farnworth 10 Days Time in going to annapolis after a Surgeon a 3/		1	10	0
To Horse hire after Do to Cornwallis 72 Miles			18	
To Man & Expence going after Do		1	7	
To my Board 10 Day in going house Rent for wounded Prisoners			16	8
Nathan Longfellow for attending wounded Men			9	
To 2 Day Board & washing for Cole & Taft 2 woundd men			4	8
To Making Cabbins Boards & Jice & Nails for Do			9	6
To 8 Qts Milk & 25 times assisting the Doctr Dress the wounded			15	10
To Baking 13 Times for Do			15	
To Rye Meal & Bear			13	
John Chaloner 19 Days attendance on Surgeon as pr a/c		4	8	8
Mess Smith & Stillmen Sundry Supplies for wounded Men as per accompt		9	9	6
George Walker 3 Days guarding Prisoners to Pleasant River & Expences			17	
Timothy Young Diging grave			6	
James Dillaway for Attending woundd from 27th of June—19th of Augt 53 Day a 4/		10	12	0
Committee For Sundrys advanced as per acct Rendered		9	11	5
Committee for Sundrys Supl'd the Wideow McNeel		1	8	9
Committee for Sundry supplies as pr acct		13	15	6
		£124	6	8

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 242–243. Sent undated to General Court October 14, 1775, in custody of George Stillman.

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

Octr 1775 at Single anchor in Townsend Harbor Booth Bay  
 Saturday 14 at 4 A M wore ship Fresh gales cloas Reeft the Topsail at 8  
 handed the Top Sails Cape Elisabeth N N W Seguine Island  
 N E b E Small Point N b W 3 miles—hove away for booth bay  
 Strong gales and cloudy Wear at 3 P M anchor at the bottom of  
 Townsend Harbour booth Bay So Part of Dammisscove Island  
 S b W about 1/2 a mile veerd to 1/2 a cable the *Symmentry*,  
*Spitfire* and SI[oop] and Schooner anchord Signal at 12 moor

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.

ORDER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL RELEASING ICHABOD JONES  
 FROM CLOSE CONFINEMENT<sup>1</sup>

Council Chamber [Watertown]

Octr 14. 1775 On the Petition of Ichabod Jones now a Prisoner in North  
 Hampton Goal it is Ordered By the major part of the Council That the sd Jones

be indulgd the Liberty of the Goalers house & the Prison Yard; On Condition that he the sd Jones together with his Son John Coffin Jones jointly & Severally execute a good and sufficient Bond for the sum of Two thousand pounds to be forfeited & paid to the Colony Treasurer for the Use of the Colony upon his the sd Ichabod Jones going out of the Limits of the sd House & Yard – And the Sheriff of the County of Hampshire is hereby directed to take said Bond & transmit the same to the Treasurers Office—

By their Honor's Command

Perez Morton Dpy Secy  
James Prescott

Jed <sup>h</sup> Foster	James Otis
Joseph Gerrish	W Sever
John Whitcomb	B. Greenleaf
Elda <sup>d</sup> Taylor	W Spooner
S Holton	Caleb Cushing
Cha <sup>s</sup> Chauncy	[J] Winthrop
B Smith	B Chadburn

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 152.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Saturday, Oct. 14, 1775

Afternoon

The Bill for establishing a Number of Armed Vessels read the first time, and orderd to be read again on Tuesday next at ten o'Clock A M

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

LIEUTENANT OTHO HOLLAND WILLIAMS TO DR. PHILIP THOMAS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Camp at Roxbury October 14th 1775

The Man of War commanded by Wallace Certainly fired on Bristor [Bristol] and took Twenty Sheep from the Inhabitants who did not as I before said drive them on board Bootless or without Booty. there is a parcel of d——d Tories in th[is] place & it's not of importance enough to be defended with much Expence

You have been inform'd I Suppose the *Lively* and some other Ships have fallen into our hands lately but this wants Confirmation and is now much Doubted, I was inform'd by General [Joseph] Spencer (with whom I din'd sunday last) that the Enemy had burnt Fallmouth a small Town on Kennabec River.

We are remarkably peaceable here now, the Enemy have not bestow'd us a Ball since friday the 6th of this Month, notwithstanding they were a little provoked a few Nights ago by two of our floating Batteries which put out of Cambridge River and fired upon the Town, it was said the Play House open'd that night in Boston & the Batteries were design'd to Interupt their Sport but unfortunately (the hands on Board endeavouring to outdo each other in Gunnery) one of the Cannon Bursting dangerously Wounded Eight or ten Men one of whom died next morning, the Battery was much Shattered but is refitted and tis said is design'd to give better Sport in a few days. I co'd talk with you about trivial

Matters if 'twas Convenient but have nothing more worth writing – My best  
Comp[li]ment[s] to all friends Yrs affectionately

Otho Hd Williams

Doctr. Philip Thomas Fredk Town Maryland  
favor of Captn Brown

1. Otho Holland Williams Papers, Letter Book No. 1, MdHS. Williams was first lieutenant of  
Michael Cresap's company of Virginia riflemen.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Rose, Rhode Island 14th Octor 1775.

Sir, I am honor'd with yours of the 12th 17th Ulto &ca by the *Viper* and *Bolton* who arrived here the 4th Inst with two Transports, a small Schooner for Virginia, and a Packet for York – The *Viper*, Schooner and Packet Sailed immediately for New York. I engaged the quantity of Stock necessary for the Transports and began taking it on board when intelligence flew thro' the Country. – Expresses sent off for the Rebel Camp. – The Rebel Governor Cooke of Providence raised the Country sent down 1500 Men to Newport to prevent us, However I got all that could be got notwithstanding their utmost efforts, And shall send the Transports loaded. – The Rebels stole into the Town in the Night and next Morning sent a party down to Brentons Neck where we had been taking off Stock, and what we left such as Milch Cows for the use of the Family, they took all away, not leaving a Chicken for the Women.

I sent to the Town and acquainted them they must get the Rebels away, or otherwise it would become my Duty to destroy them and the Town, they gave me the strongest Assurances they should leave the Town and actually did leave it after staying one Night and part of the next day, And quartered themselves two Miles distant, in this Instance it would have been hard upon the Town to have destroyed it, because it seemed that many of them could not help the Irruption of such a Banditti. Such numbers being sent from Camp and Country round about, and talking of making Newport a place of Arms by Fortifying it, and pretending to have brought 17 Pieces of Cannon from Camp, for that purpose, in Order to divert their attention, I got under Weigh with His Majesty's Ships, and stood up towards Bristol, came to an Anchor against it a little after 6 PM sent an Officer to Summon it to know if they would send any body to treat, gave them an hour to consider, and if they sent no answer in that time to Commence Hostilities, they Slighted our Summons, they returned no answer! this, together with their behaviour about a Month before (Bargaining for a quantity of Cattle of a Farmer opposite the Town, the people of the Town rose and drove away all my Cattle) determined me to fire upon them. At 8 oClock we begun, at 10 a Mr Potter came on board to Treat, he did not seem to have full powers, so desired some may be sent off that had, I asked them why they did not answer my Summons, that my intentions was friendly, that I only came to purchase Stock for the King's forces. – Had they given me fair Answers not a Gun would have been fired, however, since it was as it was, I demanded a quantity of Stock for the use of His Majesty, which I would pay for, – They hesitated and prevaricated much, said the Country people had drove it all off – I told them that would not do – they then

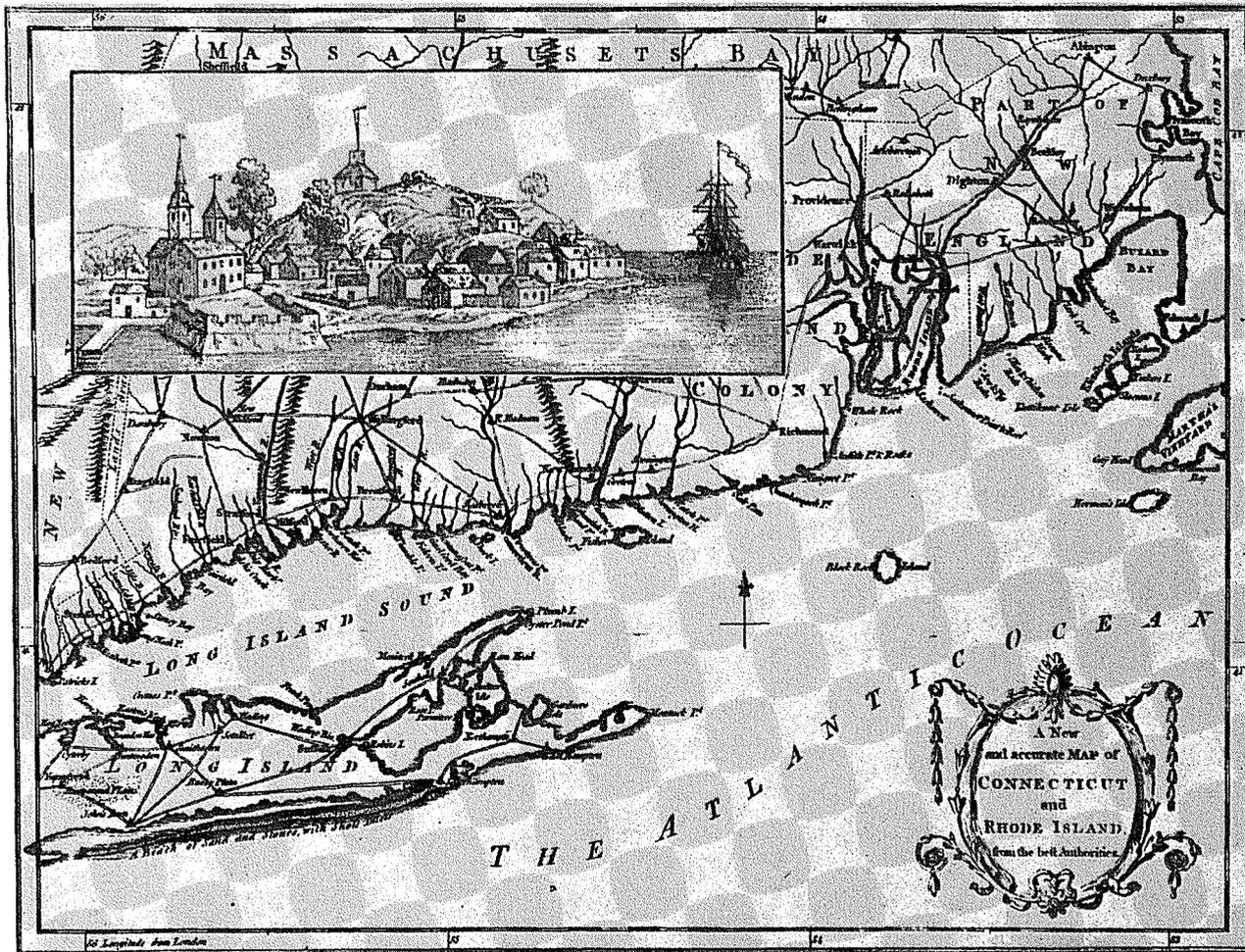
told me they could get about 50 Sheep. – the Country being at this time greatly alarmed, Rebels flocking in from all quarters, – My intent being answer'd diverting them from making a place of Arms of Newport, – Accepted of the 50 Sheep and got them onboard. During this transaction the Rebels fired several Shot at us – In the Evening weighed and came to Sail, Anchored off Hogg Island, Next morning Ordered the *Swan* and two Tenders in to destroy Bristol Ferries, they made a Signal for a large Body of Rebels being there, stood in and fired a few Shot at them. One of our Tenders got aground, continued plying off and on, as we Tack'd being close in upon the Shore, the *Swan* ran aboard of us carried away our Jibboom and hurt the knee of the head we let go the Anchor, parted the Cable and run ashore, while we were in this situation we exchanged several Shot with the Rebels, The Water rising we got off after being two hours ashore, without any damage (we have now only three Cables in the Ship.) Weighed and Stood to some of the other Islands, Completed the Transports and returned to Newport. Upon my Arrival several Gentlemen of the Town waited upon me, from the Town, acquainting me if I would spare the Town, and suffer the Ferry Boats and Markets to come to Town, they would engage to get the Rebels off the Island and Supply His Majesty's Ships with what they wanted, I answered it would be impossible to be at Peace while such a Body of Rebels hung over the Town if they would remove them off the Island and Supply the Kings Ships, I would consent to what they proposed 'till further Orders. This appears to me to be for the Kings Service and I am yet of Opinion it may be made a Post for the King.

Most of the Wood used here comes from Long Island we take Vessels loaded, that's precarious, two or three Companies of Men as guards, while others cut, may get much. Rebel Vessels broke up will make more – In regard to Provisions, there's plenty to be got but it requires some force to protect while others get it, there's not an Island about here that has not 2 or 300 Men under Arms to defend the Stock, and they are very vigilant, some of them have Marched 50 Miles upon an Alarm.

A Deputation from the Town informs me the Officer commanding the Rebel Party that is about two Miles from the Town, demurs upon leaving the Island but promises not to come near the Town – I still insist upon their leaving the Island, – in consequence they have sent off to the Rebel Head Quarters to insist upon their being removed, and I am flattered if that should be refused, there's a number of them will take Arms to join any force may be sent to drive them off. They seem to think it hard they should be drove to draw the resentment of the whole Continent upon them, when there is none to give them Assistance. – however there is so much deceit in this Country and of which you are well acquainted that I need say no more upon that Subject.

You will see by the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ships the situation we are in for Provisions, we have had no regular Supply from the Contractor these four Months past, and he has declined having any thing to do with it, so if we don't settle some terms with the Town, we must depend upon ravaging the Country for Supplies. I have the honor to be [&c.]

James Wallace.



(Inset) New London, Connecticut, c. 1776.

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

[Extract]

Ticonderoga Octr 14th 1775

Sir I had just closed my Letter of yesterday when I had the Honor to receive Yours of the 9th enclosing the Resolution of Congress of the 14th Septr, and the alarming Intelligence contained in Yours of the 7th <sup>2</sup> – You may recollect Sir, that early after the Meeting of Congress I urged the Necessity of Securing Hudson's River, & assigned my Reasons for It. – <sup>3</sup>

I have been & still am so deeply impressed with the Necessity of doing it, that I saw with Chagrin, that It has been so long neglected; and I learnt with Pleasure, that a Fortification was at last began at Martlers Rock, but that is not the only Place, that ought to be secured, there are several Others both above and below, that ought equally to claim Attention, and immediately too, for should a Body of Forces be sent up Hudsons River and a Chain of Vessels stationed in all its Extent, It will undoubtedly greatly distress, if not totally ruin our Cause; The Indians Notwithstanding their Declarations will, in such a Case, in all Probability act against us. – the disaffected to our Cause will gain Strength, And many others thro' fear and the Principle of Self preservation, will either be neuter or join our foes, – to me Sir Every Object, as to Importance, sinks almost to Nothing, when put in Competition with this of securing Hudson's River. –

I hope Congress will pardon the Freedom with which I express Myself on this Occasion, The Danger of such an Operation on the Part of the Ministry is painted in such lively Colours on my Mind, That I could not avoid saying what I have done . . .

I have not heard a Word from St Johns since mine of yesterday, I am still in Hopes all will go well there, unless a Want of Ammunition takes Place. The New York Congress have wrote to Connecticut What the Result of their Application is, I do not yet know.

I should be extreemly happy if your good Wishes (on which I return You the most unfeigned Thanks) for the Restoration of my Health were realized, but unfortunately for me, I am so daily weakening by a Violent Lax & extreme Sweatings at Night, that I shall think it necessary to send for Dr [Samuel] Stringer to me, because I neither can (Consistent with the Public Weal) nor will I quit this Place to go Southward until our Affairs in Canada are decided. –

General Wooster having ordered a Court Martial at Fort George (of which I was informed only this Morning), which he by no Means had a Right to do, and apprehensive from that Extraordinary Conduct, that he might create Difficulties, If he should join the Army under General Montgomery (from which I cannot dissuade him, nor dare I order him to stay least the Regiment should refuse to go, which he says they would do), I thought it my Indispensable Duty to write him a Letter of which the inclosed is a Copy, and to which I received an Answer, Copy of which you have also inclosed. – I have since received Letters adviseing me that he has presumed to discharge Men of [Benjamin] Hinman's & [David] Waterbery's Regiments. I assure you Sir, that I feel these Insults from a General Officer with all that keen Sensibility that a Man of Honor ought, and I should be ashamed to

mention them to Congress, But that the Critical Situation of our public Affairs at this Period require that I should sacrifice a just Resentment to them. – And I would wish to have it remembered that to that Cause only must be imputed That I have suffered a Personal Indignity to go unpunished. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

[Endorsed] Read [in Congress] 31 Octr

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 222–225; copy in John Hancock Papers, III, LC.
2. The resolutions were routine. A deputy adjutant general and a surgeon were appointed for the Northern army; four hundred blank commissions were sent to be filled in by Schuyler.
3. News that the British troops were being sent to New York which brought about a heated discussion of plans to secure the Hudson.

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

[New York] Die Sabbati, 9 A.M. October 14th, 1775.

Francis James, owner of a pilot boat, named the *Bishop of Landaff*, lately employed in services to the eastward, was called in and examined. Thereupon, *Ordered*, That the wardens of the port of New-York, do, on their oath of office, value the said pilot boat as she now lays, and return their valuation thereof, signed by themselves, to this Congress with all convenient speed.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 175–176.

### WHITEHEAD HICKS TO WILLIAM TRYON<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

New-York, October 14, 1775.

Instantly upon the Receipt of your Excellency's Commands, signified by your Letter of Yesterday, I called the Magistrates and Assistants to a Common Council, upon its important Contents. The Members of the Corporation unanimously expressed themselves upon this Occasion in Terms of the strongest Affection and Confidence, respecting their Governor; and I am persuaded, Sir, that their Fellow Citizens (for I consulted as many Individuals without Doors, as the Time would permit) are utterly disinclined to your Removal from the Capital of your Province.

The City Committee, which is a very numerous Body of reputable Inhabitants, elected at a Convention of the whole Town, before your last Arrival, were immediately convened, upon my acquainting the Chairman with your Excellency's letter, and in a very little Time I had their Sentiments in Writing, under the Signature of their Chairman, which I now communicate, as a Confirmation of what it gives me the greatest Pleasure to declare, that the Citizens confiding in your friendship to a Colony which you have governed, with so much Reputation, earnestly desire you will still continue your Residence among us; and from the declaration and Temper of the People at large, I have not the least doubt of your enjoying the most ample Protection.

I have the Honour to be [&c.]

Whitehead Hicks.

1. *New York Gazette*, October 23, 1775.

WILLIAM TRYON TO WHITEHEAD HICKS<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

New-York, October 14, 1775.

I have received your Letter in Answer to my Application to the Corporation and Citizens, of Yesterday, to obtain their Assurances [either of] Protection while among them, or Security to remove on board the King's Ship; but as they have not authorized you, to pledge to me their Assurances of Security in either Case, my Duty in this Hour of Alarm, will not justify me to my Sovereign, in staying longer on Shore, without positive Declarations of their full Protection under every Circumstance.

I beg you will present my best Thanks to the Corporation and Citizens, for their affectionate and friendly Wishes towards me. I am, Sir [&c.]

William Tryon.

1. *New York Gazette*, October 23, 1775.MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] October 14th.

A Gentleman who signs "Nauticus," produced to this Board a plan of a Fire Ship for the destruction of Enemy's Ships, which was approved of, And Mr. [Andrew] Allen desired to Return the thanks of this Board to the author for his plan.<sup>2</sup>

Upon Motion, Colo. [Daniel] Roberdeau was desired by the Board to wait on the Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital, and request from them the use of that Charity for the Wounded or Sick Men employed in the Armed Boats, and for information from them how long they might depend on that benefit, and on what terms.

Colo. Roberdeau having waited on the Managers of the Hospital Reports, That those Gentlemen very generously and readily agree to receive all Patients from the Public service, That may be recommended by this Board, and that they require no pay; but mentioned, That in Venereal Cases, it is usual for the Patient to pay three Pounds ten Shillings for his Cure.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Board be convey'd by Colo. Roberdeau to the Managers of the Hospital for their very generous determination in favour of such as may fall sick or be wounded in the Public Service of their Country.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 365-367.

2. See "Nauticus" letter of October 13, 1775.

DIXON & HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1775

Williamsburg, October 14.

The Captain of the *Kingfisher* (a second Mad Montague)<sup>1</sup> it is said, lately seized upon, and forced on board his ship, an inhabitant of Norfolk, or Portsmouth, for some trivial offence; who, after calling a *court-martial*, and giving him a *fair trial* (as they were pleased to term it) passed sentence upon him to receive thirty nine lashes, which would have been executed, had not his Excellency the Governor, on being acquainted with this base and unmanly conduct, interposed,

who severely reprimanded the tyrant Montague, sent the man ashore, and desired he would take out a peace warrant against him.

Capt. Macartney, of the *Mercury* man of war, has had his trial at Boston and was honourably acquitted; but he absolutely refuses to serve his Majesty any longer, unless appointed to the command of a ship of greater force.<sup>2</sup>

1. Captain James Montagu, brother of Captain George Montagu, of H.M.S. *Fowey*.

2. An erroneous report.

LORD DUNMORE TO WILSON MILES CARY<sup>1</sup>

Ship *William* off Norfolk.

14th October 1775 –

Sir As I have lately had many Complaints from the Merchants and Masters of Vessels belonging to Norfolk and Portsmouth that they cannot either enter or clear their Vessels at Hampton, without being exposed to the insults of a Lawless Set of Armed men that are Assembled there, I do therefore require you as Naval Officer of the lower district of James River to come around to reside at one of the above mentioned places, that His Majesty's Interest may not suffer, or the Laws of the Country be Obstructed, and where you will be under protection. I am Sir [&c.]

Dunmore

1. HUL, HM 22511.

SIR JAMES WRIGHT TO LORD DARTMOUTH<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Savannah in Georgia the 14th of Octr 1775.

No. 61.

Whatever Letters Your Lordship may have thought Proper to write to me by the July and August Packets, Still remain with Lord Wm. Campbell on board his Majesty's Sloop *Tamer*, and I Can't Say how much longer they may Continue there, for his Lordship Cannot send them to me, nor have I any method of Sending for them with Safety. I Presume His Majesty's Cruizer which was ordered to this Province in February last, has been Employed *much more* for His Majesty's Service Elsewhere, than She could have been here in Preventing the Gun Powder from being taken away in the manner Your Lordship has been Informed of, and Giving other Assistance which She might Probably have done.

1. *Collections of the Georgia Historical Society*, III, 215–217.

*London Chronicle*, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 TO THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 14, 1775

A letter from St. John's, Antigua, dated Oct. 14, says, "The Captain of a frigate stationed here,<sup>1</sup> going past Martinico, where an English vessel lay, taking in arms for the Americans, went and ordered them to deliver them up to him, but the commander of the Martinico Fort, told him if he did not instantly sail he would sink him: He immediately sailed here and told the Admiral, who being sensible of his ill conduct in going into the French harbour to demand the arms, acquainted him he should have waited for the vessel at sea, and made a prize of



her; and yesterday a schooner with some French Officers [came here] to know the reason for such a conduct,<sup>2</sup> [but as] yet we have not heard what answer has been given them.”

1. H.M.S. *Argo*.

2. See de Noziere to James Young, October 9, 1775.

### 15 Oct. (Sunday)

#### LETTER FROM REV. JACOB BAILEY<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Falmouth, October 15.]

On Sunday a report prevailed in town that the fleet were at Townsend, and had taken a number of sheep from a neighboring island, and that in consequence of some opposition, one or two buildings were consumed by fire. These reports induced the people to conclude that the design of 'this equipment was only to procure provisions for the forces in Boston, who were now represented as in a starving condition

1. Falmouth Collection, MeHS.

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

Octr 1775

Portland Point the So head of going into Falmouth.

Sunday 15th

at 10 [A. M.] made the *Spitfires* Signal to weigh. Send two Boats Mand and Armed to Dammscove Island for Stock at Noon Light airs and variable weighd and came to Sail as did the *Symmentry* [*Symmetry*] and two Prizes at 3 [P. M.] saw 5 whail Boats with 10 men in Each making toward Dammscove to cutt off our boats but the *Spitfire* got between them and the Island whin thay thought best to return back at 5 the Boats returned with Stock at 6 anchord in 22 fm water Cuckold Point SW b 1/2 S So Point of Dammscove Island S 1/2 E small breezes with Drizzling rain

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.

#### COLONEL JOHN GLOVER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

M[arble]head Occtb 15 1775

Sir This will acquaint you the two Vsells that the Captains [Nicholson] Broughton, & Selmon [John Selman] are to Command, are ready to tack the troops on board, the formers, for the Cannon and Swevil Cartridges, I have Sent to Coln Burbank [William Burbeck]. Would it not be best, that every man be furnisht with a Spear, or Cutlast, & a pare of Pistles, if to be had, as guns is very unhandy in boarding. I have Procuerd Provisions for the two Vesells, Saving 4000 weight of bread, which Cannot be had here, but at the Extravegent price of 32s p ct [hdwt]

Capt Selmon has his Compliment of men, to ten, which with your Excellencys Leave, he will take oute of the Regiment. Capt Broughton is Very unwell, but hope its nothing more than a bad Cold, which he took at the time of Runing his

Off head Oct<sup>r</sup> 15 1775

To His Excellency General Washington

Sir

This will acquaint you the two Vessels that yr Captains Broughton & Selmon are to Command are ready to tack w<sup>th</sup> troops on board, the former, for yr Cannon and Sivevil. Cartridges. I have sent to Col<sup>l</sup> Barbanks w<sup>th</sup> it not be best, that every man be furnisht with a Spear, or Cuttlesh, & a pair of Pistols, if to be had, as Gum is very unbrandy in boarding. I have Procured Provisions for the two Vessels, saving 1500 weight of bread, which cannot be had here, but at yr Extraordinary Price of 32<sup>d</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> <sup>per</sup> <sup>lb</sup>

Capt<sup>t</sup> Selmon has his Compliment of men to ten, which with your Excellency's Leave, he will take oute of yr Regiment. Capt<sup>t</sup> Broughton is very unwell, but hope it's nothing more than a bad Cold, which he took at the time of Musing his Vessel on Shoar. He has not been able to Recrute a single man here, apprehend he may get his Compliment oute of yr Regiment with your Excellency's Leave -

This Morning <sup>6 o'clock</sup> saw a Ship coming oute of Boston, steard her Course Directly for Off-head, which Alarm'd the inhabitance very much, she came almost to the Harbourn Mouth, tackt Ship & stood off, where she now is about one or two Leagues Distance -

I Communicated to my Son your Excellency's intentions (as handed to me by Col<sup>l</sup> Mead) of Giving him yr Command of one of yr Vessels, which he seems much Pleas'd with, hope his Conduct will meet your Excellency's Approbation, he therefore waits for Direction -

I am Respectfully your Excellency's Most

Obedient Hum<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

John Glover

Vesell on Shoar, he has not ben able to Recrute a Single man, here, apprehend he may get his Compliment oute of the Regiment with your Excellency Leave – this Morning, 6 o'clock Saw a Ship Comeing oute of Boston – Steard her Cours Directly for M. head, which Alarmd the inhabitance very much. She Came allmost to the Harbours Mouth, Tackt Ship, & Stood off, where She now is about one or two Leagus Distance –

I Communacated to my Son your Excellency's intentions (as handed to me by Col. Reed) of Giveing him the Command of one of the Vesells, which he Seems Much Pleased with, hope his Conduct will meet your Excellencys Approbation he therefore waits for Directions.—I am Respectfully [&c.]

John Glover

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Gentn: Camp at Cambridge, October 15, 1775.

I was yesterday favored with yours of the 11th Inst., wherein the Necessities of the Town of Portsmouth and the Garrison there, for some Part of the late Capture of Flour are represented; Had I known their Situation I should have made the Application unnecessary, by directing Mr. Moylan on the Subject, They have my Chearful Consent, to take what is necessary, but perhaps somewhat less than 600 Barrels may Answer the present Exigence; As our mutual Wants are now known to each other, I shall leave it to you to reserve what Quantity, you think indispensably Necessary.

I do not see any Impropriety in paying the Seamen their Wages, out of the Sales of some part of the Cargo and make no doubt it will be approved in the Settlement of this Affair.

With respect to the Transportation of it to Marblehead or Salem by Water, I apprehend it must depend upon Circumstances such as the Enemy being upon the Coast &c., of all which Mr Moylan was directed to inform himself and then Act as should be best, The Expence of Land Carriage would be very Considerable and I wish to use all possible Oeconomy so as to be consistent with out Safety. You will Please to favor Mr Moylan with your Opinion on the Subject, to which he will pay a Suitable Regard. I am etc.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 31–32.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO STEPHEN MOYLAN<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir. Your Favour of the 13t Inst came Safely to Hand, the General is pleased with your Proceedings & has given his Consent that the Committee should retain what Flour is absolutely necessary –

We are very anxious to hear of the Armed Vessels being ready for Sea. Every Day, nay every Hour is precious. It is now 14 Days Since they were set on Foot, Sure they cannot be much longer in preparing –

You will write if any Thing Material Occurs. I am [&c.]

J R

P.S. This Committee Seem to think the Transportation by Cape Ann dangerous – pray do not run any unnecessary Risques – if there are no Enemy Cruizers there can be no danger – At all Events consult with the provincial Committee & if you do not follow their Advice in sending it by Ipswich – give them your Reasons for not doing so – this is a proper Mark of Respect after what they have said –  
Your

vt Auth

240 Dollars sent by the Bearer of this –  
Cambridge 15 October, 1775

1. Washington Papers, LC.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN SYMONS, H.M.S. *Cerberus*<sup>1</sup>

You are hereby required and directed to proceed to Sea in his Majesty's Ship under your Command with all convenient Dispatch and cruize upon the Coast of the Provinces of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire between Casco Bay and Cape Anne to protect his Majesty's faithful Subjects trading according to Law, and to distress and annoy the Rebels by all means in your Power according to the Orders herewith delivered. You are to anchor at Falmouth and in Piscatagua River, and, having given the publick Notice to the Inhabitants directed by my Order of Yesterday, You are to observe if any Fortifications are erecting, and having got what Intelligence you can of the Rebels proceedings act accordingly, as you shall think best for the King's Service. If you anchor at the Isle of Shoals you will probably pick up Refreshments for your People and Intelligence of what is doing at Portsmouth in New Hampshire.

And whereas Lieutt Mowat in the *Cancaux* armed Ship commands a small Expedition along the Coast within the limits of your Station, and whereon he is particularly employ'd from his thorough knowledge of the Coast and Harbours: In case of your meeting the Expedition you are to give Lieutt Mowat any Assistance he may want, but not take the Command, unless your interposition becomes absolutely necessary for the preservation or success of the whole, but by cruizing in the Offing cover the Expedition from unexpected Attacks of the Rebels by Sea. If nothing occasions your returning sooner you are to cruize a Month from this day and then return to Boston.

By Command of the Admiral  
G. Gefferina.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs  
Ship *Preston* at Boston the 15th Octo-  
ber 1775.

Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 99–100, BM.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR.<sup>1</sup>

Plymouth

Octo 15 [1775]. Went to Kingston to se Capt [Daniel] Adams, who promis'd to have his Vessell down to Plymouth, at 5, oClock. –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

THOMAS GREENLEAF TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE, PHILADELPHIA <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

It will be needless for me to Write long Paragraphs of News not knowing how nor when this will be Conveyed; Newport, Bristol, &c. Receive Daily In-sults from Naval Force, which has been Augmented within these few Days to fifteen sail; after they arrived they began soon to Demand Stock from the neighbo[u]ring Towns, at Bristol in Particular, and in Consequence of their not Satisfying a Demand for three or four Hundred Sheep, &c. the Town was fired upon from the Ships under the Command of Captain [James] Wallace, which were arrayed front of the Town, for two or three Hours; finally an Inhabitant, by hailing, had Admittance on Board, who, to stop their Infernal Cruelty, Promised and Delivered them forty S[h]eep; the Firing then Ceased; Three Geese only fell Victims to Wallace's Despotic Power with all his Thunder Bolts, Damaged but few Houses.

Two large Row Gallies have within these few Days been launched in this Town, one Seventy odd, and the other 80 odd Keel, carrying between Thirty and Forty Oars each. It is hoped the plans these kind of Vessels are made to execute will be gloriously succeeded, as the Enemy by Water have it in their Power to do us far greater Mischief than those by Land at present. . . .

Providence, Oct 15th 1775.

Thomas Greenleaf.

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

SAMUEL BAYARD AND WILLIAM BEDLOW TO NATHANIEL WOODHULL <sup>1</sup>

Sir.

Martler's Rock, Oct. 15th, 1775.

Since we have had cannon mounted and colours hoisted on this fortification, we thought it necessary for every vessel passing by in the daytime, instead of sending their boat on shore, to hale them to lower the peak of their mainsail, as a token of their being friendly. We are now to acquaint you, that one Captain Robert North, passing by on this day, was hailed to lower his peak, which he refused to do. On being threatened with a shot, he replied, that was what he wanted; on this we sent an armed boat on board of him to bring him too, in order to Enquire his reason for refusing to do the same which he that instant saw another sloop to do; on our boats boarding of him, he told the people therein that he had a brace of pistols, and if that damned rascal (Capt. Bayard) did not produce an order to him from the Provincial Congress for the request we made, he would blow his brains out, with many more unfriendly expressions. We beg, sir, you will lay the above before the Honourable Provincial Congress, and if our conduct herein meet with their approbation, you'll will please to signify the same unto us.

We are, with respect, sir, [&amp;c.]

Samual Bayard, William Bedlow.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 89.

SILAS DEANE TO THOMAS MUMFORD<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia, Octo 15th, 1775.

The Congress have also appointed a Secret Committee for Supplying the Continent with certain Necessary Articles; of this I am one, and wish I could see you, or some other of my Connecticut Mercantile Friends, here, as it would be in my power, to help them, & in theirs to serve their Country, this [is] all I can give, on this head, & if you will come down, the Sooner, the better. A Naval Force, is a Favorite object of mine, & I have a prospect now, of carrying that point, having succeeded in getting Our Connecticut, & the Rhode Island Vessels into Continental pay; which motion I was seconded in beyond any expectations, and was further directed by Congress to lay before them an Estimate of the Cruisers on this coast. This I shall lay before them this Day, and am of your Opinion, that N. London harbor is well situated for the rendezvous of an American Navy; & my Friend, is it not worth while, for N. London to labor, to obtain the advantages of such a Collection of Navigation spending their Money there? I think it prudent & adviseable, therefore, for you or some other to come instantly down here, by which you may undoubtedly procure an advantageous employment for your Navigation. —

P.S. Where is the *Macaroni*, & how have you succeeded in procuring a most Necessary Article? <sup>2</sup> . . . Will a Battery on Winthrop's Neck, another on Mamecock, & a few Guns on the heights on the [eastern] Shore, secure that Harbor? How far up the Norwich River is their Sufficient Depth of Water for a Twenty Gun Ship?

1. Ford, comp. and ed., *Webb Papers*, I, 107–110.

2. A sloop sent to the West Indies for powder and arms.

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

At a Meeting of the Committee of Safety At Fort Island

October 15th.

Present: Robert Morris, President pro temporary. Thomas Wharton, jun'r, Owen Biddle, George Grey, Robert White, Samuel Morris, jun'r, Bernard Dougherty.

The above mention'd members having come down in order to view the works erecting here, and to consult what other buildings, may be proper, find it necessary, that the men employed on Board the Boats, should have some Convenient place under cover, for dressing their victuals and drying themselves in bad weather, while employed at or near Fort Island. Therefore, it is

*Resolved*, That, provided this Board obtains permission from the Provin'l Commissioners, part of the House on said Island be partition'd off in the middle, and that a person be employed for that purpose, and to Carry up a Stack of Chimneys, and a Forge or Fire Places.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 367.

EDMUND PENDLETON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir –

Williamsburg, October 15, 1775.

I have by express, your obliging favour of the 5th; we were in some sort, prepared for the disagreeable intelligence of the small hopes of an accomodation, by reports and papers here intimating the same thing. Colonel [Richard] Corbin has a letter from a hand connected in some manner with Admon, that the plan was to withdraw all troops, and send men of war and cutters, to put a stop to all foreign trade, and that with each other, and so starve us into submission. If this is the case, perhaps [Molyneux] Shuldham may not bring troops. Our affairs may perhaps take another turn, when the Congress petition and the Virginia representation against Lord Dunmore, reaches the people there. These furious measures seem to have been suddenly adopted on the arrival of Lady Dunmore, no doubt with cargoes of aggravating letters and misrepresentation from our hero, and just after some fears of Admon respecting the Spaniards, were quieted by their loss among the Algerines; whatever be our state, I hope we shall meet it with fortitude. Had we arms and ammunition, it would give vigour to our measures. We hourly hoped to hear of the arrival of the necessaries, but now fear we shall be defeated. A villain has given Lord Dunmore information of it, and he has six or seven tenders plying out for it about the capes. What can such a parricide deserve? We have been sitting a month, and yet see no hopes of a recess; we are thin, and some present unwell. Colonel Thomas is among the healthy. Nine companies of regulars are here, and seem very clever men; others we hear are ready, and only wait to collect arms. Lord Dunmore's forces are only one hundred and sixty as yet, entrenched at Gosport, and supported by the ships drawn up before that and Norfolk. I have heard of no attempt of his since seizing the printer, and a ship with flour, from Baltimore, except sending a party to Sleepy Hole, in pursuit of some powder we had there, which he missed about three hours. Most of the inhabitants of Norfolk, except tories, have moved out their families and valuable effects. Lord Dunmore, it is said, is much afraid of the riflemen, and has all his vessels caulked up on the sides, above men's height, however, they may perhaps pay him a visit, ere long. The good news relative to General Schuyler, came as a reviving cordial after the other; nothing has yet happened more important in my opinion, than this event, if completed, as I hope it is before now. Pray present my affectionate compliments to your worthy brethren and the ladies. I am, with great regard, [&c.]

Edmd. Pendleton.

1. Richard H. Lee, *Memoir of the Life of Richard Henry Lee and his Correspondence* (Philadelphia, 1825), II, 191, 192. Lee was a Virginia delegate in the Continental Congress.

ALEXANDER INNES TO PATRICK TONYN<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Cherokee in Rebellion Road 15th Octr 1775

Sir, I did myself the honor to write to your Excellency by Colo. Kirkland some time ago; and at the same time sent all the packets that came by the two preceding Mails. I now convey to your Excellency those brought by Pond, & am at the

same time to beg a thousand pardons for the liberty I took in opening your News papers, as by some neglect Lord Williams<sup>2</sup> were not sent and in our present forelorn situation you may judge how anxious we must be to read any thing from England. It was Committee like freedom, but we don't stick at higher Crimes then felony or breach of trust in this Province<sup>3</sup> – The Governor has left me very little interesting to say of affairs here, there are great divisions amongst the Leaders, & I firmly believe the majority of the people of Charles Town are against all their measures. . . .

The 2d of July Capt Tollemache sailed from this harbour for Boston, perfectly well informed of the state of this & the neighbouring Provinces of N. Carolina & Georgia with the strongest remonstrances from the three Governors both to Gen. Gage & the Admiral; and so little regard has been paid to them, that not even a line has been received from either. . . .

The *Cherokee* is a great acquisition to us, Cap. Ferguson with good sense, politeness, and skill in his profession has the warmest zeal for the good of the Service: he is none of those luke warm officers with which we have long been cursed, and we have only to regret his force is so unequal to his spirit. De Brahm<sup>4</sup> who he brought out has been plaguing us with his being impeded in carrying on the service he was order'd, but the Governor (who has moved from the *Tamer* to this ship) has cut him very short. A fine time to talk of his surveys of a Country that we are in a doubt to whom it may belong – I shall be happy on every occasion to receive your commands, & am with the most perfect Esteem & respect Sir [&c.]

Alex. Innes

N B I take the Liberty of inclosing under your Excellency's Cover a few lines to Mr [James] Penman to request his good offices to this poor skipper. I shall be much mortified if my old friend is the Malcontent you alude to.

His Excellency Governor Tonym

I will not trouble your Excellency with Mr Penmans letter I have given it to the Master. —

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, III, 75–76.

2. Lord Campbell.

3. This sentence is a sarcastic reference to the actions of the provisional government of South Carolina.

4. De Brahm, Surveyor General of His Majesty's American dominions in the Southern District, had been "brought out" to Charleston in the *Cherokee*, which, by order issued April 6, 1775, had been fitted out for this purpose.

#### ALEXANDER INNES TO JAMES PENMAN<sup>1</sup>

*Cherokee* Arm'd Ship in Rebellion Road 15th Octr 75

Dear Penman I wrote you a long letter some time ago by the post, & a very few days after, because I did not chuse to be disarmed by a couple of rascals sent by the Committee, a Letter de Cachet was issued by that august body and signed by your old friend Peter Timothy, by which I was order'd to quit the Province in 24 hours, the time was enlarged to four days, & I took refuge under the wings of old Thornborough in the *Tamer*. The Governor was soon obliged to follow me, leaving a clear stage for your friend [Henry] Laurens, & his Associates. The day after I went on board the *Tamer*, arrived the *Cherokee* commanded by Lieutenant

Ferguson a noble spirited fine fellow. He brought out that old F—k Beggar De B—m for survey,<sup>2</sup> who wanted to get away when he found how things were, but avast hawling that rope Thornborough gave an order to Mr Ferguson to remain, against which De B. protested, & finding that would not do, he trusted to his connexions with some of the most violent rebels Edwards & Mr Parker, got leave from the Commee and landed his effects & suite: he had before offered his apartments to the Governor, which he now accepted, and fairly took possession, to the great mortification of De B. who had the assurance yesterday to write to the Governor he should again come on board, and turn him out for that was the plain English of it, & received aproper answer. We know but little what is doing in Town, they are much divided amongst themselves, & had we a respectable force here, we could soon alter things, but these Provinces are much neglected. You would see Mr Kirkland to whom I refer'd you for all news. I was so busy the morning he went off, with our English Dispatches, it was not in my power to write by him. Tell [Daniel] Chamier [Jr.] he is a shabby fellow only one letter I have received from him since he left Georgia — all his friends are well but d[amna]bly in the Dumps. To my astonishment I hear you are commenced aflaming Liberty Boy, is it possible who deserves the name of Oliver now James? For Gods sake dont let pique, or passion lead you to abet a set of as worthless miscreants as ever existed, but I beg your pardon I am saying too much when I know so Little, therefore shall only add whatever your political Tenets are I never can be less your Affect. Friend

Alex<sup>r</sup> Innes

N. B. A poor Devil blown from the Northward loaded with Fruit & Cyder got in here by a miracle. The Men of war would not take the advantage of his misfortunes, but as we did not love the people of Charles Town well enough to send them apples, we thought of our E. Florida friends, and the Governor has desired me to recommend him to your good Offices as a Merchant. The poor man means to winter with you, & pick up a few pence along shore in his Little Bark if he can. His escape was a most providential one. He will tell you his own story and give you all the news to the Northward his name is John Wanton of the Sloop *Polly* & I pray God we may get him clear of this harbour. Hitherto he has had no communication with the Town. Walker the Gunner of Fort Johnston is sent with him by the Governor to help him in navigating his Vessell and I'll be obliged to you if you will shew the Gunner some little Count'nance while he stays at St Augustine, he is a rattling fellow but well affected to Government, for which your Charles Town friends Tarr'd & feather'd him some time ago. Remember me kindly to Chamier, and God Bless you both, not one scrape of apen from any Soul since I left England but James Mill. I had almost forgot to tell you Peter Timothy intercepted some Letters of Robin Wells to his Wife & open'd them. John Wells furnished with a large stick & the first time he met Timothy without saying a word he fell'd him to the Ground open'd his Jeans & beat him heartily to the great satisfaction of every body.

[Endorsed] Alexander Innes to Mr Penman 15 Octr 1775

1. Letterbook I, VHS.
2. De Brahm.

16 Oct.

BROOK WATSON TO BENJAMIN FANEUIL<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Montreal 16th Octr 1775

I have had the long wish'd for satisfaction of hearing from You at last on the 7th Inst I recd yours of August 14th and imeadiately desired my friend at Quebec to find Mr. Bliss and get from him Your Letter of the 13th which I recd the 14th Inst with an excuse of Mr Bliss that he had left it on Board with his Baggage. Your Letter in ansr to mine of April the 6th I have not recd, hence You may naturally conceive me very unhappy concerning you and Mrs Fanueil but am now releived and happy to learn you had determined on going to winter in Nova Scotia because you will certainly be in safety there. the Admiral can never Suffer the Colonists to cross the Bay Fundy and Seize that Province nor can Public affairs Continue to be conducted as they have been hitherto. from the little knowledge I have of America, and of Millitary Operations, I do conceive General Gage cannot Winter at Boston and that ere this he will have determined to quit it because Should it remain longer undetermined it may not be in His Power to Quit Boston without quitting America, my meaning is that he cant Winter all his Troops at Halifax therefore Part of them must come to Quebec and it is Necessary to that end they should now be Embark'd or they will not get up the River, the *Hunter* Sloop of war is arrived at Quebec from Boston perhaps she may Bring some News of the Kind.

Your intention of Quitting America next Spring and with the fragments of your Fortune purchasing an Annuity for Your and Mrs Fanuiel's Lives, in case publick affairs shall not alter much for the better, I greatly approve, at the same time hope you will not have occasion to Carry it into execution Surely the Kingdom of Great Britain cannot much longer be Govern'd by such weak Councils and feable Efforts, she has scarcely got a secure Province in America as to this, it has long been on the brink of falling into the hands of the most despicable Wretches had not the Inhabitants of this Town gone out to meet Colonel Allen on Monday the 25th Ultimo the Town and principal part of the Province would now have been in their Hands, and that fellow would Probably have been Governor of Montreal, thank God that days Action turnd the minds of the Canadians and I have reason to hope the Province out of Danger at least for this Year and doubtless ample protection will be afforded it early in the next

as to the affairs of W & R<sup>2</sup> I have great Pleasure in telling you I have sent them home £40.000 Stg since my Arrival £32000 of which in Furs P the Ship *Pomena* Capt [John] Green which Sald from Quebec the 2d Inst. had it not been for the unhappy troubles which have reign'd this year, I should have sent Ten Thousand Pounds more, but I've reason to be Content and happy in having made a Voyage to America in 1775

The Province of Nova Scotia Stands much indebted to W & R and I should be happy to have it in my power, as it is my wish, to Visit it before my return to England but I conceive both the affairs of that Province and this demand my presence in London as soon as possible, for which reason it is my intention to leave Quebec in the Ship *Adamant* About the 10th of next Month Hoping to arrive

about the 15th of Decr before Parliament shall be adjourn'd should my presence in Nova Scotia be absolutely necessary I shall in Discharge of my Duty visit it next Spring, at the same time I hope in God that may not be the Case for I ardently long for Peace and home.

Your friends Messrs Jona & Isaac Clarke would have done well had not these troubles followed them to this Province they have long had their Goods Packt, ready for embarking but I hope they will not be Obliged to ship them, our Friend Butler writes me he had resolved to go to London with his wife in the *Canadian* Capt Abbott – should that happen I hope you will get to Halifax before his departure and take Charge of W & R power of Attorney –

Pray make my Compliments and Affectionate regards known to Mrs. Fanueil and be Assured that I am Dear Sir [&c.]

Brook Watson

My friend Mr John Orillat of this City is now Prisoner with the Colonists, I esteem him much, and W & R have great Commercial Concerns with him and Partners Mr Foretier, the last news I had of him, he was at Ticonderoga now Dear Sir use your Interest with Genl Gage to have him Exchanged, get him relees'd and return'd to his family, Supply his wants and thereby render a Most Acceptable Service to Your Friend

Brook Watson

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 304–307, NA; an intercepted letter, enclosed in Schuyler to Hancock, November 19, 1775. A copy is in John Hancock Papers, III, LC.
2. Watson & Rashleigh, British merchants.

OFFICERS OF THE EASTERN REGIMENT, LINCOLN COUNTY, TO THE  
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

To the Honble the Great and General Court of the Colony of the Massachusetts-bay now sitting at Watertown

The Officers of the Eastern regiment of Militia in the County of Lincoln, in a Council at Boothbay in said County met, October 16th 1775

Most humbly shew,

That at the beginning of the present war the townstocks of ammunition within their bounds were very insignificant; and many able & spirited men in the regiment were destitute of effective fire arms.

That every means possible in their circumstances have been tried to remedy these defects – and tried in vain.

That the frequent alarms, & consequent general musters of this regiment, arising from the restless attempts of our unnatural enemies; to which the busy & extensive sea-coast within our bounds, peculiarly exposes the inhabitants of this County, & especially the Eastern part of it, occasions a greater waste of ammunition here than in most places distant from the camp; & unavoidably produces a constant demand for it.

That, the appearance of a fleet in this harbour (which after three days stay, and various amusing movements, has magnified its valour by the burning of one dwelling-house – & carrying off about one hundred sheep – and this morning

disappeared) has called out to use all the ammunition, which had not gone off with Col. [James] Cargill to Long island.

That the Expedition under Col. Cargill is like to spend all the Ammunition he has taken; and if so, this Regiment is like to be left destitute of an article without which this much endangered coast can never be defended; and with which tho' chearfully ready to lay down the price, they see no way to supply themselves.

That the Schooner *Britannia* of, & for Newbury-port, Wm. Pierce Johnson, Master, arrived here yesterday, with a quantity of powder & arms from the West Indies; on the Account of the late Comee of Supplies of this Colony:

That the conveyance of said stores will be very hazardous while this coast continues to be harrassed as at present by the foe.

That, the inhabitants being ready chearfully to pay for what arms and ammunition may be supplied them, & as ready to use both in the defence of American Liberty, tho' even their lives be expended with them; Your petitioners pray that such part of the said cargo as to your Honor's may seem meet may be ordered to be delivered to Col. Cargill, for the use of the Militia of his regiment, they paying him for the same, & your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray.

Signed in the absence of Col. Cargill in behalf & desire of the officers of the said Eastern regiment in the County of Lincoln by

Edw<sup>d</sup> Emerson Major

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 204.

TIMOTHY LANGDON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

Boothbay Octr 16th 1775

May it please your Honours

This day arrived here the Schooner *Britannia* William Pierce Johnson Master having on board a quantity of arms & ammunition which he sais is for the province Use, The great necessity there is for ammunition & arms in this County & the daily alarms we have had & are still subject too induces me to desire that some part of the ammunition that is on board the Schooner may be delivered to some suitable person for the use of the Companies stationed on the Eastern Shore

I have drawn from the Selectmen of this town what ammunition they cou'd spare. I have also rec'd from Coln [James] Cargill 25 lb of powder & ball in proportion for the use of my Company. But as part of my men are on an Expedition with the Coln (and as I have heard by common report have had an Engagement) & we have for this three days past been under alarm from the Enemy, Powder ammunition is so far expended that in case of a general attack (which I daily expect) we cannot make such a defence as our honour & interest requires us to do - I therefore (as Coln Cargill is now absent) humbly pray, that some of the ammunition may be left in this County for the use beforementioned, also that Capt Johnson may have orders that he deliver to any of the men of the stationd Companies a stand of arms they giving him a receipt for the same to be deducted out of their Wages. I am, may it please your Honours [&c.]

Tim<sup>o</sup> Langdon

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 205, 205a.

LETTER FROM REV. JACOB BAILEY<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Falmouth, October 16.]

On Monday morning, about nine, the same number of shipping appeared in the offing, and seemed by their motions approaching the harbour, the wind still continuing to blow hard from the north-west. About eleven we perceived them within Cape Elizabeth, and spreading all their canvass to secure the harbour, and at three they had beat up to Hog Island and came to anchor, almost a league from the town.

Soon after their coming to an anchor, we observed the barge from the Commodore rowing in pursuit of a small schooner, which, notwithstanding the discharge of several muskets and two cannon, escaped in safety to the town. The populace which were gazing by hundreds were immediately thrown into furious agitation by this incident, and vowed revenge with the utmost menace and caution.

The Committee, composed of tradesmen and persons of no property, prompted only for a flaming zeal for the liberty of their country, were not less enraged at this hostile appearance, and, to display their wisdom and courage, they ordered the company of guards to take possession, who in obedience to these instructions, stole safely down in the close of the evening to secure the cattle, to intimidate the tories and to observe the motions of the enemy.

1. Falmouth Collection, MeHS.

LIEUTENANT HENRY MOWAT, R.N., TO THE PEOPLE OF FALMOUTH<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

*Canceaux* Falmouth 16th October 1775.

After so many premeditated Attacks on the legal Prerogatives of the best of Sovereigns After the repeated Instances you have experienced in Britain's long forbearance of the Rod of Correction; and the Merciful and Paternal extension of her Hands to embrace you, again and again, have been regarded as vain and nugatory. And in place of a dutiful and grateful return to your King and Parent state; you have been guilty of the most unpardonable Rebellion, supported by the Ambition of a set of designing men, whose insidious crews have cruelly imposed on the credulity of their fellow creatures, and at last have brought the whole into the same Dilemma; which leads me to feel not a little for the Innocent of them, in particular on the present occasion, having it in orders to execute a just Punishment on the Town of Falmouth: In the name of which Authority I previously warn you to remove without delay the Human Species out of the said town; for which purpose I give you the time of two hours, at the period of which, a Red pendant will be hoisted at the Maintopgallant Masthead with gun: but should your imprudence lead you to shew the least resistance, you will in that case free me of that Humanity, so strongly pointed out in my orders as well as my own Inclination. I also observe that all those who did upon a former occasion fly to the King's Ship under my Command for Protection, that the same door is now open and ready to receive them. The Officer who will deliver this letter I expect to return unmolested. I am &ca

H. Mowat.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.

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

Octr 1775 Hog Island Ledge

Monday 16 at 3 A M made the Signal to weigh at 4 weighd and come to Sail the afore said vessils in Company at 6 the *Halifax* Joind us at 8 Siguine W S W at 9 Siguine W b  $NI\frac{1}{2}$   $NI\frac{1}{2}$  mile at Noon fresh breezes and fair Wear at 1 P M fresh breezes and clear Wear Employed running into Falmouth harbor at 3 came to in Hog Island road in 7 fm as did the *Symmentry*, *Halifax* and *Spitfire* with the two Prizes

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.

"THE WRITER" TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE<sup>1</sup>

In Committee of Safety Ex[ete]r Octr 16th 1775

Sr If the enclosed meet you on the Road to the place of your duty where you have for some hours been waited for, you will determine whether your presence may be of Most Importance here or at Portsmouth & will conduct according – the Committee are of opinion that it is best to forward as much of the Flour as your Exigencies will admit of – & if a less quantity is detained than was proposed it will but be a proper return for his the Genls Politeness & Consession<sup>2</sup> therefore if you lessen the Quantity to be stopped by fifty bbls they will not contend with you –

In behalf of the Committee I have the honour to be [&amp;c.]

The Writer

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

2. The ship *Prince George*, with 1892 barrels of flour, had strayed into Portsmouth harbor on October 2, and Washington had ordered the cargo brought to Cambridge. Upon the intercession of the Portsmouth Committee, he had permitted one hundred barrels to be withheld for the population of that town.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO COLONEL JOHN GLOVER AND STEPHEN MOYLAN,  
MARBLEHEAD<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen Colo Glover's Letter of the 15th came Safe to hand – Capt Broughton & Capt Selliman [John Selman] have their Orders & must be immediately dispatched – The Price you mention for Bread is monstrous but there must be no delay. If the Flour is not come in from Portsmouth you must Do as well as you can but if it is we hope you need not submit to Such Terms – Let the Agent take Care to reserve a suitable Quantity for the Vessels when it does arrive – Capt [John] Glover [Jr.] will have the 7th Vessel fitted out – but the General fears he is too young, he has agreed to be second in Command under Manley for a little Time. The Experience he will gain will enable him to take the first Command afterwards with more Honour I am Gent, &c.

Cambridge Octo 16. 1775

1. Washington Papers, LC.



*Colonel John Glover. By an unidentified silhouettist, date unknown.*

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON TO CAPTAIN NICHOLSON  
BROUGHTON<sup>1</sup>

Sir:

Head Quarters, October 16, 1775.

The Honble Continental Congress having received Intelligence, that two North Country Brigantines of no Force, sailed from England some Time ago for Quebec, laden with 6000 Stands of Arms, a large Quantity of Powder and other Stores; you are hereby directed to make all possible Dispatch for the River St. Lawrence, and there to take such a Station as will best enable you to intercept the above Vessels.

2nd. You are also to seize and take any other Transports laden with Men, Ammunition, Clothing, or other Stores for the Use of the Ministerial Army or Navy, in America and secure them in such Places as may be most safe and convenient.

3rd. The other armed Schooner named the *Lynch*<sup>2</sup> and commanded by Captain Sellman, is to be under your general Command but you are to advise and concert with him the proper Stations and the proper Time to continue this Service.

4th. You are to endeavour, if possible, to discover whether the above Vessels have passed by. If they have, you are not to return; but keep the Station as long as the Season will admit. As there is a great Probability that Quebec will fall into our Hands in a very short Time, it may be expected that not only the above Ordnance Vessels; but others from Quebec and Montreal may come down and fall into our Hands.

5th. As there may be Men of War at Newfoundland, you are so to conduct as to prevent being discovered by them; or any Intelligence given of your Station.

6th. Whatever Vessels you may meet, bound in or out of the River St. Lawrence, which you have Reason to believe are in the Service of the ministerial Army or conveying any Stores to them of Provision, or of any other Nature, you are to endeavour to seize, though they should not be Transports regularly engaged by Government.

7th. For your Encouragement and that of the Officers and Men under your Command, you will receive one third Part of the Value of any Prizes you may take as well military Stores as the Hulls of such Vessels, nothing being excepted but the wearing Apparel and private Stock of the Captains, other Officers and Passengers of such Prizes.

8th. Should you meet with any Vessel, the Property of the Inhabitants of Canada, not employed in any Respect in the Service of the ministerial army, you are to treat such Vessel with all Kindness and by no Means suffer them to be injured or molested. I am, Sir, etc.<sup>3</sup>

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 33-34.

2. Confusion about the *Lynch* apparently existed in Washington's mind. John Selman's command was the *Franklin*; Broughton's, the *Hancock*. The *Lynch* was not commissioned until early in 1776.

3. Similar instructions, with the exception of the third paragraph, were issued October 16 to John Selman. He was told to consider Broughton as his commodore. Washington Papers, LC.

MAJOR SAMUEL BLACHLEY WEBB TO SILAS DEANE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Camp in Cambridge, Oct. 16th 1775

. . . in my last I mentioned the building the flat Bottom Boats which are now almost compleated and the men are daily exercising in them, such as learning to Row – paddle – land & clime a precipice & form immediately for Action, – they behave much beyond expectation, – this exercise will be of great service if ever we land on the shore of our Enemies, which it seems they much fear as they have hall'd another Frigate in the Bay back of Mount Whoredom.<sup>2</sup> – Doctr Franklin and the other Gentlemen arrived here last Evening, I have not yet seen them.<sup>3</sup>

1. Ford, comp. and ed., *Webb Papers*, I, 110, 111.

2. Here was training in all the essential elements of amphibious warfare which was destined to play such a major role in United States naval history.

3. The Committee from the Continental Congress to confer with Washington and representatives of the New England colonies.

MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE TO SAMUEL WARD <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Prospect Hill Octr 16, 1775

We have several Cutters cruising about Boston Bay and more fixing out dayly – I have man'd one with the Rhode Islanders entirely – Commanded by Capt Martindale – There has several Captures been taken – One Transport from England loaded with flour. She had 2,000 Barrels on Board <sup>2</sup>

1. Greene Papers, CL. Ward was a Rhode Island delegate in the Continental Congress.

2. The ship *Prince George*.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN SYMONS, H.M.S. *Cerberus* <sup>1</sup>

Notwithstanding my Order to you of Yesterday to cruize as far as Cape Elizabeth and to look into Falmouth and Piscatagua, you are hereby required and directed to cruize between Cape Cod and Cape Ann[e] within the Bay, until I can send another Ship or Sloop there, when you are to proceed as I have directed in my Order of the 15th instant; And you are to be very careful to protect all Vessels bound to Boston and see them safe within the Light House.

By Command of the Admiral

G. Gefferina.

Given under my Hand on board his Maj's  
Ship *Preston* at Boston the 16 Octr  
1775.

Sam<sup>1</sup> Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 100, BM.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR. <sup>1</sup>

[Plymouth]

16: [October] Waited on Wm Watson Esqr one of the Committee wth the letter, – Who engages to Supply the Provisions, & take Charg of any Prizes that may be sent in here. – Waited on the Committee wth the Letter from Head

Quarters Who engag'd to give their Assistance – Examined the Guns here & find 4 of abt 3 or 3¼ [1b] Seven Swivels & one Wall Piece. – Capt [Daniel] Adams tells me that the hire of his Vessell is to be the same as those at Salem &c.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MINUTES OF THE NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

At A Town Council Newport October 16th 1775

Present Ebenezer Richardson William Read Robert Taylor Thomas Freebody Daniel Holloway	}	Members of the Town Council
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Whereas the Town Council have Drawn up a Remonstrance in Order to Lay before the Honoble Nicholas Cooke Esqr and others who are a Committee constituted by the General Assembly to Transact the Business of the Colony During their Recess Respecting the Difficulty and Distress the Inhabitants of this Town Labor under, The Town Council have therefore Appointed You Samuel Dyre and John Jepson Esqrs. and Mr John Malbone (son of Godfrey) to Wait on Said Committee with said Remonstrance and to Request the favor of them to Give this Town or General [Esek] Hopkins Such Directions and Advice respecting said affairs as they may Judge Necessary for the Well being of the Town but if His Honor Nicholas Cooke Esqr. should not be at Providence and you should think it Expedient to Proceed to Cambridge to wait on his Honor then you are Requested to Proceed there and Wait on him for his Advice Signed by Order and in Behalf of the Town Council,

Witness Wm Coddington Council Clerk.

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 280.

*Newport Mercury*, MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1775

Newport, October 16.

Last Monday [October 9] the men of war, after firing on Bristol and Papaquash, went into the ferry way between Portsmouth and Bristol, and fired near 200 shot at the houses and people on each side; 3 shot struck the house of Capt. Earl near the ferry, which is all the damage done there that we hear of; 60 shot, we hear, were fired at the windmill, without hitting it. From thence some of the ships, tenders and transports, went and surrounded Gould-Island and took a few sheep; others went to Hope Island, and got 2 or 3 young cattle; thence they proceeded to Dutch-Island, in Narragansett-Bay; where were upwards of 100 rams, part of which some people from Narragansett took off, while the vessels lay there; the remainder, about 60, the enemy took away. On the whole this fleet, by cruising and firing about our bays and harbours, for near a fortnight, have got about 40 head of cattle great and small, and 180 sheep, including the cattle bought of the Brentons, and 60 rams; the 150 sheep mentioned in many papers of last Monday being a mistake; for we are well informed they got but 5 sheep from Brenton's neck.

The same day the *Glasgow* fired a number of cannon upon the town of Jamestown, without doing any damage, except beating one stone out of a house.

The men of war, tenders, &c. came down the bay and anchored in this harbour, last Thursday.

Within 14 days past the men of war have taken out, and cut away, the masts, bowsprits, &c. of a number of small sloops and ferry boats.

Last Friday in the afternoon a barge, with a number of hands from one of the ships in this harbour, landed at the N.W. part of this town, took a boat which lay haled up on the shore, and was carrying her off, when the owner got his musket, ran down to the shore, and fired upon the barge, but did no execution; upon which the *Glasgow*, and one of the tenders, fired several shot at the owner of said boat, but missed him. – A 9 pound shot, from the *Glasgow*, entered one side of Mr. Matthew Lawton's house on the Point, carried away a part of a beam inside, and fell down, without hurting any person.

CHRISTOPHER LEFFINGWELL AND WILLIAM COIT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Norwich 16th October 1775

Last Week the Committee of Correspondence & Inspection of this Town having Notice of the Shipp *Peggy* Wm Baron Master With a Load of Wheat, being Brot by Capt [Robert] Niles to the Barr below the Landing (Capt Niles being Gone again on a Cruise) Thought the Ship & Cargo Still Within the Power of the Enemy (Were they to have Notice of her being there) also thinking it their Duty to Inquire into the Reason of her Coming into Stonington &C. they being also Made acquainted with her being the Same Ship & belonging to the Same Owners Which Lately Came into Newport & Was Seized & Carried with a Load of flour to Boston – Took the Liberty of Examining the Mate & Crew Of the Ship & upon a full hearing of them – Voted, That We the Subscribers be a Committee to procure Lighters to Lighten her & bring her up to the Landing to prevent her falling into the Enemys hands & to Notifie the Owner & Freighter thereof – This day the Freighters & Capt Niles Met at the Landing the Latter inform[e]d he had Orders from your Excellency & the Committee of Safety to Bring her up to the Barr & No farther untill further Orders – however as the Owners were Desirous of having her brought up to the Landing to Repair the Vessel, as the Inconvenience Could happen if She proves to be on a Smuggling Voyage – We have advised to her Coming up Agreeable to the Vote of the Committee & Wait Your Excellencys further order –

We shall only Remark that this Wheat is now as Near the Camp as it Can be Transported with Safety by Water – That it is found Somewhat Difficult procuring Bread for our Army & if by any Means it might be Stopped here without Injury to the Honest Owner, We Could wish it might – We must Also Say Nothing appeard of any Design of fraud from the Acct Given by Mate or People – the Master was Gone to N[ew]Port when We made the Inquiry – The Freighters Shew us a Memorandum from M [Christopher] Champlain of N Port the owner of the Ship Which they will undoubtedly Lay before your Excellency with their other Papers Our Not having any Notice of the Orders Given Capt Niles & the Danger the Ship & Cargo might be in We hope will Sufficiently apologize for the

Committee Looking into the Matter & beg Leave to Subscribe Your Excellencys  
[&c.]

Christ<sup>r</sup> Leffingwell      Will<sup>m</sup> Coit <sup>2</sup>

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, I, 297a, 297b, ConnSL.

2. Merchant of Norwich, not to be confused with Captain William Coit of Washington's navy.

SAMUEL BAYARD AND WILLIAM BEDLOW TO NATHANIEL WOODHULL <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Hudson's River, Octr. 16th, 1775.

Yours in Provincial Congress of the 12th inst. enclosing sundry resolutions of the Continental Congress, we yesterday received; and on consulting with Mr. Romans, the engineer, we made the several remarks thereon, which we now send you enclosed. As soon as time will permit, we shall view the place recommended, more strictly than we have had any opportunity to do. At present, the engineer informs us, he cannot give an estimate of the charge of a further work that may be necessary at Pooploop's Kill.

We shall exert ourselves in forwarding the work carrying on here, and every other order the Provincial Congress may command. We beg leave to request you will communicate this with the enclosed, unto the Honble. Provincial Congress. We are, sir, [&c.]

Saml. Bayard, William Bedlow.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 89.

REMARKS BY BERNARD ROMANS <sup>1</sup>

Highlands, October 16th, 1775.

If it be considered that the season when this work was undertaken was very far advanced, I think that we are in as forward a situation as can be wished for, and I make no doubt but the work begun will in three weeks time be of sufficient strength to stand the brunt of as large a ship of rank as can come here, and two or three small fry.

Heavy cannon, such as of 18, 24 and 32 lb. seem to be all that is wanted. I think on Saturday next [October 21] to be able to mount from 12 to 18 cannon, 8 of which at least might be heavy ones. We are in a miserable timber country, even fascines are with more difficulty got than stones; of the last we have such plenty that in four days 150 perches of wall has been properly laid by 12 masons. We want more workmen, especially masons, and our [men] require a regulation prescribed to them, which it seems impossible to bring them under, until they be properly officered and distributed, each division having its proper department allotted.

It is not only the difficulty of getting timber, but we have fully experienced that the part of the work which is done in timber advances slower than the stone, by a degree beyond all comparison.

A battery at Moore's house seems, at present, to me entirely useless. I will examine further into this article.

The point on the west side above Verplanck's point, is too easy of access, and in the vicinity of many ill disposed people; besides this, it can be of little use. But at Pooploop's kill, opposite to Anthony's nose, it is a very important pass; the river narrow, commanded a great ways up and down, full of counter currents, and subject to almost constant fall winds; nor is there any anchorage at all, except close under the works to be erected. It is a very easy matter to establish posts for intelligence with the upper country and Connecticut; for the last I intend to go in person, in about two or three weeks time. With those in the Jerseys I am not so perfectly acquainted, but if the country people are well affected, I know the roads admit of the most expeditious intelligence, and of our receiving the readiest assistance.

I understand that it will be an easy matter to obstruct the navigation of the river, so as to confine it to 12 or 14 feet; and in that case it remains large enough for our use, and without new inventions and constructions the enemy can then do us very little hurt.

B. Romans, Engineer.

[Endorsed] Highlands, October 16th, 1775. We have considered the above remarks and fully concur in opinion with the engineer.

Samuel Bayard, William Bedlow.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 179-180. Engineer Romans made these remarks in answer to "report of a committee appointed to take into consideration the letters from New-York, and the plans for obstructing the navigation of Hudson's river."

*New York Gazette*, MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1775

New-York, October 16.

Since our last his Majesty's Sloop of War the *Viper*, sailed on a Cruize.

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

[Philadelphia] Monday, October 16, 1775

A letter from Genl Schuyler with sundry papers enclosed, dated 5 Octr, 1775, was read and the same being taken into Consideration

*Resolved*, That the sum of 200,000 dollars be sent to the deputy pay master general for the northern army.

That the delegates of Pennsylvania do immediately count and send forward the above sum under a guard.

On motion made, *Resolved*, That the ton of powder forwarded last week to New York, be immediately sent forward to Genl Schuyler.

On motion, *Resolved*, that Mr [Peyton] Randolph and Mr [Stephen] Hopkins be appointed to join Mr. J[ohn] Rutledge in order to wait on Mr. [John] McPherson and confer with him on the subject contained in his letter.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 295, 296.

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

[Philadelphia] October 16th

The instructions for the Captains of the Armed Boats were this day gone through, approved of, and are as follows, Vizt:

## General Instructions for the Commanders of the Provincial Armed Boats

1. Every Captain or other officer shall give strict attention, that the Boat he commands be kept clean and in good order at all times.

2. The officers of the Boats are to use the crew well, and to keep strict discipline among them.

3. Each Captain shall appoint all officers under the Rank of a Commission'd officer, and oblige them to perform diligently the duties of their station.

4. Every Captain and other officer shall be punctual in observing the orders he shall from time to time receive from the Commodore, Committee of Safety, or Assembly.

5. No powder to be expended for exercising either Great Guns or small arms, without orders from the Commodore, Committee of Safety, or Assembly, and only Swivel Guns or Musquets to be fired for signals, except in cases of immediate danger.

6. The Commodore shall order the crews, or each Captain his respective crew, to be exercised in the use of their Oars, great Guns, small arms, and pikes, as often as possible, without impeding the public service, or harrassing the Men too much.

7. The crew not to be suffered to go on Shore, or absent themselves from on board the Boats without leave from their officers, nor to disturb any inhabitants or settlements, on any pretence whatever.

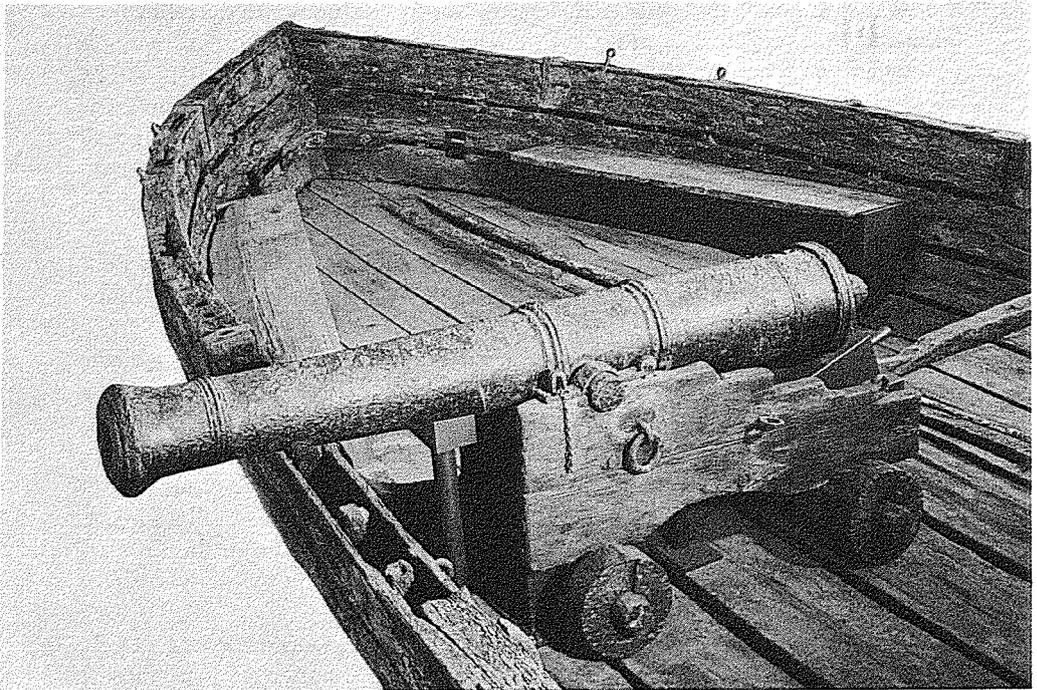
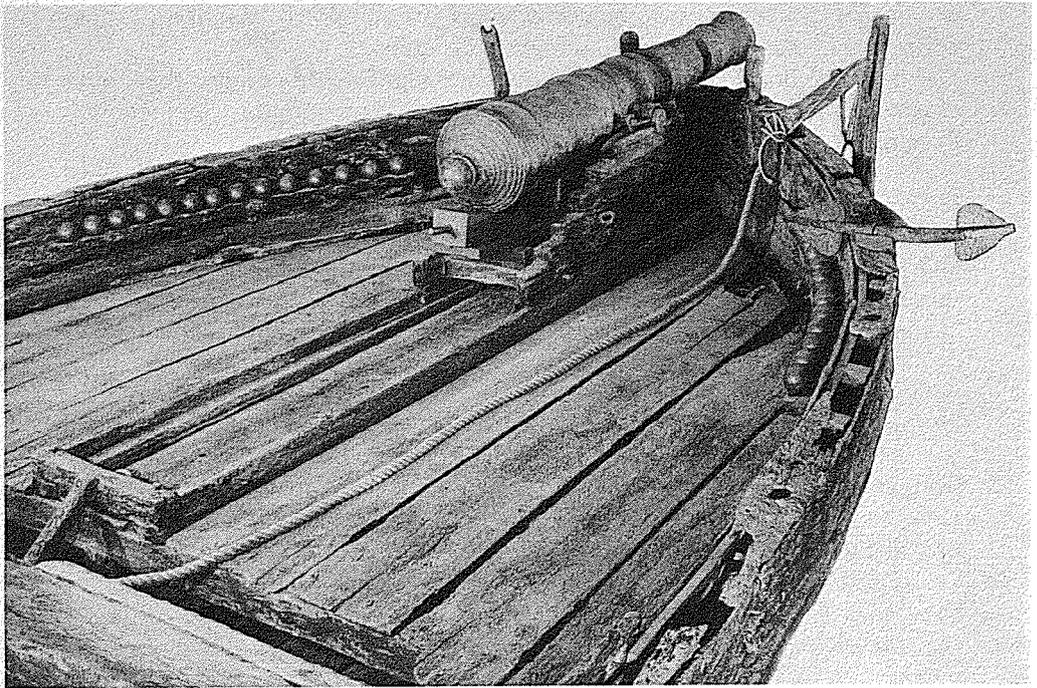
8. The Commodore or Commanding officer shall appoint proper Signals, copies of which shall be given to the Captains or Commanding officer of every Boat, to all which signals the officers are to pay due obedience and respect.

9. The Eldest officer present, where more boats are together than one, to act as Commodore, and have the Command of the whole.

10. When a Boat is below the city, the Commanding officer on board is to Examine all vessells bound up, whether the people on board are our friends or foes, and if they refuse satisfaction in these points they are to be considered as enemies.

11. The Officers of the Boats are to treat the Masters and crews of all vessells, both foreign and others, who have no hostile intentions against us, and who do not violate the Laws of the Continental Congress, or the rules and regulations of the Committee of safety or Assembly, with decency and good manners, nor are they to put them to unnecessary delay, or trouble, but if any should be in distress they are to lend them all reasonable assistance.

12. A Copy of the Articles, subscribed by the officers and men, shall be hung up in some public part of the Boat, for the perusal of the crew, to



*Examples of typical cannon on board a small American armed vessel of the Revolutionary period.*

whom they are to be read once every week, in an orderly manner, all the Officers, who can conveniently attend, to be present.

13. The Boats are not to leave any particular Station assigned them out of port, or when appointed to any duty, without orders from the Commodore, Committee of Safety, or Assembly.

14. The Captain of each Boat shall cause his Clerk to make out a Muster Roll of the crew of the boat which he Commands, with their names, stations on board, time of entering the Service, whether they are sickly or maimed, and what is their ailment, and if any of the crew should die or be discharged, specify the time thereof, all of which is to be returned to the Muster Master of the Boats, once every month, at least, or oftener if required by him.

15. No Captain or other officer shall discharge any of the Boat's crew without leave from the Commodore, Committee of Safety, or Assembly, unless he ships an equal number to those discharged immediately.

16. The Commander of each Boat is by ticket to certify to the Contractor from time to time, the number of Rations that are required for his Boat's crew; the Stewart of the boat is to receive the same from the Commissary upon producing the said ticket, and is to give his receipt and be accountable.

17. The Commander of each Boat is to examine into the quality of the Provisions, from time to time, and see that they be good and wholesome, and that the proper quantity be delivered out by the Steward, and in convenient messes.

18. If the quality of the provisions shall be objected to, the Captain of the Boat is to report the same to the contractor, or with a desire that they may be exchanged for such as are good and wholesome, but if the contractor is dissatisfied with the report of the Captain, they are to have a survey made by two judicious and impartial freeholders, mutually chosen, who may determine the same if they agree, but if otherwise they are to call in an umpire, who shall decide upon the quality of said provisions; if they are condemned the contractor shall supply others to equal amount in kind, but if the judgment of the referrers should be otherwise, the men must receive them for their allowance.

19. No warrant officer or private, discharged from the service of the Boat he first ships in, shall be admitted in the service of any other Boat unless by mutual consent of the Commanders.

20. The Commanding Officer of each Boat constantly to enforce a due observance of all the articles signed and agreed to by the Officers and Men, for their regulation in this service.

21. In case of making Prisoners, it is recommended by the Committee of Safety to all the Officers and Men employed in the Pennsylvania fleet, to treat them with humanity, and such kindness as the public good will admit of.

22. It is recommended by the Committee of Safety, to all the Officers and men employed in the Pennsylvania Fleet, to attend the public worship of Almighty God as frequently as in their power.

23. If any of the King's Ships, Sloops, cutters, or other armed vessels, shall proceed up the River Delaware in a hostile manner, or with hostile intentions; if they attempt to pass the Machines now sunk, or hereafter to be

sunk in the River Delaware, or if they attempt to weigh those that are sunk, or obstruct the sinking of others that are, or may be ordered by the Committee of Safety or Assembly, or if they seize or attempt to seize any property of the Inhabitants of the United Colonies of America, or to molest, or destroy their property or persons, in any shape or manner whatever, the Officers and Men employed in this fleet, are hereby ordered to oppose all such proceedings and attempts, by whomsoever made, and to repel force by force, even to the taking, sinking, or destroying all such Ships, Sloops, cutters, armed vessels or other force, employed in such designs and attempts against the peace and security of the United Colonies.

*Resolved*, That William Bradford print one hundred Copies of the Instructions to the Captains of the armed Boats.

*Resolved*, That Mr. [Bernard] Dougherty & Mr. [George] Gray apply to the Provincial Commissioners for their approbation for this Board to fit up and erect Fire Places in the House on Fort Island, and to erect what other works they find necessary for the defence of this Province, and that they apply to John Palmer to erect the works, agreeable to the Resolve of yesterday.

By Order of the Board, an order was drawn on Robert Morris, Esq'r, in favour of Michael Dawson, for Nine Pounds, for his Services in delivering to the Pilots and a number of vessels at the Capes, Bay and River Delaware, the Resolves of this Committee for Regulating the Pilots.

On Motion,

*Resolved*, That six 18 pound Cannon be planted, on a Platform at Fort Island, for the defence of this Province; And a Forge for heating shot be erected; That a small Magazine for the safety of Ammunition be built, And that a Company of 2 officers, a Drum & Fife & 25 men, be employed for working the said Cannon. That Mr. Saml. Morris, jun'r. & Mr. Robert White, be a Committee to see these Resolves carried into execution.

*Resolved*, That the above Mention'd Company consist of one Captain, one Lieutenant, one Drum & Fife, and twenty five private Men, to be immediately raised as a Company of Artillery, and that they engage to serve this Province for twelve months; or if sooner discharged by this Board or Assembly; That said officers and men are to be paid one month's pay over and above the time they shall have actually served, And that the pay of the said officers be the same as officers of the same Rank employed by the Continental Congress, and the pay of the Privates to be six Dollars P month; and that every artificer that may be enlisted, and employed in their respective Trades for the service of this Province, be allowed three shillings and nine pence per day over and above their pay.

*Resolved*, That the Pilots mention'd in the Resolve of the 11th inst., be desired to attend this Board to-morrow morning, 9 o'Clock, with their Proposals for their being employed in the service of this Province as pilots.

*Resolved*, That three Hulks be purchased and sunk in the most convenient places for Defence of this River; That Mr. [John] Wharton & Colo. [Daniel] Roberdeau be a Committee to purchase said Hulks, And That Mr. [Robert] White and Mr. Samuel Morris fix upon the properest places for sinking them.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 367-371.

*Pennsylvania Packet*, Monday, October 16, 1775

Philadelphia, October 16.

Capt. [James] Robinson, of the ship *Nancy and Sukey* (who arrived in this port last Wednesday [October 11]) left London the 10th, the Downs the 14th, and Falmouth the 25th of August: He parted company with the *Lizard* frigate, of 28 guns, Capt. John Inglis, on the 22d of August, at Torbay.— The *Lizard* was ordered to Quebec, and had under her convoy a brigantine, Capt. Brown, who informed Capt. Robinson, that he had on board 6000 stand of small arms, several brass cannon, and a large quantity of gunpowder. Capt. Brown's vessel was so heavy a sailer, that the frigate was obliged to take her in tow coming down the channel. Capt. Brown informed Capt. Robinson, that a brigantine, under convoy of a frigate, had sailed for Virginia with arms and ammunition, but, by strong westerly winds, was forced to put back, and had gone into Spithead.

MINUTES OF THE WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Monday, October 16th 1775.

On application from Captn McGill of the Sloop *Ranger*, for Permission to clear out his Sloop in Ballast, Order'd, that Captn McGill have leave to clear out for the Port of New York only, and that he be allowed to take on board any Quantity of Deer Skins he may Choose.

On application from Alex. Hostler, Order'd, That the Paper imported in Cap Weir's Vessel, (and now in the hands of Adam Boyd,) be sold at Vendue for the use of the Press only, or be immediately deliver'd to A. Hostler to be reship'd.<sup>2</sup>

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

2. See Minutes of April 4, 1775, Volume 1, 168.

JOSIAH MARTIN TO LORD DARTMOUTH <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

No Carolina *Cruizer* Sloop of War,  
in Cape Fear River Octr 16th 1775.

Your Lordship may depend I will not fail in the strictest observance of His Majesty's commands to exert every endeavour, and to employ every means that shall be in my power to aid and support General Gage and Admiral Graves in all such operations, as they may think proper to undertake for carrying The King's orders into full execution, and restoring the authority of His Majesty's Government. at the same time, I grieve to be obliged to acknowledge to Your Lordship, that I have not the least power at present to assist their operations.

Mr Samuel Johnston having summoned and convened the late Congress at Hillsborough and presided therein; and having also accepted the Office of Treasurer of the northern District of this Colony under the appointment of this unconstitutional Assembly, of his own creation, in open violation of an Act of the Provincial Legislature, by which Treasurers are appointed, and actually existing, I have thought it high time, and indispensibly my duty to supersede him as Deputy Naval Officer of this Province,<sup>2</sup> and I have accordingly appointed Mr Archibald Neilson, a Gentleman well qualified by his knowledge, integrity, and good prin-

ciples, to act in that Office until His Majesty's Pleasure shall be known he is indeed the only capable person, that in my present state cut off from all intercourse with the Country, I can appoint, or with whom I can communicate upon the subject. I do not think however, that I could, at any time, make a better choice in this Province,

It is possible also that the resentment of Mr John Ashe, occasioned by his disappointment of the chief command of the military establishment formed by the Provincial Congress will cause some division here: for it seems he and his friends are raising men of their own authority in opposition to Mr James Moore, his brother in law, who is appointed Military Chief under the Congress.

In cases of seizures made by The King's Ships it is to be apprehended, it will be very difficult, if not impracticable to form Courts of Vice Admiralty for their Tryal in this Province, as well as in other of the Colonies for want of communication with the proper Officers. in that event Your Lordship knows that Officers of the Navy will be exposed to prosecutions, for detaining, beyond a short limitation of time, Vessels they may seize under the late Act of Parliament restraining the Trade of some of the Colonies, which are thereby directed to be tried, as other seizures, in the Courts of Admiralty; unless in these special cases, and when the proceedings of such Courts shall be opposed, and obstructed, as will probably happen, some provision is made by law for their indemnification.

Mr. Alexander McGregor late Master of the Snow *Relief*, stranded here in the month of March last, gave me about a fortnight ago a detail of Captain [John] Collet's proceedings with regard to his Cargo upon which he laid in claim as a Salvager. and by this man's account, as well as from other circumstances that have come to my knowledge, I am bound to conclude that Mr Collet's conduct on the occasion was exceedingly injurious, and unjustifiable. I recommended to Captain Collet, on his first report of the case to me at New Bern, to take The Attorney General's opinion and advice for his rule and guide, and to be governed by them minutely, or he would certainly subject himself to prosecution, and very probably to great damages. he accordingly did advise with The Attorney General, I am informed, but followed nevertheless his own judgment; which by the representations of Mr McGregor, I fear was formed more upon views to his own gain and interest, than upon any principles of justice, equity, and charity; all of which the nature of the case ought to have excited in the strongest manner. I much lament My Lord that I have so much reason in this affair, and on other accounts to alter my favorable sentiments of Captain Collet, of whom, and of his principles, I was wont to think highly.

In a *North Carolina Gazette* of the 29th of September, Your Lordship will see a most pompous display of Discoveries of military stores in and about my house at New Bern, almost every article of which the Author of this abuse, I am persuaded, well knows to be old stores, deposited there by Governor Tryon after his expedition against the Regulators, which it seems, my Servants, in their abundant caution, had buried, as described in the News Papers, to keep them out of the hands of the Mob. of mine, or of my provision, there was nothing among them, but two kegs containing between forty and fifty pounds of Gunpowder (called quarter casks in the News Paper) which I had bought, and intended for saluting

The King's last birthday and which on my previous, and necessary departure from New Bern, I directed to be put away in some place of Security.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/318, 463-501, LC Photocopy.
2. *Ibid.*, 332, Samuel Johnston acknowledged his supersedure with a sharp letter on November 16, which stated in part: "I have this day had the honour of receiving your Excellency's Letter signifying that you had been pleased to suspend me from acting as Deputy to Mr Turner in the Naval Office, with the reasons for such removal, and it gives me pleasure that I do not find neglect of the duties of my Office in the Catalogue of my Crimes."

GEORGE JAMES BRUERE TO LORD DARTMOUTH<sup>1</sup>

My Lord

Bermuda 16 of October 1775

Captain Tollemache of the *Scorpion* Man of War, having very fortunately for us, touched at Bermuda, and came into St Georges Harbour, at the East end of these Islands, with a large transport with Him both intended for South Carolina.

Some days after his arrival, an american armed vessel, came to anchor at the west End far out of His reach or access, and spoke with the land we are informed, and then went off.

And We are very apprehensive, that She came for the Cannon that they might know to be in Store here. And to prevent any such design, as Captain Tollemache intended, and was obliged to proceed for Carolina, the first fair wind. and we should then be left defenceless; we were both of opinion, that it was much the best way for Captain Tollemache to take charge of the Cannon in Store, and put them on board His Tender or large Transport, to prevent the said Cannon to be Carried off, in the same maner as the powder was, and applyed against His Majestys army. We have delivered to Him thirty peices of Iron ordnance with the Carriages and stores, belonging to them &c which I doubt not but His Majesty and Your Lordship will approve of.

Jonathan Burch Esqr His Majestys Chief Justice in Bermuda, is the most worthy, to be recommended to His Majestys favor, for His Attention and good will to the King's Service, at this particular time of trouble and danger: He hath no Salary, and hath laboured in that employment many years for nothing. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

George Ja<sup>s</sup> Bruere

P S I hope Your Lordship will be graciously pleased, to take His Case into Your Consideration, and get Him some allowance from Home. as there are more Demands already, on the Kings lands here, than the produce, or Interest money amounts to.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 37/36.

17 Oct.

FRANCIS LEGGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]  
No. 48

Halifax Octor 17 1775.

That by Colonel [Joseph] Gorham lately arrived here from Boston I am inform'd that Fifteen hundred of the Rebels had marched Eastward under the

Command of General [John] Thomas so called, that it was given out by the Rebels, that they intended a Descent on this Province as well as Canada, that their design was to destroy the Navy Yard here, & Cut off all supply of Wood, Hay, & Provision from the Troops at Boston.<sup>2</sup>

In this Emergency I am using my utmost Endeavour to protect this Province from Invasion. I have issued a Proclamation for putting the Military Laws of this Province in Execution, as the Rebels have made a Descent at St Johns River, & Burnt Fort Frederick and Seized on a Vessel there loaden with live Stock for the Troops in Boston.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52, Nova Scotia Papers, DAC Photocopy.
2. Benedict Arnold's force headed for Quebec, not Halifax.

LETTER FROM REV. JACOB BAILEY<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Falmouth, October 17.]

All however remained in profound peace and tranquility till eleven o'clock the next morning, when the sternmost ship got under sail and the rest in succession.

It was half after two before the Commodore weighed anchor, when the whole fleet stood directly up the river, and formed in line of battle before the town. We now plainly discovered one ship of twenty guns, one of sixteen, a large schooner of fourteen, a bomb sloop and two other armed vessels.

The Commodore, who proved to be Capt. Mowatt, had no sooner come to anchor and handed his sails, than he fitted out his barge, in which he dispatched an officer on shore, with a letter directed to the inhabitants of Falmouth. He landed at the lower end of King street, amid a prodigious assembly of people, which curiosity and expectation had drawn together from every quarter.

Some of the multitude appeared in arms, who united with the rest to convey the officer with uncommon parade and ceremony along the street to the Town House. His entrance was immediately followed by a confused mixture, which filled the apartment with noise and tumult

At length the officer being seated with the Committee; who took possession of the Judge's seat, and silence commanded, a letter was delivered and read by Mr. [John] Bradbury, a lawyer, but not without such a visible emotion as occasioned a tremor of his voice.

It is impossible to describe the amazement which prevailed upon reading this alarming declaration: a frightful consternation ran through the assembly, every heart was seized with terror, every countenance changed colour, and a profound silence ensued for several moments.

During the astonishment which had seized the multitude, I quitted the apartment of justice and became a spectator of what passed in the street, where nothing occurred but scenes of tumult, confusion, and bustle.

A number of considerate gentlemen, however, made choice of a committee, viz: Brigadier [Jedediah] Preble, Dr. [Nathaniel] Coffin, and Mr. Pagan, to wait upon the Commodore. He received them with expressions of humanity, and even shed tears at the repetition of his orders. At the earnest entreaty of these gentlemen, he consented to suspend execution till sunrise, upon condition that the people would agree to deliver up a number of their arms. Upon the

return of this committee the inhabitants assembled in the Court House, and readily complied with the requisition.

The arms being delivered to the Commodore about eight, he granted them a further respite till nine the next morning, and besides, engaged that, if the town would surrender their cannon and musketry, and give hostages for their future good behaviour, he would delay the execution of his orders till he could represent their situation to the Admiral, and intercede for their final deliverance.

At the same time Capt. Mowatt assured them that if any person should presume to escape by water during the night, he would immediately fire upon the town. When the committee returned the second time, they found the disposition in the people to assemble in the morning, but the zealous sons of liberty dispatched messengers into all the adjacent country and the inhabitants were beating drums, firing alarms, and mustering under arms for thirty miles round. Some companies entered Falmouth before midnight, and protested that if any compliance or submission was made, they would burn it to ashes.

And, that no provocation might be offered to Mowatt by persons of indiscretion a number of moderate gentlemen voluntarily engaged their services to parade the streets, and prevent any disorder that might arise.

1. Falmouth Collection, MeHS.

#### NARRATIVE OF DANIEL TUCKER OF FALMOUTH <sup>1</sup>

[Falmouth, October 17.]

He returned again in October with five vessels under his command, two ships, two schooners and one sloop; they arrived and anchored in the lower harbour on the 16th and laid all night without any communication with the town, and the inhabitants were greatly terrified at the appearance of this hostile fleet, until it was ascertained that Captain Mowatt commanded the whole; on the morning of the 17th the fleet got under weigh in a calm and began to warp up toward the town with kedge anchors. About 8 o'clock A.M. my master [Paul] Little came on horseback to the shop door, called me out, and told me he was going to Windham, and to be gone several days, and that he should send people to me with orders to pay for their labor &c. I then asked him if he knew the fleet was coming up, and that people in general were of opinion that it was coming with hostile intentions against the town; and he replied to me that Captain Mowatt had the command and there was no danger! He went to Windham and left me at 15 years of age with the care of both shops. The ships and vessels were until four o'clock P.M. before they got to their anchorage before the town, and the inhabitants generally were in a state of alarm, and many began to move out for safety. Mrs Little was very much frightened and began to think of moving, and sent me with two old looking glasses out to a place called Capiseack, when I had deposited the treasure, worth about five dollars!! and was about remounting my horse, a Windham man came by on a gallop, and told me the town was to be burned in two hours. I told him where Mr. Little was in Windham, and desired him to send him word, and he promised he would but did not. I rode into town with all speed, and found Mrs. Little with her children at the front door, ready to go; she delivered to me a bag with all her husbands money, books and papers, and with her children



tion if permission be granted accordingly, & have agreed that she be permitted to depart, provided the said Mr. Wentworth & the master give security to your satisfaction that no kind of merchandise be taken on board & no more Provisions than shall be necessary for the support of the hands in the Passage.

Committee of Portsmouth.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 626.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO COLONEL JOHN GLOVER, MARBLEHEAD<sup>1</sup>

Sir – We learn with a good deal of Concern that there is no Probability of the Vessels being got away for several days – & that in all Appearance the Remainder of the Vessels besides Capt Broughton & Capt Selliman will not be ready these 2 Weeks to which the long Delay already & frequent Disappointment makes us give some Credit – The General is much dissatisfied I cannot but think a Desire to secure particular Friends or particular Interests does mingle in the Management of these Vessels – The Number of Workmen we are told is inconsiderable – & in Short it is said in plain Terms, that it will be made a job of – I thought it proper to mention to you what has been said – & at all Events unless you can engage that the Vessels who are to remain at & about Cape Ann & that Coast shall be ready in 5 Days one must be got at Newbury Port as I cannot but think from all we hear that it would expedite this Business to have one Vessel fitted out from thence – Six Transports came into Boston Yesterday – If our Cruizers find themselves watched at Marblehead & Cape Ann they must run out in the Night & Cruize farther off. Should they take any Prizes they must send them to Plymouth or some other Town on that Coast – We are told that our Vessels make a Practice of running in every Night when they have been out & the Men come on Shore – This must be rectified – Capt Manley is to have one of the Vessels left for the Coast about Cape Ann – General Sullivan's Captain will have another – Manley's Vessel will be mann'd from your Regiment – I have said so much upon Dispatch that – I need Say no more than that if they are not soon at Sea we shall heartily repent it was ever undertaken – I this Morning paid Major [William] Lee 60 Dollars for Capt Broughton 40 for your Son. – & 30 to the third Lieutenant as a Compliment from Capt [John] Langdon for retaking his Vessel – The Men behaved so ill that nothing could be allowed them – I am Sir &c.

J R S—y—

Head Quarters Octo 17th 1775 –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR. TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

[Plymouth, October 17.]<sup>2</sup>

May it Please Your Excellency

According to the Instructions recieved at Head Quarters, I went to Watertown, to Colo Warren, from thence proceeded for this town & Arriv'd on Saturday evening [October 14]; Capt Adams being out of town, I did not see him till yesterday Morning, when I went to Kingston where he was with his Vessell, he engagd to have her at Plymouth that evening which he performed The People here give

the Vessel an Excellent Character as a Sailor; have this day set the Carpenters to Work on her, the Capt Says she will be ready in four or five days, if he is not oblig'd to wait for guns. —

I deliverd the Letter to the Committe, who promis'd me all the assistanc in their Power, There are Four Single Fortified Carriage guns here, which will carry about a 3 or 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ [lb] Shott, & Seven Swivels of Different, Size Bores, one of which is Brass, one Excellent Wall piece (& two Cohorns if wanted), — there are several Single Fortified Guns of abt 6 & 8[lb] here. — The Committe are of Opinion that if these guns should not answer, that they may be had in Providence or Bristoll, which I think very probable, & as I am wel Acquainted there, if Yr Excellency pleases, will go there & procure them. — William Watson Esqr was Recommended, by Colo Warren as a Proper Person as Agent, to Procure provisions & take Charge of Prises, which he engages to do, & if required will get it from under his hand, Please to give me further Instructions as Soon as Possible — I am Yr Dutiful Servant

Ephraim Bowen, Jr.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. *Ibid.*, Joseph Reed acknowledged this letter on October 17, as “your letter without date”. However, Bowen, in his journal under date of October 17, stated: “Wrote to his Excellency Genl Washington concerning the Guns, vessell, &c.” The letter must have been dispatched from Plymouth shortly after midnight to have arrived at Cambridge in time for lengthy acknowledgment the same day.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR.<sup>1</sup>

Sir Your letter (without date)<sup>2</sup> is just come to hand — Capt Martindale will deliver you this with whom you can consult on the proper Guns to fit [Daniel] Adam's Schooner out. He is going down to fit out with your Assistance a Schooner belonging  $\frac{3}{4}$  to George Ewing &  $\frac{1}{4}$  to Capt [Benjamin] Wormwell provided you can agree with Wormwell. Martindale is to Command but Wormwell may Sail as Master if he chooses. This vessel is highly recommended here but you must make proper Inquiry about her & act accordingly —

If it is absolutely necessary to procure proper Guns at Providence & Bristol, you must go, but we have always found that when Gentlemen Sent upon this Business go among their Friends, they are apt to stay too long & are induced to favour their Friends in such Articles as may be wanted so as to delay the Business — I therefore think it necessary to give you this Caution —

Inclosed are Mr Watson's Instructions which you will please to deliver him — Pray consider that after the Guns are procured the Ammunition is to be provided, & no Cartridges can be made 'till you Send former — unless Ammunition is to be procured there — You will also please to bear in Mind that our, Situation as to Powder does not admit these Vessels being fitted out at all Points, nor will the Time Admit — Cap Martindale having been used to have a Vessel where nothing was wanted I fear will not make suitable Allowances — If Wormwell's Vessel should not be found to Answer or cannot be had but upon such Terms as you do not chuse to comply with & there is another there you may take her — Let the good of the Publick direct you both & that only — I am Sir &c.

J R

Capt. Adams does not go Captain, but has my Promise to go Master if he chuses -- we send a Captain from hence -- [Cambridge] Octo 17, 1775

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. *Ibid.*, Bowen's undated letter was written shortly after midnight on October 17, 1775.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO WILLIAM WATSON, PLYMOUTH <sup>1</sup>

Sir You being recommended to his Excellency as a proper Person to transact the Business of the several armed Vessels fitted out of Plymouth at the Continental Expence, will be pleased to consider the following as your Instructions --

1. That you immediately lay in Provisions on the best Terms for the Vessels now fitting or to be hereafter fitted of such articles only as are allowed in the Continental Army and in the same Proportion -- as P inclosed Paper or as near as possible -- <sup>2</sup>

2. When no special Order to the contrary you are never to put more than 1 Month's Provisions in each Vessel for 50 Men -- Officers included --

3 -- In making up your Accounts you are to remember that the Original Bills or Invoices are to be sent as Vouchers--that your own Account to be general & at the Bottom an Affidavit of the Justice of your Account. This is not done from any Jealousy or Suspicion but that the utmost Satisfaction may be given the Country & that all Agents may be on the Same Footing --

4. That in Case any Prizes are taken & sent in to Plymouth, you are immediately to inform yourself of the Quality & Value of the Cargo, Vessel &c as well as you can from Papers & send it up to the General -- You are then to wait for farther Directions -- If the Officers & Men appoint an Agent for their one third you are to permit him also to have a Copy of all Papers necessary to ascertain the Cargo, & when the Vessel is discharged give him a true Copy of the Cargo --

5 -- All military Stores belong to the Continent & the Hulls of all Vessels so deemed that they may be applied to the Continental Service if necessary --

6. Whatever Advise you at any Time have of the Vessels, that is material you will Send up here by suitable Opportunities --

7. As there are other Vessels cruising besides those fitted out at Plymouth you are to Consider yourself as Agent for all Vessels fitted out at the Continental Expence, who shall have Occasion for Necessaries at Plymouth, or may send any Prizes into that Port --

8 -- You will endeavour to lay in every Thing on the best Terms & send your Opinion as to the Disposal of Cargoes at your Place or elsewhere -- in which it is hoped you will not be influenced by Interest as it is intended so to regulate the Sale of Cargoes as to make them most Advantageous to the Publick, & suitable Compensation in all Cases made to the Agents --

9. Your Commission will be regulated by the Agreements made at Marblehead & Salem for the same Services --

10. In Case of any Irregularity, Misconduct, or Negligence in the Officers of any Vessel, you are desired to give immediate Information to the General --



*Colonel Joseph Reed. By an unidentified engraver, 1783.*

11 – You are now & at all Times to use all possible Dispatch & not permit the Vessels when equipped to remain in Port –

By Order of his Excellency General Washington

Jos: Reed Scy

Head Quarters Octor 17: 1775

1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. This list is in Prizes and Captures, LC.

RATION OF PROVISIONS FOR GEORGE WASHINGTON'S ARMED VESSELS <sup>1</sup>

[Headquarters, October 17.] <sup>2</sup>

The following is the Ration of Provisions allowed by the Continental Congress to each Soldier – vizt

One pound Fresh Beef or  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a pound of Pork, or one pound of Salt Fish p Diem  
One pound of Bread or Flour p Diem

Three pints of peas or Beans p Week, or Vegetables equivalent, at 6/ L[awful] mo[ney] p Bushel for Pease or Beans

One pint of Milk p Man p Diem, when to be had

One half pint of Rice, or one pint of Indian Meal p Man p Week. –

One Quart of Spruce Beer p Man p Diem, or 9 Gall of Molasses p Company of 100 Men

3 [lb] Candles to 100 Men p Week, for Gaurds &

24 lb of Soft or 8 lb of hard Soap for 100 Men p Week

One Ration of Salt, one ditto Fresh, & two Ditto Bread, to be delivered Monday Morning, Wednesday Morning the Same – Fryday Morning the Same & one ditto Salt Fish. –

as the Nature of the Land & Sea service is very different the following List of provision for one month to be Laid in for 50 men officers included, is Submitted to his Excellencys Consideration –

16 barrells of Bread, which will contain about 1500 pounds

5 barrells of Beeff – 240 lb p bar

2 barrells of PorkE – 220 lb p bar

400 lb of Rice about one quarter of a pound p day p man

4 bushells of Indian Meal, instead of milk &c –

25 bushells of Potatoes, instead of Peas & beans

one barrell of Melasses, to be used with the Rice for breakfast

one bushell of Salt

30 pounds of butter

20 pounds of Candles

25 pounds of Coffee

25 pounds of Chocolate

75 pounds of suggar

10 Gallons west ind Rum

} for the Officers. –

60 Gallons of Rum, instead of beer &c, about one gill p day p man rather 8 gills for 6 men

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 415, LC.

2. See Reed to Watson, October 17, 1775, for establishment of date.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Tuesday, October 17, 1775.

The House assign'd three o'Clock, P. M. for the second reading of the Bill respecting Armed Vessels.

Afternoon.

A Bill for the encouraging the fixing out armed Vessels. Read the second Time.

Upon a Motion, Ordered, That the further Consideration of this Bill be referr'd to Tomorrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

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

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO FRANCIS LEGGE <sup>1</sup>

Preston at Boston Octr 17, 1775

Sir I have had the Honour to receive your Excellency's Letter October 1. The Provisions on board the Victualler at Halifax are for the use of the Fleet alone, and had not my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty been extremely provident in timely sending Supplies the Kings Ships during the Winter would have been greatly distressed for Victuals; Your Excellency will therefore perceive I cannot consent to any other appropriation of the Provisions upon which we place our sole Dependance for Support; and that the Transports being sent to Halifax was purely for the Convenience of supplying the Ships there.

The King will undoubtedly be pleased to find such an attention to the Security of his Naval Yard and Stores at Halifax; I am satisfied your Excellency will readily contribute your utmost to a Service of such importance to his Maj's Fleet; but I fear it is too late to begin even temporary Works, and that the principal Dependance must be on the Kings Ships in Halifax Harbour.

I shall continue a good Force in the Bay of Fundy, and Ships shall winter at Annapolis [Royal] and if possible at Windsor: By which means the Fears of the well disposed will I hope be removed, and the turbulent and disaffected deterred from attempting what must eventually involve them in destruction. There is I fear too much Communication between the Rebels of the Eastern parts of New England and the People of Nova Scotia. It would be of singular use to discover a few of the Principals concerned in aiding, abetting or advising the rebellious Proceedings now carrying on in New England Governments. It is high time to make Examples, in which your Excellency may always depend upon my utmost Assistance.

What you observe about the Men of War touching at Passamaquody is very proper and shall be attended to.

I acknowledge the Receipt of your Excellency's Dispatches to Lord Dartmouth in one Packet, which shall be transmitted by the first Opportunity. I am &c.

Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves.

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 100-101, BM.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER <sup>1</sup>

[Boston] 17th [October].

Last night the Rebels brought down Cambridge River two Gondolas with a Gun in each of 'em; they fired several shot at the encampment on the Common without doing any harm 'till at last one of their Guns burst and killed and wounded several of them.

1. John Barker, *The British in Boston Being the Diary of Lieutenant John Barker of the King's Own Regiment from November 15, 1774 to May 31, 1776; With Notes by Elizabeth Ellery Dana* (Cambridge, 1924), 65. Hereafter cited as Barker, *Diary*.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

Sir

New Haven 17th Octor 1775

Your favour of the 5th Instant came Safe to hand the ninth by Express; pursuant to the desire of Congress, gave the necessary Orders for our largest Vessel ( : which was the only one we had any way Suitable for the purpose : ) to Sail Immediately on the proposd Cruise; but I am Sorry to Inform you, that on Attempting farther to prepare for the Voyage, find the Vessel not in a Condition to proceed on that Service, and wholly out of my power, after utmost endeavours, to comply with the desire of the Congress in this Respect, with Such dispatch as may be of any Service, which gives me great uneasiness. Govr [Nicholas] Cooke acquaints me also that their only Vessel fit for this Duty is absent upon a Cruise; I am advised however by General Washington that Two Vessels from Massachusetts Bay are Ordered on this Service. I am, [&c.]

Jon<sup>th</sup> Trumbull

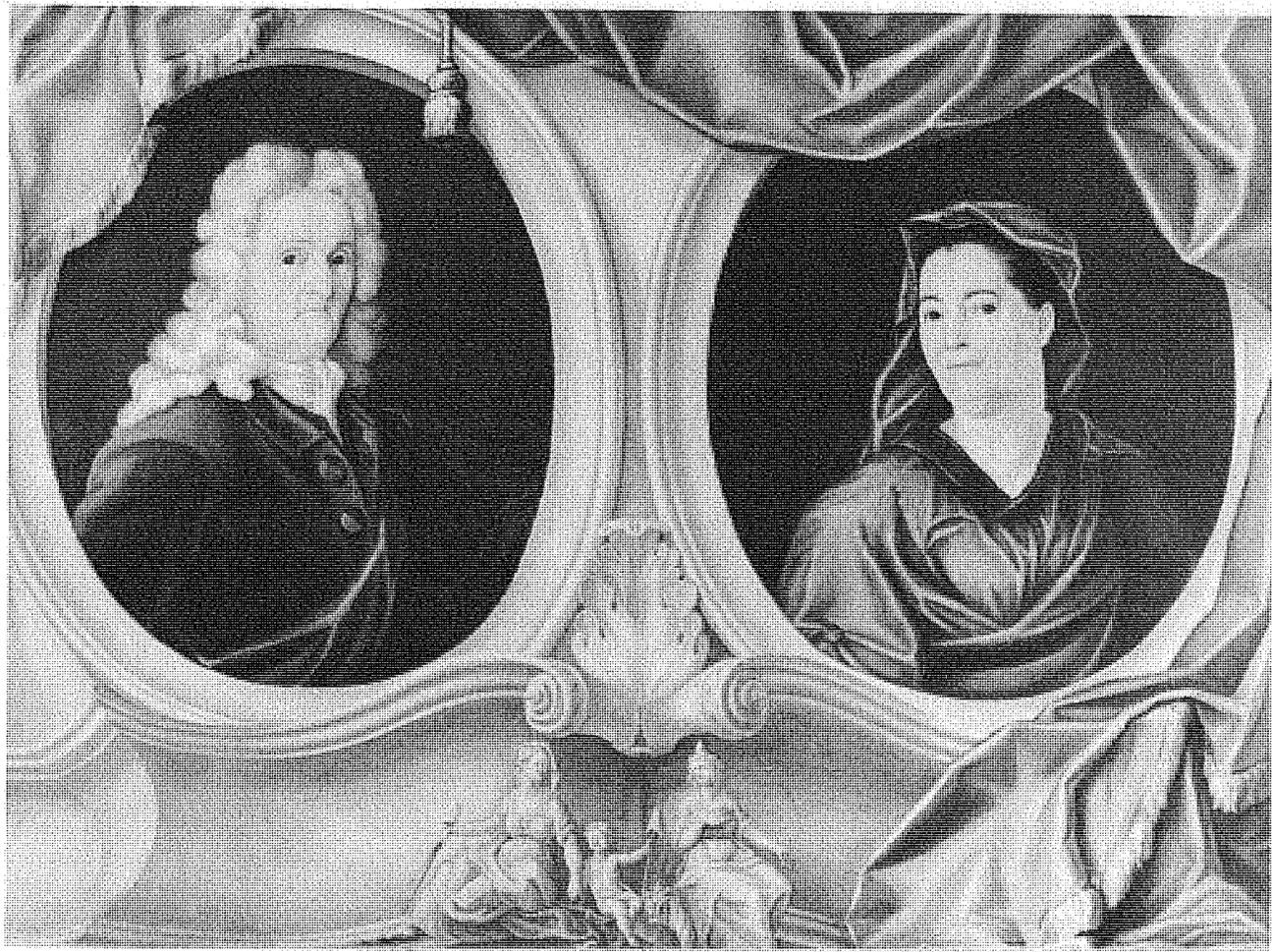
1. Papers CC (Connecticut State Papers), 66, I, 38, NA.

NEW YORK CITY GENERAL COMMITTEE TO WHITEHEAD HICKS <sup>1</sup>

Committee-Chamber [New York], October 17, 1775.

Sir, His Excellency Governor Tryon's second Letter to your Worship, of the 14th instant, has been laid before the Committee. We flattered ourselves that the sentiments of Respect expressed in Answer to his Excellency's last Letter to your Worship, and the Assurances that his Information from Philadelphia was ill-grounded, would have removed every Suspicion of Injury intended to his Person or Property.

We can with great Truth assure his Excellency, that we are not apprehensive of the least Danger to his Person or Property; and that he may rest assured, of all that Protection from us, and our Fellow-Citizens, which will be consistent with the great Principle of our Safety and Preservation: Declaring, at the same Time, that we have the utmost Confidence in his Excellency's Disposition to serve the true interest of this Colony, and that he will, by his wise and prudent Mediation, use his best Offices to restore that Harmony between Great-Britain and the Colonies so ardently wished for by us. The Committee therefore cannot but again express their most earnest Desire that his Excellency would continue his



*Governor Jonathan Trumbull and Mrs. Trumbull. By John Trumbull, 1775.*

Residence among a People, who have the most grateful sense of his upright and disinterested Administration.

We have the Pleasure to acquaint your Worship, that the above Letter was unanimously approved of in a full Committee And are, Sir, [&c.] (By order of the Committee)

Isaac Low, Chairman.

1. *New York Gazette*, October 23, 1775.

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

[New York] Die Martis, 9 HO.A.M. October 17th, 1775.

A draft of a letter to the Continental Congress was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Provincial Congress, New-York, October 17th, 1775

Sir— We have used all possible despatch to complete the fortifications on Hudson's river, and we expect they will be in such forwardness in about six weeks, as to have most of the cannon mounted. The commissioners have been directed to make the necessary inquiries respecting the other small batteries, and in the obstructing of the navigation of Hudson's river, mentioned by Congress in their order of the 7th inst. to which due attention shall be paid. We are of opinion that four companies of matrosses, consisting of at least eighty men each, will be wanted to occupy these forts when completed, and that one company at least should be immediately raised, that we may in time have more properly trained to the use of cannon, as the utility of our fortifications will much depend upon it.

We are, &c.

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

Messrs. John Griffith and Thomas Vardell, two of the wardens of the port of New-York, delivered in an estimate of the pilot boat named the *Bishop of Llandaff*, which was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

New-York, Oct. 18th [*sic* 17th] 1775.

We, the subscribers, have examined the pilot boat named the *Bishop of Landaff*, and find her to be worth the sum of four hundred and ninety-six pounds this currency.

John Griffith,  
Thomas Vardell.

Robert North and Terboss, two of Hudson's river skippers, came into Congress, and complained of some disagreeable treatment which they received at the new fortifications.<sup>2</sup> Thereupon a draft of a letter to the said commissioners was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Provincial Congress, New-York, Oct. 17th, 1775.

Gentlemen— We have received complaints from sundry persons, with relation to the conduct of some among you, who have maltreated the com-

manders and passengers of vessels navigating Hudson's river, for not lowering the peak of their mainsail upon passing the fort. Those who have been provoked by this demand, complain that you should of your own authority, without the recommendation of the Congress, exact instances of respect from your fellow citizens. You must at once be sensible that so trivial a token, or the omission of it, can never mark out our friends from our foes, or answer any other valuable purpose. At the same time it is evident that great disgusts have arisen from the peremptory demand, and probably bloodshed may ensue. The Colonies have sufficiently suffered through punctilio, and we beg you will desist from exacting marks of submission or respect of any kind, until a plan which is now in agitation shall be completed, which may tend to obviate the future intentions of our foes to pierce into the interior of the Colony, through the natural communication which the river affords; to prevent this, is the intention of the fortification which you superintend, and therefore all signals from vessels going backwards and forwards should in our opinion be singly [or simply] confined to that object, and be by no means used as instances of complaisance to the Congress or its officers, when the peace and safety of the community so loudly forbid it.

We are, gentlemen, [&c.] By order.

Nath. Woodhull, President.

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

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 176-178.

2. See Samuel Bayard and William Bradley to Nathaniel Woodhull, October 15, 1775.

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

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, October 17, 1775

The Committee appointed to prepare an Estimate, &c. brought in their report,<sup>2</sup> which, being read was after some debate, re-committed.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 297.

2. The committee appointed October 13 to bring in an estimate of the expense of fitting out two vessels on Continental account.

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

[Philadelphia] October 17th

Mr. Gray and Mr. Dougherty, agreeable to a Resolve of yesterday, waited on the Provincial Commissioners, who gave their hearty consent to this Board's erecting any works on the Province Island, that they may think proper and necessary for the defence of this Province.

Mr. John Palmer, agreeable to desire, attended this Board, and undertook the Mason work agreed to be carried on at Fort Island.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 371.

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

Octbr 1775

Moord in St Augustine Harbour

Tuesday 17 Jno Vaughan and Alexander Mc Guillam took the Long boat from a Long Side and Run away with her <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

2. *Ibid.*, October 29, 1775; at the end of the month the boat was found on the shore where the two deserters had abandoned it.

**18 Oct.**

LETTER FROM REV. JACOB BAILEY <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Falmouth, October 18,]

The morning was calm clear and pleasant, without a breath of wind, and the town was crowded with people and carts from the country to assist in removing the goods and furniture of the inhabitants.

At exactly half an hour after nine the flag was hoisted at the top of the mast, and the cannon began to roar with incessant and tremendous fury.

The Commodore, perceiving the streets replete with people, oxen and horses, directed his men to fire over the tops of the houses, but this solemn exhibition struck the multitude into instant alarm and amazement. The oxen, terrified at the smook and report of the guns ran with precipitation over the rocks, dashing every thing in pieces, and scattering large quantities of goods about the streets.

In a few minutes the whole town was involved in smook and combustion.

About a thousand men in arms attended this scene of devastation, besides a prodigious number of both sexes, without attempting any repulsion.

The bombardment continued from half after nine till sunset, during which all the lower end and middle of the town was reduced to an heap of rubbish. Several houses in the back street and in the upper part, together with the church shared the same fate. The front of the Meeting house was torn to pieces by the bursting of a bomb, and the buildings which were left standing had their glass windows broken, and both walls and apartments terribly shattered.

In a word about three quarters of the town was consumed and between two and three hundred families who twenty four hours before enjoyed in tranquility their commodious habitations, were now in many instances destitute of a hut for themselves and families; and as a tedious winter was approaching they had before them a most gloomy and distressing prospect.

1. Falmouth Collections, MeHS.

NARRATIVE OF DANIEL TUCKER OF FALMOUTH <sup>1</sup>

[Falmouth, October 18,]

During the night [of October 17] the people saved all they could. About 4 o'clock in the morning Mr. Little got in with two stout teams which we loaded and sent out; and besides what we thus saved, the tide being up we loaded a gondola at Porter's wharf with West India goods, and sent it around the neck, and then left a great amount of Property to destruction. When the time drew

near to nine o'clock, and the people generally had gone out of town, Col. John Waite came by our house and seeing Mr. Little in the house spoke like one in a fright, and said "Little! it is time to go; they will fire in a few minutes"; his answer was "I shall go directly;" and turning to me he said, "Daniel, you had better go." and I replied, "I shall go when you do." We soon started, we went through Federal street and around Sanfords Corner through Back street, and when I was almost abreast of the windmill that stood where Sam Husseys does now, Mowatt hoisted a red flag, and fired the first gun, and the shot whistled along between me and the old meeting house. The other vessels in the fleet having already commenced a spiteful fire, and continued it with very little cessation until six o'clock P.M. The first house that was fired stood where Mr Gorham now keeps; the building burned down without communicating with any other; but it was but a short time before all the north part of the town was in a blaze. They landed in their boats from all their vessels at the same moment and threw torches into the doors and windows of the houses and stores, and then fled like cowards on board their little fleet. Among the public buildings were a handsome new Court House that stood where the north school house did, and the Episcopal Church that stood on the lot adjoining Mr Newhalls dwelling house. All the buildings on [blank] street, on Fore street, from Fort Burrows to Exchange street and on Middle Street as far as Jonah Cox's house, were burnt down, and a more melancholy sight or a more cowardly transaction I did not witness through the remainder of the war; and before it was over I was in three engagements at sea. Mowatt immediately withdrew his fleet from the town, and the next day sailed for Boston, which was then held and blocked by the English. Many people have blamed the inhabitants of Falmouth for not defending the town against so small a force: but the truth is it was not in their power, for there was not a cannon mounted in town at that time, and there was a great scarcity of powder. There was an old decayed fort and blockhouse where Mrs. Weeks house and garden is; this fortress was built in the reign of Queen Anne, and therefore was in a ruinous state by the dilapidation of time: the people all fled into the country in the beginning of winter which set in uncommonly early; they went out poor and had to live among a people as poor as themselves; and those that have occupied the stage of life from that time can form but a faint idea of what their ancestors suffered in those "times that tried men's (and women's) souls."

1. Tucker Manuscripts, MeHS.

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

Octr 1775

Wednesday 18

At single anchor with a spring on the cable entrance of the Town of Falmouth from the NNW to the WSW at 4 AM do Wear Employed getting Everything reddey to Engage the Town at 8 do the same three men came on board again 1/2 Past they went on shor again at 9 Light airs & fair 35 minuits [after] 9 made the signal to Engage 40 minuits after 9 a Smart fire begun from the *Canceaux Symmentry Halifax* and *Spitfire* which was kept up by all at 10 several Houses was on fire

the fire broke out with great violens in two or 3 houses of the Somost Part of the Town at Noon the fire begun to be general both in the Town and vessles but being calm the fire did Not Sprede as wished for at 1 P M Small breezis from the Soerd  $\frac{1}{2}$  Past the Town House and the English Church begun to burn a brisk fire was keepped up by all the squadron at 2 fresh breezis and hazey Wear being several detached houses to toward the Soermost Part of the Town that culd not be set on fire from the shipping at 3 do the Lieut with thirty Seamen and Marines went on Shor to set them on fire whin on that Pece of duty they war attacked and fired upon by Numbers but by the alertness of that brisk officer keepped thim off and Performed the duty they war Sent upon at 4 they came on board without the loss of a man and only on[e] slighty wounded at 5 ceased firing as most of the Houses and all the Vessels at and about the Town were destroyed to the number 13 Sail two which got off which we took possession most Part was Loaded to and from the West Indes  $\frac{1}{2}$  Past made the Sigl to get under sail as we being the last ship that got under way as the rest got under way some tim befor Pr Sigl we was fired upon by Numbers from both sids of the water being little wind it was some time before we got out of rech of ther Musquetry which did us no dammished at 8 Anchor'd in hog Island road in 10 fm, water as did all the rest of the Squadron at 10 dark cloudy Wear with rain

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO GEORGE KING <sup>1</sup>

Sr In Committee of Safety, Ex'r [Exeter], Oct'r 18th, 1775.

You are desired to Sell at 20 pr Cwt. a Quantity of the Flour lately put under your Care, not exceeding 300 bbls. to such Persons as appear as purchasers, taking Care that no person monopolize a large Quantity, & out of the money arising from the Sale, pay the Seamen of the Ship *Prince George*—Richard Emms, Master—the Wages that Shall appear due to them, agreeable to their original Contract, & keep in your Custody the Remainder of the Money until called for by this Committee, or the Congress of this Colony.

By order of the Committee.

Chairman.

1. *Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society*, VII, 22.

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Sr. In Committee of Safety, Octr 18, 1775.

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yrs of the 15th Inst. & we are deeply sensible of your benevolence towards the Inhabitants of Portsmo.

We have consulted the Committee of that Town and concluded to forward the whole cargo except 400 barrels.

A person of integrity is appointed to weigh off & take an Account of the whole Cargo, to sell three hundred bbls. thereof, & to the Inhabitants of Portsmo, & out of the Proceeds to pay the sailors' wages.

Before the receipt of yrs, Mr. Moylan had settled the method of Transportation.

In behalf of the Committee [&c.]

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 620.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Wednesday, Octr 18 A D 1775

A Bill for the encourageing the fixing out armed Vessels further consider'd, agreeable to ordr – Read a third time and passed to be engross'd.

Afternoon

Charles Chauncy, Esqr brought down from the Honble Board the Account of Sales and neet Proceeds of the Schooner *Industry*.

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

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN EDWARD LE CRAS, R.N.<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Preston Boston 18 October 1775.

As I think his Majesty's Service will be benefited by the Ships and Vessels employed in the Bay of Fundy being under the immediate direction of the Commodore at Halifax I inclose the necessary Orders for that purpose.

Every appearance of Accomodation between Great Britain and her Colonies is vanished; the latter have made their Election in War, which we are now carrying on against each other in the four New England Governments, with great Bitterness. I have not the least Doubt that most of the Southern Colonies will soon follow the Steps of their Brethren to the Northward, the same spirit of Rebellion diffusing itself through the whole Continent. What then becomes our Duty but with all possible Dispatch and Spirit to carry his Majesty's Commands into Execution by making the most vigorous Efforts to punish this ungrateful people and lay Waste their Country on the Sea Coast? I inclose an extract of a Letter from Governor [Francis] Legge for your information. As Passamaquody is not far from the Bay of Fundy, direct any Sloop or small Vessel you may have to call there occasionally, and get all possible intelligence of the Rebels intentions and proceedings.

The *Somerset* being compleated and the forwardness of the *Hinchinbrook* give me great Pleasure.

There is no Marine Cloathing here except Shirts and Stockings by the *Adventure*, of which you have no doubt reserved some at Halifax and can be supplied from thence.

The 1500 Men from Newbury Port, who were expected to be gone towards Halifax, went up Kennibek River, and tis generally believed are for Quebec, from whence we have lately received very unfavourable Accounts.

I cannot close this Letter without assuring you of my entire Approbation of your Conduct with respect to the Ships and in the Yard, where I hope the very

necessary regulations and order you have introduced will be punctually observed; I shall continue to rely upon your Zeal for the Service and your Discretion to pursue every measure for the publick Good, so far as your Authority and Influence may extend, in which you may depend upon my Countenance and Support; having nothing more at heart than to serve his Majesty faithfully myself, and to discourage and punish every attempt to the contrary in all other persons. I am & Sam. Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 150, BM.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR.<sup>1</sup>

[Plymouth]

18 [October, 1775] Waiting For the Genls Answer. Attended the Schooner most of the Day – recd the Genls Answer, wth Mr Watsons instructions which I deliverd him –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES<sup>1</sup>

[Newport] October 18.

Yesterday the Colony Troops on this Isld opened Trenches at Howlands Ferry at the N E Corner of the Isld. The To Council have sent off 3 Gentlemen to Gen. Washington & D. Govr Cooke at Cambridge to advise on the Removal of the Troops. This is a Tory Maneuvre to get the Troops away.

1. Dexter, ed., *Diary of Ezra Stiles*, I, 625.

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

Sir

Wednesday Tyonderoga Octo: 18th

Since my last of the 5th instant, General Montgomery has favored me with several Letters, Extracts whereof I do myself the Honor to inclose You.<sup>2</sup>

The General's Complaint in No 1 that he wants Men is too well founded (the enclosed Return will shew how much the Army is reduced by Sickness &c.) at that time all the Men that I could send, were on the Wing to join him, and they arrived on the 9th as You will see by Number 2. It is too true that very few of the Men he sends to this Post return, the greater Part of them are so averse to going back, that they pretend Sickness & skulk about and some (Even Officers) go away without Leave, nor can I get the better of them, Altho I do not suffer a Ration of Provision to be issued, unless I countersign the Order, and the sick or pretended sick do not get half Allowance.

What little Money I have been able to procure at Albany; I have sent on – I fear the Want of Species will be fatal to Us, should every Thing else go will, the Canadians have suffered much by Paper Currency, and a burnt Child dreads the Fire. –

Two hundred and fifty three of General Wooster's Regiment came across Lake George on Sunday, but the General is not yet arrived and they do not chuse to move until he does. Do not chuse to move! Strange Language in an

Army, but the Irresistable Force of Necessity obliges me to put up with it. – This Morning I gave an Order to Lieut Colo: [Andrew] Ward to send a Subaltern, a Serjeant Corporal & twenty Privates, in two Batteaus to carry Powder, Artillery Stores and Rum, The Colo: (who is a Good Man) called upon Me to know If he would not be blamed by General Wooster for Obeying my Orders, I begged him to send the Men, & urged the Necessity, the Men I believe will condescend to go; I could give many Instances of a Similar Nature; But General Montgomery has most justly & Emphatically given the Reason, “Troops who carry the Spirit of Freedom into the Field & think for themselves” will not bear either Subordination or Discipline. –

If there is any Foundation in the Report that the Garrison intend quitting St Johns I conjecture It must arise from Intelligence that Mr Carlton may have received of Colonel Arnold’s Approach, should the Garrison effect their Escape It may go hard with Arnold, whose Numbers in so long and fatiguing a March must be considerably diminished I have therefore reques[ted] General Montgomery to send immediate Intellig[ence] of his Situation and Prospects, that Colo: Arnold may Govern himself accordingly. –

I am deeply impressed with the Necessity of putting this Place in a proper Posture of Defence. – I have wrote on the Subject to Congress before, but I have now only 65 Effectives here (Exclusive of General Woosters) who are Insufficient for the Necessary Works carrying on. –

I cannot help observing that the Reasons General Montgomery gave in Support of his Opinion for having a Battery on the West Side, appears to me so Cogent, that I wonder the Council of War should be opposed to it; But he was certainly Right to acquiesce in their Determination, as I am morally sure If he had not, that the Men would have been troublesome. –

I have no Prospect of getting my Health reestablished at this Place, but in the present Critical Moment, I dare not leave It. Much very much is to be done, whether we succeed or fail in Canada, The Distance between this & Philadelphia Great, and the season so far advanced that the least Delays may be attended with the most fatal Consequences, I therefore humbly submit It to Congress, If it would not be best, to send up a Committee with full Power to direct our future Operations, to me such a Measure appears highly necessary. –

General Wooster is just arrived here, as he was appointed a Major General by the Colony of Connecticut and that I did not know his Sentiments with Respect to the Rank he considered himself In, in the Continental Army, My Intentions were to have him to remain at this Post, but assuring me that his Regiment would not move without him and that Altho’ he thought hard of being superseded Yet he would most readily put himself under the Command of General Montgomery, that his only Views were the Public Service and that no Obstructions of any kind would be given by him, This spirited & sensible Declaration I received with Inexpressible Satisfaction, and he moves to Morrow with the first Division of his Regiment.

Mr. [Gunning] Bedford has mustered such of the New York Troops, as he possibly could, they were so scattered that it was morally impossible he could see the whole he has done Every thing in his Power to fullfill his Duty, without

being able to compleat It, the Reasons of this Failure are various; he will inform the Honorable Congress why the Connecticut Troops were not Mustered; – I have directed him to return to Philadelphia and report what has been done previous to his Departure I desired him to depute Mr Macpherson my Aide de Camp, In case It should be possible to make another Muster which I believe will hardly take Place this Campaign. – I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 210–213, NA.
2. Montgomery's letters of October 6, 9 and 13, 1775.

JOHN HANSON TO THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen –

[Highlands] October the 18th, 1775.

I have taken the liberty to enclose to you the paper delivered to me by Mr. Yates, and Mr. Glen. Those gentlemen behaved with the greatest politeness, and I imagined that their observations would have been sufficient to have set every thing at the fort in proper order. As for my part, when I undertook that business, it was from pure love to my country, and to the rights of mankind, without any views of self-interest; and never expected any pay for what I did; and I believe that those who were joined with me acted from the strictest principals of honour. I can with truth say, that never any man was ill used passing that river, by any of us, unless he abused us; and then to receive but a small check, not equal to his demerits. It would have been acting genteel to have inquired into the complaint laid before Congress, before passing a censure upon the gentlemen at the fort, contained in the four first lines of your letter to them. When men act upon principle, and are placed at any particular post of consequence, and find themselves in a precarious situation, it naturally follows they must exercise their own judgment for the good of the post, and ought to be supported by those who placed them there; which has not been the case in this instance. An insult offered to them was offered to the Congress, and the abuse of the complainants in Congress ought not to have been permitted. Had the Congress answered our letter relative to the very thing complained of, this never would have happened. I must therefore request, gentlemen, the favour of the Congress to appoint somebody in my room, for I will never more go back to the fort. I am respectfully, gentlemen, [&c.]

John Hanson.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 180. See also *Journal*, October 17, 1775.

WHITEHEAD HICKS TO WILLIAM TRYON <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

New-York, October 18, 1775.

When your Excellency's letter of Saturday [October 14] came to hand, the Day was so far spent, that I had no Prospect of an Opportunity to take the Sense of the Citizens upon it, till Monday, and then unfortunately, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Committee I mentioned in my last Letter, and many of the members, were out of Town.

On Tuesday Morning they met and deliberated upon it, and had a second Convention for that Purpose in the Evening, and the Result of their Councils



*Whitehead Hicks. By John Singleton Copley, date unknown.*

appear in the written Answer they sent me, and which I now have the Honour to transmit to your Excellency.

Permit me to add, Sir, that the friendly and respectful Terms in which People of all Ranks express themselves, concerning your Excellency on this Occasion, and their anxiety at the Thought of your retiring from the Capital, are very satisfactory to the Corporation, & in particular to your Excellency's Most obedient humble servant,

Whitehead Hicks.

1. *New York Gazette*, October 23, 1775.

"THE INTELLIGENCER" TO JOHN AND SAMUEL ADAMS<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New York Wednesday Evening

Octbr. 18th 1775

There is a Report, by a Sloop from Connecticut River this Morning, that St. John's is taken, but whether true or not, is yet doubtful.<sup>2</sup>

The *Viper* sloop is daily stopping the Vessels and Boats from Sea & New Jersey. —

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

2. The report was not true.

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

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

October 18th, 1775.

Mr. Jacobus Van Zandt informed the Congress that in obedience to their parol instructions given to him in Congress yesterday, he had agreed with Francis James for the purchase of the pilot boat named the *Bishop of Landaff*. That the said Francis James on behalf of himself and the other owners of the said pilot boat, had disposed of her to him for the sum of four hundred and ninety-six pounds the value at which she has been appraised by two of the wardens of this port.

*Ordered*, That Peter Van Brugh Livingston, Esq. as Treasurer of this Congress, do immediately advance to Mr. Jacobus Van Zandt the said sum of four hundred and ninety-six pounds, to pay for the said pilot boat named the *Bishop of Landaff*.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 178, 179.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW JERSEY PROVINCIAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Trenton] Wednesday, October 18, 1775.

The report from the Committee of the County of Monmouth, relative to the detention of a small sloop, supposed to be a tender to some ship of war, &c., with the several examinations respecting that matter, were read;

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to that Committee to publish an advertisement in the newspapers, describing the sloop, so that the owner may know where to apply; and that the men and arms found on board the said sloop, be taken

proper care of by that Committee, until this Congress or the Committee of Safety, shall give further order therein.

1. *New Jersey Provincial Congress*, 218.

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

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, October 18, 1775

On motion made, *Resolved*, That a just and well authenticated account of the hostilities committed by the ministerial troops and navy in America since last March, be collected, with proper evidence of the truth of the facts related, the number and value of the buildings destroyed by them, also the number and value of the vessels inward and outward bound, which have been seized by them since that period, as near as the number and value can be ascertained; also the stock taken by them from different parts of the Continent.<sup>2</sup>

That a Committee of three be appointed for this purpose.

The members chosen, Mr [Silas] Deane, Mr John Adams, and Mr [George] Wythe.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 298, 299.

2. Resolution printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet*, Philadelphia, November 6, 1775, with the comment, "The above committee request the Printers of the several public papers in the United Colonies to insert the above for three or four weeks successively, and all persons possessed of any facts relative to, or that may throw light on the above subject, to transmit the same to them as early as possible."

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

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] Octr. 18, 1775

Let me close now with a matter of some Importance. Congress have appointed [Silas] Deane, [George] Wythe and your servant a Committee to collect a just Account of the Hostilities committed by the ministerial Troops and Navy, in America, since last March; with proper Evidence of the Truth of the Facts related, the Number and Value of the Buildings destroyed by them, also the Number and Value of the Vessells inward and outward bound, which have been Seized by them, since that Period, also the Stock taken by them from different Parts of the Continent: We shall write to the Assemblies of New England and Virginia at least, but we shall likewise write to many Individuals requesting their Assistance and to you among others. I wish you would think a little and consult with others concerning this Business for it nearly concerns our Province to have it well done.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 142-143.

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

[Philadelphia] October 18th

The Pilots, agreeable to a Resolve of Yesterday, attended this Board, and proposes to enter into the pay of this Province as Pilots, at the Rate of ten Pounds per month, for the purpose of Piloting vessels through the Machines sunk near Fort



*Philadelphia, 1778. 1. Christ Church. 2. State House. 3. Academy. 4. Presbyterian Church. 5. Dutch Calvinist Church. 6. Court House. 7. Quaker Meeting House.*



BROOK WATSON TO JOHN BUTLER<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Montreal 19th Octr 1775

I wrote you by the *Cillery* Capt Hardie from Quebec on the 18th ultimo Acknowledging receipt of your Esteemed favour of August the 19th when I made you acquainted with the unhappy Situation of this Province. I then wrote you fully concerning Kavanag's affairs and desired in Case any accident should prevent the *Canadian* from ariving, or that she should Load Fish for Europe that you would Charter a Vessel to send home Kavanaghs Oil and Furrs &c The *Adamant* did not Arrive at Quebec till after I had Charter'd a Ship to Carry home her intended Cargo. I had two COUNTRY Vessels with £32,000. Stg in Furrs on board waiting her Arrival at a time when the Bostonians were hourly expected to master the Province here. I thought it my Duty, and did Charter the Ship *Pomona* Capt [John] Green for £375. to Proceed with Furrs &c to London and she Sail'd from Quebec the 2d Ins it was my Intention to have gone home in her and had prepar'd every thing Accordingly but Alter'd my Mind and came off for Montreal the Morning she was to sail for London and I Confess to you that no one measure I ever took afforded one half the Satisfaction, this City and the Greatest Part of the Province would have fallen into the hands of the Colonists on the 25th of Last Month had not the Inhabitants marched out to meet and give them Battle they fought Conquered and saved the Province at least for a while. Colonel Allen who Commanded this despicable Party of Plunderers (they were promis'd the Plunder of the Town) was with most of his Wretches taken. He is now in Irons on board the *Gaspee*; this action Gave a Sudden turn to the Canadians who before were Nine tenths for the Bostonians, there are great Numbers now in arms for the King but the Enemy have Possession of the South side of the River as low as Verchere except the Garison of St Johns which they still Invest with little hopes on their side and little fear on ours of it being taken, the beginning of the Month I was much alarmed on receiving News from Boston that Halifax was taken, from this I was soon releived by your most welcome Letter of Septr the 1st which was soon followed by those of the 16 & 21st all which I now mean to answer – I doubt not the Trade of Halifax being dull but I shall be much disapointed in my Conjectures if it does not soon Mend. I think Genl Gage cant Winter at Boston, Consequently that he must soon send a part of his Troops to Halifax and the rest to this Province, where they are much Wanted for notwithstanding the Bostonians are not likely soon to take St Johns there is some danger of their geting this Town and Every other Part of this Province except Quebec unless its soon Suported by the Kings Troops, as to Your Province I am not under any Apprehension of its being over run by them they will never send Men [t]here Let their Success be ever so great, they cant support them the Winter and I further think all possobility of their succeeding will be Cut off by the Admirals orders to take and destroy all their Vessels. I am with you of opinion that if a Land War is to be Carried on, it had better be Conducted thro' this Country leaving the Navy to Manage their Sea Coast, I much fear the operations of the Army this Winter will prevent your going home with Mrs Butler, I am sorry Her Indisposition should make such a Voyage necessary, at the Same time I shall have Pleasure in seeing you there,

should that be the Case I know not any Person in Halifax with whom you can Confide Watsons & Rashleigh's Power of Attorney Mr Faneuil writes me of his Intention to winter there with Mrs Faneuil should He arrive before your departure Pray make over our power to Him. I have wrote him a line on the Subject. should he not Arrive leave the Power lockt up with Your other Papers our acct's &c The Ship *Adamant* is nearly Loaded with Oak Timber There will be some Furrs and Twenty odd Passengers for Her, its my design to Leave Quebec about the 10th of Next Month and I hope to be home before Parliament Adjourns for Chmass Holydays.

I have read your address to the King Loards and Commons and cant help admiring the delightfull Bull "we feel for our Mother Country of which many of us are Natives.["] Its a good one. tell my Friend Doctor Breynton I wrote him from Quebec on the 21 July last P the Cellery, and did hope he wd have given me a Line in Ans

Pray push home every shilling of remittance which you Can lay hands on for W and R at these Times of General want, will Stand much in need of it remember me to Mrs Butler, and beleive that I am Dear Sir [&c.]

Brook Watson

1. An intercepted letter, enclosed in Schuyler to Hancock, November 18, 1775; Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 308-311, NA; a contemporary copy in the John Hancock Papers, III, LC. Watson wrote a similar letter to Michael Francklin, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.

LIEUTENANT HENRY MOWAT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

*Canceaux* in Casco Bay 19th October 1775.

Sir, The fluctuating state of the winds and weather since my departure from Boston, have occasioned the delay of this Letter, as will appear in the following part of it. The morning after leaving the Harbour, the *Canceaux* with the other Vessels, were brought too off the entrance of Cape Ann Harbour, with an intention of going in the moment that the day appeared; but to my no small mortification a strong gale from the Northward reduced the Vessels under their low Sails, so much so, that the *Symmetry* and *Spitfire* went almost broadside to Leeward: finding myself in this situation, I judged it expedient to secure a Harbour, and accordingly directed the course for Cape Cod; where we anchor'd in the evening of that day. The next morning the wind shifting to the Southward of the West, we got under Sail, and at day break the following morning, we were close in with Cape Ann. Upon viewing the Town, Mr Grant the Artillery Officer, gave it as his opinion, that the houses stood too scattered to expect success, with the Ordnance and Stores of his department, and in particular from the small number of Carcases, and the uncertainty of their goodness. On considering the ill consequences of a disappointment in the first attempt of this expedition, and the advantage of encouragement it would afford the rebels, I thought it most prudent to make choice of an object, where the certainty was more secure; tho it was not without reluctance I passed this port, as your orders directed me there first, as well as the favourable opportunity of attempting Squam at the same time, which I certainly should have done, had the number of troops been sufficient to have

landed. The proceeding morning the wind carried us off Cape Elizabeth, where we again were saluted with a second Northwester, which obliged us to take shelter in the evening of that day, under Squirrel Island in Townsend-bay, here we were detained a part of two days, and in the evening of the third, anchored at Hog Island road in Casco-bay: At four in the afternoon of the day following, the Vessels were all placed before the town of Falmouth without the least resistance: finding the people so disposed, I wrote them a letter (a copy of which I transmit with this) and sent Mr Fraser the Acting Lieutenant on shore to deliver it, which he did, and heard it read in the town house before a large number of the inhabitants; upon it being read, there was a profound silence, and it was desired to be read a second time, after which, the Chairman with many of the principal people, in particular those who had never joined in any part of the Rebellion, lamented and judged by the stile of the letter, that the punishment was very severe, and more so still, as the time limited was so very short, and that too with the night approaching. Mr Fraser seeing a general distress increase, among the women and children in the Streets, he gave to understand, that if they had any proposal to make to me, he would be the bearer of it, at the same time he could not take upon him to say that it would be received: Upon which they observed that upon his going on board if the boat did not return again in a few minutes, a Committee in the name of the Town would wait upon me, which they did; by name – Brigadier [Jedediah] Pribble [Preble], Doctor [Nathaniel] Coffin, and Mr Pegan merchant, deputed to know the nature of the chastisement, and to request that a longer time might be allowed them, as it was then just upon Sundown. I replied that from the nature of their crime they had not the least right to expect any lenity, and that the power in me vested, authorised me to distinguish those only who I was certain had never aided or assisted in their rebellions proceedings but notwithstanding that, the known Humanity of the British Nation encouraged me, to take so far upon me, that on condition that the people of Falmouth in general would in the course of the time that I had given them, deliver up all their Arms and Ammunition with such of themselves as I should make choice of, that I would in that case put off destroying the Town until the determination of the Commanders in Chief of the King's forces at Boston should be known, To this the Committee replied, that they would make my demand known to the people immediately, but that it would be impossible to accomplish it, without certain time being granted for the purpose of Assembling them: I observed, that if it was not in their power to do it compleatly this night, they surely could do a part, and therefore, if the town expected a longer time, so many of their Arms must be delivered onboard the *Canceaux* before Eight o'Clock with the Five Guns that I knew to be on Carriages in the Town, also the rest of the arms with Brigadier Pribble and such others as I should make choice of, to be forthcoming in the morning: at the same time considering this and every other indulgence void, upon the least hostile appearance of any kind whatsoever. The Committee declared that the guns on Carriages were removed out of the town on the first appearance of the shipping but that they would do, their utmost in bringing off as many arms as could be brought together in so short a time; On this promise I suffered them to go on shore, and before the hour of Eight they

returned with Ten stand only – delivering them as a pledge of the faith of the Town in general, that nothing hostile should be offered, and that if my demand was not fully complied with by nine the next morning (which they beseeched me to grant them) as it would be impossible to clear the town of the women and children before that hour in case of noncompliance. This request I agreed to, and desired a Committee to be with me half an hour before the time limited, to which they were punctual; when they declared that to their no small astonishment, they found that no part of the Inhabitants assembled in the morning, and that the whole town was then in the greatest confusion, with many women and children still remaining in it; as to themselves, they had only to implore time to go on shore and get out of the way, on which they took leave of the Ship with expressions of thankfulness for the lenity that had been shown—Perceiving women and children still in the town, I made it forty minutes after nine before the Signal was hoisted, which was done with a gun, at the same time the cannonade began from all the vessels and continued till six, by that time the body of the town was in one flame, which would have been the case much sooner, had the Wind favored in the forenoon as it did in the evening, and altho' a regular cannonade was kept up all the time, numbers of armed men were employed extinguishing the fire before it became general which made it absolutely necessary for some men to be landed, in order to set fire to the vessels, wharfs, storehouses, as well as to many parts of the town that escaped from the shells and carcasses, notwithstanding they were executed with the greatest dexterity, to the no small credit of Mr Grant the artillery Officer, who employed his people, not only onboard, but on shore also, with a certain number of seamen from each of the Vessels, and a party of Marines, all under the command of Mr Fraser whose spirited conduct, and activity in the execution of that duty, does him every credit that could be expected from such a service, and indeed every man that was with him. And with equal justice I can say, that all the Officers and men on this command, shew'd the greatest readiness, and acted with the greatest composure and harmony in their respective duties; and with no less satisfaction I acquaint you, Sir, that notwithstanding the vast numbers of armed men that assembled in, and near the town on the occasion; Falmouth, with the Blockhouse and battery, the principal wharfs and storehouses, with eleven sail of vessels, at and near this town, several of which with cargoes, all laid into ashes, including a fine distillery, four vessels taken, all without the loss of one person, and only two slightly wounded, Mr Larkin Midshipman of the *Canceaux* and one Marine. At the same time I am sorry to say, that had we not been situated close to the town, we should without a doubt have found great difficulty in accomplishing this piece of service, as we soon experienced the insufficiency of the artillery stores, not only in goodness, but in quantity; the particulars of which shall at a more convenient opportunity be laid before you Sir, which I am sorry to observe will not reflect great credit on the ordnance store at Boston: And with equal concern I observe, that the want of a sufficient number of troops, has prevented an effectual sweep being made of all the arms and ammunition not only belonging to the town of Falmouth but also of many Islands and Villages in Casco-bay, which I am very certain could have been compleatly done with five hundred men – as well as numbers

of Cattle and other fresh provisions equally useful, and not less distressing to this part of the country.

Our Carcases excepting a few belonging to the Howitzers are all expended, and these are rendered useless by the carriages being disabled which happened early in the Bombardment. The *Spitfire* Sloop is also much shattered, so that I shall be under the necessity of repairing to Nantasket to have these wants supplied before I can attempt any other place. The troops are also in great distress for want of necessaries, many of them having embarked without a second shirt, from which cause they are rendered incapable of their duty, and are falling sick very fast. My intention was to dispatch the *Halifax* immediately with this Letter, but having four vessels to man and take care of I consider it most prudent to keep our small force together till we are nearer. I have the honor to be with the highest respect Sir [&c.]

H. Mowat.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.

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

Octr 1775 at 8 A M fresh Breezes & rain at 10 do Sighted our Anchor  
Thursday 19 & went farther up Hogg Island Road As did all the rest in Com-  
pany the *Symmetry*, *Halifax*, *Spitfire*, with two Schooners & two  
Sloops Prizes<sup>2</sup> the fire Still Continues raging in the Town [P.M.]  
Fresh breezes with thick rainy Wear

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.

2. None of these prizes was listed by Admiral Graves, or his successor, Admiral Molyneux Shuldham. The *Canceaux's* log states that the two sloops were missing in heavy gales off Cape Ann on October 25, but indicates that the two schooners, the one taken by the *Halifax* on October 11, and the other salvaged from Falmouth harbor, safely reached Nantasket road.

HUNKING WENTWORTH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

May it please your Excellency

Portsmo 19th October 1775.

We beg leave to acquaint you that an Express is just arrived here from Falmouth Casco bay informing us that on Monday last [October 16] came in there the *Canso* armed Ship Capt [Henry] Mowat [Mowat] together with a Schooner mounting 14 Guns a large Transport & two Sloops all full of Men, that they lay at the mouth of the Harbour till Tuesday following making Signals for some Person to come off to them which being taken no notice of by the Town, they weighed their Anchors & came up and lay between the Ferryways & Papudeck from whence they sent on Shore a Message acquainting the Inhabitants that they had orders to fire upon the Town In consequence of this Message a Committee went on board Capt Mowat—to whom he shewed his orders from the Admiral which were that in case the Inhabitants did not forthwith deliver up their Arms, and give Hostages for their future good behavior he was to destroy that Town & afterward proceed & destroy this Capt Mowat however acquainted the Com that in case they would deliver up part of their Arms that night he would give them

till next Morning to consider of his requisition they accordingly sent on board 8 Musquets that Evening, At half after eight Yesterday this Express came away & heard a heavy firing all day afterward which began precisely at nine oClock –

We intreat your Excellencys patience while we assure you, that the People of this Province, and of this Town in particular, have exerted every Nerve to put this Port in a proper state of defence, but that all our precautions are to no effect, for want of a sufficient quantity of powder, our whole stock of which at present is only Seventeen Barrells. We have therefore despatched Mr Diung, who has orders To wait on your Excellency before he sleeps, to request the favor of your Excellency, to spare us as much powder, as you may think proper

I am very respectfully By order of the Comee of Safety Sir [&c.]

H Wentworth Chairman

1. Washington Papers, LC.

STEPHEN MOYLAN AND COLONEL JOHN GLOVER TO COLONEL JOSEPH REED <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir,

Salem 19th October, 1775.

Mr Moylan received your letter of this day with the money he had received at Portsmouth 260 dolls the evening of the day he last wrote you, this serves to acquaint his Excellency that Capt Broughton, & Capt Sillman will both be ready to sail tomorrow, the latter is in want of a Surgeon, which you will be pleased to have dispatched, as we believe it will be difficult to prevail on the Capt & crew to go without one, Enclosed is a letter from Doctor Bond to a gentleman of the profession who is willing to go on board—We shall deliver the letters you Enclosed to Mr Moylan, to each Capt on their departure the whole of the orders Colonel Glover Left with Colonel Burbank <sup>2</sup> have not been complied with, particularly the musket cartridges flint, the musket balls, & buck Shot, for which Col Glover sent off an express last evening, do Sir, forward the Surgeon & those articles which may give work to Surgeons, immediately. Mr Moylan has the pleasure to inform his Excellency that the flour is all safe arrived, & we have the pleasure to assure you of our best regards—

Stephen Moylan John Glover.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Colonel William Burbeck.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO STEPHEN MOYLAN <sup>1</sup>

Dr Sir Your Favours P Express & for Mr Wilson are received – The 260 Dollars was sent P Express as P Rect – but, to prevent any Disappointment the Sum you mentioned is now again Sent – You must make Inquiry & endeavour to get the former sum which has miss'd its way. – Let 200 Bbbs of Flour be detained for the Use of the Vessels at Salem to be put in the Hands of the Agent. –

There is nothing to be gained by Sending Teams from hence, so that you had better employ those of the Country at the Price you mention, A Letter from you to the Committee of Ipswich I fancy will answer all your Purpose – We really have no Time this Mornng

We have no News from St John's to be depended on – For Gods Sake, hurry off the Vessels that are to cruize – Transports without Convoy arrive every day at Boston The Phila Delegates are in Camp – Your Friend Mr [Thomas] Lynch will be glad to see you.<sup>2</sup> We must take another Oppy to write Mr [Joshua] Wentworth – I will do what I can for Wilson who I think has Merit. Your &c

Please to deliver the inclosed Letters for Selliman & Broughton to themselves –

Octr 19, 1775

1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. The Congressional Committee appointed to confer with Washington and representatives of the New England colonies at Cambridge.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO CAPTAIN NICHOLSON BROUGHTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Head Quarters Octo 19. 1775 –

Besides the other two Brigs mentioned in your former Instructions, we have Advice, that another Brig laden with Arms & Ammunition, Sailed the latter end of August for Quebec, under Convoy of the *Lizard* Man of War of Twenty eight Guns, so that you will be careful how you expose yourself to the risk of falling into their Hands – You may reasonably conclude, if you see a Brig under Convoy of Ship, that it is the abovementioned, and take Care accordingly – Capt. [Thomas] Reed of Phila Sailed in Company with the two former, and it may be dependid upon that they are under no Convoy, and are of no Force –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

*New England Chronicle*, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 TO THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 19, 1775

Cambridge, October 19.

Since our last arrived in town the Honourable Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Lynch, and Benjamin Harrison, Esquires, from Philadelphia, a Committee from the Continental Congress; the Honourable Matthew Griswold, Esq; Deputy-Governor and [Nathaniel] Wales, Esq; of Connecticut; the Honourable Nicholas Cooke, Esq; Deputy-Governor and Commander in Chief of Rhode-Island; and the Hon. John Wentworth, Esq; President of the Provincial Congress of New-Hampshire.<sup>1</sup>

1. The general conference began at headquarters on October 18, and concluded October 22. On October 23 and 24, the three Congressional delegates conferred with General Washington. Naval matters were discussed in the general conference on October 22, and in the special conference on October 24. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Thursday, October 19, 1775.

*Ordered*, That Mr. Wood, Mr. Rawson, and Mr. Cushing, be a Committee to carry up to the honourable Board the Bill for Encouraging the fitting out Armed Vessels.

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

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

[Boston] 19 [October]

The *Merlin* came in two or three days ago as Convoy to some Transports with fuel &c for the Garrison, an article that every mean was used to procure. And the *Falcon* returned Yesterday from New Providence, but without the Cannon or Artillery Stores which General Gage had desired might be shipped, the president of the Council writing to Captain Linzee . . . on the Subject.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 151-152, BM.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR. <sup>1</sup>

[Plymouth]

19 [October, 1775] Viewed & Examd wth Capt Martindale, Capt Wormwels Schooner, which find to be Suitable for the Service & Wrote to Head Qrs thereon. -

1. Washington Papers, LC.

CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR. TO COLONEL JOSEPH REED <sup>1</sup>

Esteem'd Sir -

Plymouth 19th Octo 1775

Yours P Capt Martindale I recd Last Evening, & have consulted with him about the Guns & Conclude that they are Large enough for the Schooner, Shall get them on Board tomorrow morning. - you mentioned nothing about the Swivels to make up the Complement of Ten, as I wrote you there was Seven here, Should be glad to know your Pleasure concerning the Remainder nor whether it would be agreeable to have one or both of the Cohorns, - Mr Wm Watson One of the Committee tells me that the Powder may be had here for this Schooner of Adams's, as they have 1000 W. in this Town But advises that the General wou'd give a Line to the Committee thereon, to ease the minds of the People. As that Quantity is a Large Proportion for this Town I doubt not the Genl will Order it here, I have therefore Sent no formers, only desire that you would Send Papers for the Cartridges as there is no paper to be had here, The Schooner will be Compleat for Sea by Saturday Night So that if the men are here by that time every thing will be ready, Save the Cartridges, which can be made in a few hours, - Capt Adams Accepts the Birth of Master & Expects the Same terms as the other masters at Salem &c.

I have wth Capt Martindale this day Examined the Schooner of Wormwels, & find her to answer, Mr Watsons Says that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of her are in the hands of the Commy & Expect the same terms as the Others for her; Shall Proceed tomorrow

in Fitting her with all Possible Speed. Capt Martindale Says he is to have Twelve Carriage Guns & 16 or 20 Swivels. – Should be glad to know in What manner tis concluded to Fit this Vessell that I may be governd about the Cannon at Bristol. – I have no Friends in Providence or Bristol who can Reap any advantage in this Business, Thr'o my means & be asur'd that I would not Lose one moments time to the Detriment of the Cause in which I am engagd Capt Martindale Says he Should not desire So large a Number of Cannon, but finds the Vessell to be able to Carry them, & Doubts not of Giving a Good account of them – I have Sent Mr Harlow the Bearer on Purpose with this Letter, as I found the Vessell would be ready as Soon as the People could Possibly be here – Youl Please to Satisfy him for his Time, the Horse he rides is the one I rode, in Lieu of which I Beg You'l Order a Better, as it will be Impossible to make this dispatch to Bristol which will be requisite with him. – Since writing the above Capt Wormwel has been here & Says that he will not Let his Part of the Vessell under Six Shillings Lmo & as Adams Says he is to have but 5/4. am afraid it will cause some uneasiness if Wormwel has more, Shoud therefore Beg your Opinion in this Case, Therefore Shall do nothing towards fitting her till I know it – I am, Sr [&c.]

E Bowen —

1. Washington Papers, LC.

AMBROSE PAGE TO NICHOLAS COOKE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Providence, October 19th, 1775.

Sir, – Here, nothing material has happened since your departure. But it seems there is a party in Newport endeavoring to get the troops re-called off the island, for reasons, in my opinion, not sufficient only for the flattering promises of Capt. [James] Wallace. He promising to let the wood and ferry-boats pass as vessels, and not to rob them of any stock on that island, and that he will not fire on the town without provocation, unless he is hereafter ordered, and then not without fore warning. In consideration of the above promises, he is to have the privilege of fresh meat and beer, &c., for his ships as usual. But his faith and promises have been of so little value to us, in this government, I hope they will not have much weight. It seems to be strongly reported that the majority of that town are against the troops being re-called, and if that be the case they must be under the necessity of going out also. The Tory party, and Wallace's fleet, will have the entire government of that town, and doubtless take that opportunity to rob all the islands in the bay. They don't pretend to say he promises for only the island of Newport. It seems to be the opinion of the principal inhabitants of this town, that a regiment at least ought to be stationed there, not only for the protection of the stock, but the friends of liberty also, which they hitherto scarcely dare show their sentiments.

Wallace is much nettled at what force is there at present. His connections are supposed to be the movers of the Town Council, and those concerned in this application, as we are informed . . .

Ambrose Page.

1. *Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society*, VI, 130, 131.

DIARY OF EZRA STILES <sup>1</sup>

[Newport] October 19.

Almost ceased removing. Three Quarters of the property & Inhabitants removed—most of the Shops shut up—many houses shut—many more with only one or two persons to keep them. For the fourt'night past as much as 40 or 50 Teams been daily employed, besides Horse Carts, & Boats. Col. [Esek] Hopkins wrote to Gen. Washington that there were five thousd Head of Cattle upon Rhode Isld besides Sheep & other stock which would fall into the Hands of the Enemy if the Troops were withdrawn. There are 36 Canon at Banisters or Head Quarters; they are busily employed in mounting them on Carriages. . . . There is some Talk of Wallace's being superseded or removed to another Station, and as vile an Officer comg in his Room.

1. Dexter, ed., *Diary of Ezra Stiles*, I, 625–626.

THOMAS MUMFORD TO SILAS DEANE <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

New Haven 19th October 1775

I wrote you last Post & inclosed you Cobby of a Contract made by Two of my Captains with Some Gentlemen at St Eustatia for fifty Tonns of Gun powder, I have Communicated the same to his Honor Our Govenreur & he gave me the inclos'd Letter to the Delegates, of the Honl Continental Congress, from this Colony — to what I wrote you in my Last I have only to add, that I depend agreeable to the Recemendation of his Honor the Gouverneur that the Delegates from this Colony will endeaveur to procure me permissions for as many Vessels & Cargoes to go out as will be necessary to purchase Said Powder & the sooner they are forwarded to me the more it will Oblige me, & I will thank you to procure for me (from the Congress) the Desired assistance of money, and any Security you may enter into for me I will endemnifie you for, I Leave you to enter into such engagements for me as you Judge Best & proper. I am Content to be under Obligation to Deliver this Powder On its Arrival to whoever the Congress Shall Direct, & if they think proper it may Come entirely on Acct of the united Colonies, my being allowed a Reasonable Reward for my Trouble in procuring & importing the same, I hope to hear from you Soon with the Determenation of Congress on this Matter—inclosed you have List of Our Nomination for Councillers, in which I Congratulate you on being one—

I have no more time therefore Cannot add but that I am [&c.]

Tho<sup>s</sup> Mumford

1. Deane Papers, ConnHS.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO BRIGADIER GENERAL  
DAVID WOOSTER <sup>1</sup>

Sir The Continental Congress having taken the six first Regiments raised this Year in the Colony of Connecticut (of which Yours is one) into the Pay & Service of the Associated Colonies at the earnest Request of the Honorable Delegates representing the Colony of Connecticut, and You having in a Variety of



BY THE HONORABLE

**JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Esq;**  
Governor of the English Colony of *Connecticut*, in *New-England*, in  
AMERICA :

## A PROCLAMATION.

*WHEREAS* it is Resolved by the General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut, held at New-Haven, on the second Thursday of Instant October, that an Embargo be laid upon the Exportation out of this Colony by Water, the following Articles of Provision, viz. Wheat, Rye, Indian Corn, Pork, Beef, Live Cattle, Peas, Beans, Butter, Cheese, Bread, Flour, and every Kind of Meal (except necessary Stores for Vessels bound to Sea ;) and that such Embargo continue and remain until the first Day of June next. Provided nevertheless, That His Honor the Governor, he, and he is fully empowered to grant Permits for the Exportation out of this Colony by Water, Live Cattle and Provisions in such Cases, and to such Ports and Places as he shall judge necessary and expedient for the public Service. Provided also, That His Honor the Governor, by and with the Advice of the Council, may discontinue the Embargo in Whole or in Part, at any Time when it shall by them be judged expedient ; and that a Proclamation be issued accordingly.

**I** DO therefore hereby strictly prohibit and forbid all Persons from Transporting and from Shipping on Board any Vessel for Transportation by Water, any of the aforesaid Articles, except as before excepted, from this Time to the first Day of June next, under the Penalties of the Law in that Case provided : And I do require and enjoin all Persons to exert themselves accordingly, that this Embargo be effectually carried into Execution.

Given under my Hand in the Council Chamber in *New-Haven*, this 19th Day of *October*, in the 15th Year of his Majesty's Reign. *Anno; Dimini, 1775.*

JON<sup>TH</sup>. TRUMBULL.

**G O D save the KING.**

Instances obeyed the Orders of Congress who have conferred on You the Rank of Brigadier General in the Army of the Associated Colonies, I was taught to believe that You considered Yourself as such both from what I have above Observed and from Your Declarations to me Yesterday, but I am just now informed That You have called a General Court Martial at Fort George on Your Way up here, a Conduct which I cannot account for unless You consider Yourself my Superior, and that cannot be in Virtue of your Appointment by Congress, by which You are a Younger Brigadier General than Mr Montgomery, And unless You consider Yourself as such, I cannot consistent with the Duty I owe the Public Permit You to join that Part of the Army now under Brigadier General Montgomery's Command, least a Confusion and Disagreement should arise that might prove fatal to our Operations in Canada. You will therefore Sir please to give me Your explicit Answer to this Question; Whether You consider Yourself and your Regiment in the Service of the Associated Colonies & Yourself a Younger Brigadier General in that Service than Mr Montgomery or not? that no Misapprehensions or Misrepresentations may hereafter arise. I am Sir, [&c.]  
Tyonderoga 19th October '75 Ph: Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 230-231, NA.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO MAJOR GENERAL  
PHILIP SCHUYLER<sup>1</sup>

Sir In Answer to Your Favour of this Day, give me Leave to acquaint You, that immediately upon my Receiving the Continental Articles of War, I gave them out to the different Captains & Commanders of Companies in my Regiment, but they universally declined signing them, of Consequence in the Discipline of the Troops under my Command, I was obliged to continue in the Use of the Law Martial of Connecticut, under which they were raised, Which I certainly had a Right to do, by Virtue of my Commission from that Colony, Upon the same Principle I ordered a General Court Martial at Fort George, which, whether right, or not, was never designed in the least, to contradict or counteract Your Authority, as Commander in Chief of the Troops upon this Department. -

With Regard to the other Question, My Appointment in the Continental Army, You are sensible could not be very agreeable to me, Notwithstanding which, I never should have continued in that Service, had I not determined to observe the Rules of the Army; No Sir, I have the Cause of my Country too much at Heart, to attempt to make any Difficulty or Uneasiness in the Army upon whom the Success of an Enterprize of almost infinite Importance to the Country is now depending - I shall consider my Rank in the Army, what my Commission from the Continental Congress makes it, and I shall not attempt to dispute the Command with General Montgomery at St Johns. - As to my Regiment, I consider them, as what they really are, according to the Tenor of their Inlistments and Compact with the Colony of Connecticut, by whom they were raised, and now acting in Conjunction with the Troops of the Other Colonies, in the Service and for the Defence of the Associated Colonies in General. You may depend Sir that

I shall exert my self as much as possible to promote the strictest Union and Harmony among both Officers and Soldiers in the Army, & use every Means in my Power to give Success to the Expedition. — I am Sir, [&c.]

Tyonderoga 19th Octor 1775 —

Dav<sup>d</sup> Wooster.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 234, 235, NA.

*New York Journal*, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1775

New-York, October 19.

We hear from Rhode Island, that Col. Esek Hopkins, a brave and experienced officer, is arrived there, at the town of Bristol, with 700 men, sent by General Washington in order to protect the inhabitants from the Piratical incursions of a Captain Wallace, and other Free-Booters, acting under the pretended authority of a set of Traitors, aiming to establish a tyrannical government on the ruins of the English Constitution.

This Pirate, Wallace, having presumed, in a cowardly dependance on his lawless force, to demand the property of the inhabitants, and like other Robbers, threatening them with destruction in case of refusal, which threat he enforced, by murderously and treasonably firing a number of shot against the town of Bristol, the inhabitants of which, sent on board the said Pirate, a Committee to expostulate with him on the baseness and villany of his conduct. — In his vindication, he shewed them the orders of the more atrocious and bloody Traitors, under whose authority he acted, by which he was directed to fire upon, murder and destroy every town or city, where there should be the least appearance of men in arms, in order to defend their rights and liberties; and he told them, that in case there should be the appearance of men in arms, in opposition to His illegal demands, he should certainly fire upon them. After he had by threats, extorted from, and robbed the inhabitants of as much of their property as they were, on such a sudden demand, able to produce, Col. Hopkins and his forces arrived, and on being told Wallace's menace of firing upon the town, in case of the appearance in it of men in arms, he let the people know his orders from the General, which were, at all events to prevent the Pirates from landing, or receiving supplies from the shore; and that instead of being intimidated from defending their property, by fear of the town being fired upon, they might be assured he would destroy the town, rather than the Pirates should land in, or draw supplies or advantage from it.

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

[New York] Die Jovis, 9 HO. A.M. October 19th, 1775.

A draft of instructions to the superintendents at the fortifications in the Highlands, respecting vessels passing the said fortifications, was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

Gentlemen— In Provincial Congress, New-York, Oct. 19, 1775.

We are favoured with yours of the 15th inst. and are pleased with your activity in forwarding the fort and works under your charge in the Highlands.

To obviate all disputes relative to your conduct, it is our desire that you would dispense with the ceremony of vessels lowering their peak as they pass the fort; we think it cannot answer the purpose of detecting the foe, and that for the future you would observe the following rules:

1. In general we do not apprehend any danger can arise from vessels coming from the northward; you may therefore let them pass unmolested unless you shall have evidence on oath, or a certificate from some committee previously given, that they are intended to supply the ministerial army or navy with succours or necessaries, in which case you are to detain them until you can give the Congress or the Committee of Safety notice thereof, together with such evidence or certificate and receive their orders.

2. You will permit all vessels from the southward to pass unmolested, unless you shall have good reason to suspect that they are prosecuting designs, inimical to the general cause, and in such case you will prevent them from proceeding until you shall be satisfied that they have no such designs.

3. We recommend it to the superintendents of the fort, and also to the inhabitants of the Colony by their general conduct, to use their endeavours to cultivate a good understanding with each other. Being confident that the superintendents will not permit those employed under them to use illiberal language to persons navigating the river, and that they will in the exercise of their office give as little trouble to the inhabitants of the Colony as is possible.

We are respectfully, gentlemen, [&c.] By order. To the Commissioners at the fortifications in the Highlands.

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

*Ordered*, That Timothy Doughty and all the other prisoners now in the jail, by order of the Committee of Safety, be brought down before this Congress tomorrow morning to be heard, and that Col. McDougall be requested to furnish a sufficient guard for that purpose.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 180-181.

#### NARRATIVE OF ANDREW ELLIOT <sup>1</sup>

[June 25, 1775-October 19, 1775] <sup>2</sup>

Governor Tryon arrived from England soon after this <sup>3</sup> and every thing respecting the Custom House went on Quietly; as it was found by experience that any stoppage of Trade would be immediately felt severely and the Collector from the time the Custom House had been locked up and as long as he remained at New York always carried the Seals of Office about him and Publicly declared, if he was obliged to leave the place, for to ensure personal safety, he would carry off the Seals or destroy them. In the Fall of the Year 1775, Governor Tryon received private Information that he and all the Officers of Government and the Revenue were to be made Prisoners and sent to a Neighbouring Province; Governor Tryon convened such of them as were named in this information, they immediately agreed to go on board Ship except the Collector, who told them his

situation was different from theirs, all Civil Authority had been for some time taken out of their hands. but that he had still been allowed to Act in his station because the Present Rulers found it their Interest as their Ships without his Clearances could not pass the Two Men of War stationed at New York, besides he did not think any personal risque could excuse his not acting agreeable to the Acts of Trade until they were suspended by Parliamint or stopped by Violence, which he must submit to. The Governor and Kings Attorney &ca accordingly went on board Ship<sup>4</sup> . . . The Collector was waited upon by a deputation from the New York Congress the day after the Governor left the City, to know if he intended going, He answered No, if proper obedience was sti[ll] paid to the Acts of Trade and he and his Family protected, this was promised and punctually complied with and a Guard set over the Custom House: The Collector giving his Word of Honor, not to remove or cause to be removed any of the Papers or Books belonging to the Custom House or Receiver Generals Office, which were kept in the same House with the Custom House.

1. Andrew Elliot Papers, Box 1, Folder 6, NYSL. Elliot was Collector of the Port of New York.
2. Dates fixed by the arrival of Tryon—"Arrived here Govr Tryon" (June 25), Journal of His Majesty's sloop *Kingsfisher*, PRO, Admiralty 51/506; also: "The Collector was waited upon by a deputation from the New York Congress" (October 19, 1775), Narrative of Andrew Elliot.
3. The reference is to a mob threat to the Custom House, the closing of its doors and the seizure of its keys, followed by restoration of the keys and reopening of the House.
4. Tryon fled to the packet *Halifax* on October 18, 1775.

#### WILLIAM TRYON TO WHITEHEAD HICKS<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

On board the *Halifax* Packet, Oct. 19th 1775.

Finding your Letter of Yesterday insufficient: for that Security I requested from the Corporation and Citizens, and objectionable for the Mode in which you obtained the Sense of the Inhabitants, my Duty directed me for the present Instant, to remove on board this Ship; where I shall be ready to do such Business of the Country, as the Situation of the Times will permit. The Citizens, as well as the Inhabitants of the Province, may be assured of my Inclination to embrace every Means in my Power to restore the Peace, good Order and Authority of Government. I am, Sir, [&c.]

William Tryon.

1. *New York Gazette*, October 23, 1775.

#### H. C. SCHWEINIZ TO BROTHER JOHN GRAFF<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Bethlehem, 19th Oct. 1775

Usually we write one letter per month with the Paquet Boat, and enclose a short extract of your report: so meanwhile I will do the same with your mail, particularly the accounts of the Unit<sup>2</sup> . . . we have done likewise with our balance of accounts, since in this critical time not much else is advisable, especially since it is well known that here as well as in England, letters are opened,

and therefore most of the captains that still put out from England refuse to take along letters, let alone packages, in order to be in no way exposed; our last letters, which contained little more than the Weeklies, came with the August Paquet from England.

1. Mor. Arch.; translation.
2. Graff was one of the leaders of the Moravian colony in North Carolina.

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

[Philadelphia] Thursday, October 19, 1775

The committee appointed <sup>2</sup> to wait upon Captn Macpherson reported that they have executed that service and upon conversing with him do apprehend, that the scheme he mentions is in their opinion feasible and that he ought to repair to the camp.

On motion made, *Resolved*, That he be requested immediately to repair to the camp at Cambridge, and confer with General Washington, and that the Comee who waited on Captn McPherson do prepare a letter to the general on this subject and report the same.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 300.
2. Appointed October 16, 1775.

COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE COMMITTEES OF SAFETY  
OF ALL COLONIES <sup>1</sup>

(Circular)

Philadelphia, 19 Oct. 1775

Sir -- The Continental Congress having been pleased to appoint us a committee for collecting an account of the hostilities committed by the Ministerial troops and navy in America, since last March, with proper evidence of the truth of the facts related, the number and value of the buildings destroyed, and of the vessels, inward and outward bound, seized by them, as nearly as can be ascertained; and also, the stock taken by them from different parts of the Continent, as you may see by the resolve enclosed <sup>2</sup>; we entreat the assistance of the Convention of your Colony in this business, that we may be enabled to perform what is required of us, in the manner and with the expedition Congress expects; and to that end, that you will be pleased to furnish us with the necessary materials, sending to us clear, distinct, full and circumstantial details of the hostile and destructive acts, and the captures or seizures and depredations in your Colony, and accurate estimates of the loss and damage, with the solemn examinations of witnesses and other papers and documents, officially authenticated. We are, sir [ &c. ]

Silas Deane,  
John Adams,  
George Wythe.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 19.
2. Resolve of October 18, 1775.

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

Dr. Sir, —

[Philadelphia] Octr. 19, 1775

What Think you of an American Fleet? I don't Mean 100 ships of the Line, by a Fleet, but I suppose this Term may be applied to any naval Force consisting of several Vessells, tho the Number, the Weight of Metal, or the Quantity of Tonnage may be small.

The Expence would be very great — true. But the Expence might be born and perhaps the Profits and Benefits to be obtained by it, would be a Compensation. A naval Force might be created which would do something. It would destroy Single Cutter and Cruisers. It might destroy small Corvets or Fleets of these like [James] Wallace's at R. Island and Ld. Dunmores at Virginia. It might oblige our Enemies to sail in Fleets. For two or three Vessells of 36 and twenty Guns, well armed and manned might attack and carry a 64 or a 70 or a 50 Gun Ship.

But there is a great Objection to this. All the Trade of Pennsylvania, the Lower Counties, a great Part of Maryland and N. Jersey Sails in between the Capes of Delaware Bay. And if a strong Fleet should be posted in that Bay, Superiour to our Fleet it might obstruct all the Trade of this River.

Further the Trade of Virginia and the rest of Maryland floats into Chesapeake Bay between the Capes of Henry and Charles where a Fleet might stop all. Besides Virginia and Maryland have no Navigation of their own nor any Carpenters to build ships. Their whole Trade is carried on in British Bottoms by British, most of it by North British Merchants. These Circumstances distinguish them quite from New England, where the Inlets are innumerable and the Navigation all their own.

They agree that a Fleet, would protect and secure the Trade of New England but deny that it would that of the Southern Colonies.

Will it not be difficult to persuade them then to bear the Expence of building a Fleet, merely for N. England. We are Speculating now about Things at a Distance. Should we be driven to a War at all Points, a Fleet a public Fleet as well as privateers might make prey enough of the Trade of our Enemies to make it worth while.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 145, 146.

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

Dr. Sir, —

Philadelphia Octr. 19, 1775.

I want to be with you, Tête à Tête, to canvass, and discuss the complicated subject of Trade. I say nothing of private Consultations or public Debates, upon this important Head. When I write you Letters you must expect nothing from me but unconnected Scraps and broken Hints. Continual Successions of Company allow me Time only to Scrawl a Page of Paper, without Thought.

Shall we hush the Trade of the whole Continent and not permit a Vessell to go out of our Harbours except from one Colony to another? How long will or can our People bear this? I say they can bear it forever. If Parliament should build a Wall of Brass, at low Water Mark, We might live and be happy. We must

change our Habits, our Prejudices our Palates, our Taste in Dress, Furniture, Equipage, Architecture, etc., but We can live and be happy. But the Question is whether our People have Virtue enough to be mere Husbandmen, Mechanicks and Soldiers? That they have not Virtue enough to bear it always I take for granted. How long then will their Virtue last? till next Spring? If We Stop all Trade G.B.I. and W.I. will not be furnished with any Thing.

Shall We then give Permission for our Vessells to go to foreign Nations, if they can escape the Men of War? Can they escape the Men of War? How many will escape in Proportion? If any Escape, will they not venture to Britain, Ireland, and W.I. in defiance of our Association? If they do not will not the British Dominions furnish themselves with our Produce from foreign Ports, and thereby avoid that Distress, which We expect will overtake them? Will not the W.I. Islands especially, who cannot exist without our Provisions for 6 Months, unless Glou[cester (?) and] Walker were ignorant.

If we should invite other maritime Powers, or private adventures from foreign Nations to come here, Will they venture? They run the risque of escaping Men of War, and the Dangers of an unknown Coast. Maps and Charts may give Strangers a confused Idea of the Geography of our Country, and of the Principal Inlets of Harbours, Rivers, Creeks, Coves, Islands, etc., but without skillful Pilots, the danger of Shipwreck will be 10 to one.

This vast object is never out of my Mind. Help me to grapple it. The W.I., Barbadoes particularly, begin, We are told Here by a late Vessel, to be terrified out of their Wits.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 146, 147.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE <sup>1</sup>

October 1775 Elizabeth River [Virginia]  
 Thursday 19 A M . . . at 10 arrived here the *Betsy* Sloop & *Unicorn* Snow  
 with part of the 14th Regiment from St. Augustine

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU <sup>1</sup>

Octobr 1775 Moored in Elizbth River Virginia Abreast the Town of  
 Norfolk  
 Thursday 19 P M At 8 Sent our Marines & A party of Seamen in Quest of  
 Powder & Ammunition At 10 They Retd after Discharging A  
 No of Arms taking 7 Boxes of Tea & stop'd A Sloop wth Rum  
 on Bd -

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

HENRY LAURENS TO COLONEL WILLIAM MOULTRIE <sup>1</sup>

Sir - I am ordered by the Council of Safety to desire you will immediately order an e[n]quiry to be made howmany Seamen are inlisted in the Regiments of Foot, & to make a return of the names & numbers of the whole to Morrow. & to enquire of such Seamen if they are willing to change the service by acting on board

the Colony Schooners where their pay will be considerably advanced – I am Sir  
[&c.]

Charles Town 19th October 1775.

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, III, 6.

SAMUEL HUNTING TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.<sup>1</sup>

Sr

Cape Fransway Octbr 19th 1775 –

I have now an Opportunity to write to you by Capt [Joseph] Latham who expects to sail in two Days & can inform you that I am in good Health; but have been very Low in spirits for sometime past but am now quite discouraged, about answering the End we came out after, as it is in as great Demand here as I believe it is in N. America –

some small Quantity has arrived & has been sold at 5 Livrs & 5 Lvrs 10 Sous for particulars in this Respect inquire of Capt Latham. —

I am very sorry to inform you that we have got very Little to bring home with us; altho' Capt P[ackwoo]d has tried every Method & taken all the Pains that a Man possibly can, but has not been able to answer his End. —

I recvd a Letter from Capt P ——— at the Mole the 7th Inst at which time he was well in Health – he wrote me Orders to Leave the Cape so as to be at the Mole the 25th Inst as he determined to Sail by the Last of this Month at all Events – I have Nothing particular to write further but remain Sr [&c.]

Sam<sup>l</sup> Hunting

P. S. Spermaceti Candles are very Plenty here & will not fetch 4½ Bits taking Coffee in Exchange for pay – & I believe they will not fetch 4 Bits tho' they have not been offer'd at that Price as we had no Orders to Sell under 4½ Bits – I am inform'd that Capt P ——— has upwards of Two Hundred Boxes on hand about 12 Days past —.

S. H.

1. Shaw Papers, YUL.

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

(Copy)

English Harbour Antigua 19h October 1775

Sir I deferred answering your Excellencys letter expecting the return of the *Argo* Frigate, which I ordered the 7h Instant to carry a Letter from me to your Excellency at Guadaloupe, she is not yet returned back, but I hope you have got the Letter I sent by her; By which you will find; that I concur with you, in a desire of keeping up the Friendly correspondence that has hitherto subsisted between the Government of these Colonies; That I disapproved; of what Captain Gordon did; and thought he had been too precipitate which must be sufficient to inform you; it was not by any directions of mine he had acted.

By what your Excellency writes me; I perceive you have been greatly misinformed of the particulars of this affair; especially about Capt Gordons boarding several Vessels; and in particular one under French Colours which he had struck; and hoisted English in their stead. You will see by the Account in writing, which Captain Gordon delivered to me on his arrival here (a Copy of which I have now

inclosed you) that he had only boarded one Vessel, that she was an American; and had all English Subjects on board her, and she had no French Colours, therefore of consequence he could not strike them. The behaviour of Monsieur Choiseul with the Message he sent off to Captain Gordon, I find has likewise been concealed from your Excellency.

Your Officer being desirous of returning immediately to Guadaloupe apprehending you might be gone from thence before his return occasions my answering your Letter before the *Argo* arrives; and to assure your Excellency nothing shall be wanting on my part; to keep up the so much desired Harmony between the two Nations. I have the honor to be &[c]

James Young

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 53f.

## 20 Oct.

### ORDERS FROM DAY & SCOTT, WINDSOR, NOVA SCOTIA, TO ISAAC DANKS <sup>1</sup>

Captain Isaac Danks, you are to proceed Immediately With the Schooner *Falmouth Packet* now Under your Command, to Boston, taking Care to keep under the protection of the Man of War, who Convoys you; When at Boston you are to wait on William Sherriff Esqr the Deputy Quarter Master General, Whose Orders, you are afterwards Implicitly to follow. Respecting the Cargo, on Board of you, plase to Observe the following Instruction –

1st Eight Bundles of Hay Stowed in the Hold and two Barrels of Potatoes, are to be Delivered to Daniel Chamier Esqr Commissary General.

2dly the Fifteen Oxen together with the Remainder of the Hay are to be Delivered to the Order of Major Sherriff

3dly Two Barrels of Patotoes are to be Delivered to Major Martin of the Royal Artillery.

4thly The Patotoes and Turnips which are lose In the Hold you are to Acquaint Major Shirreff there of and Deliver them to his Order; provided he wants them, either for himself, Friends or Hospital; If he Does not want them you must dispose of them, and pay the proceeds Into the Hands of Mr Archibald Cunningham.

I sincerely wish you prosperous Voyage and your Real friend

Day & Scott

October 20th 1775 Cumberland

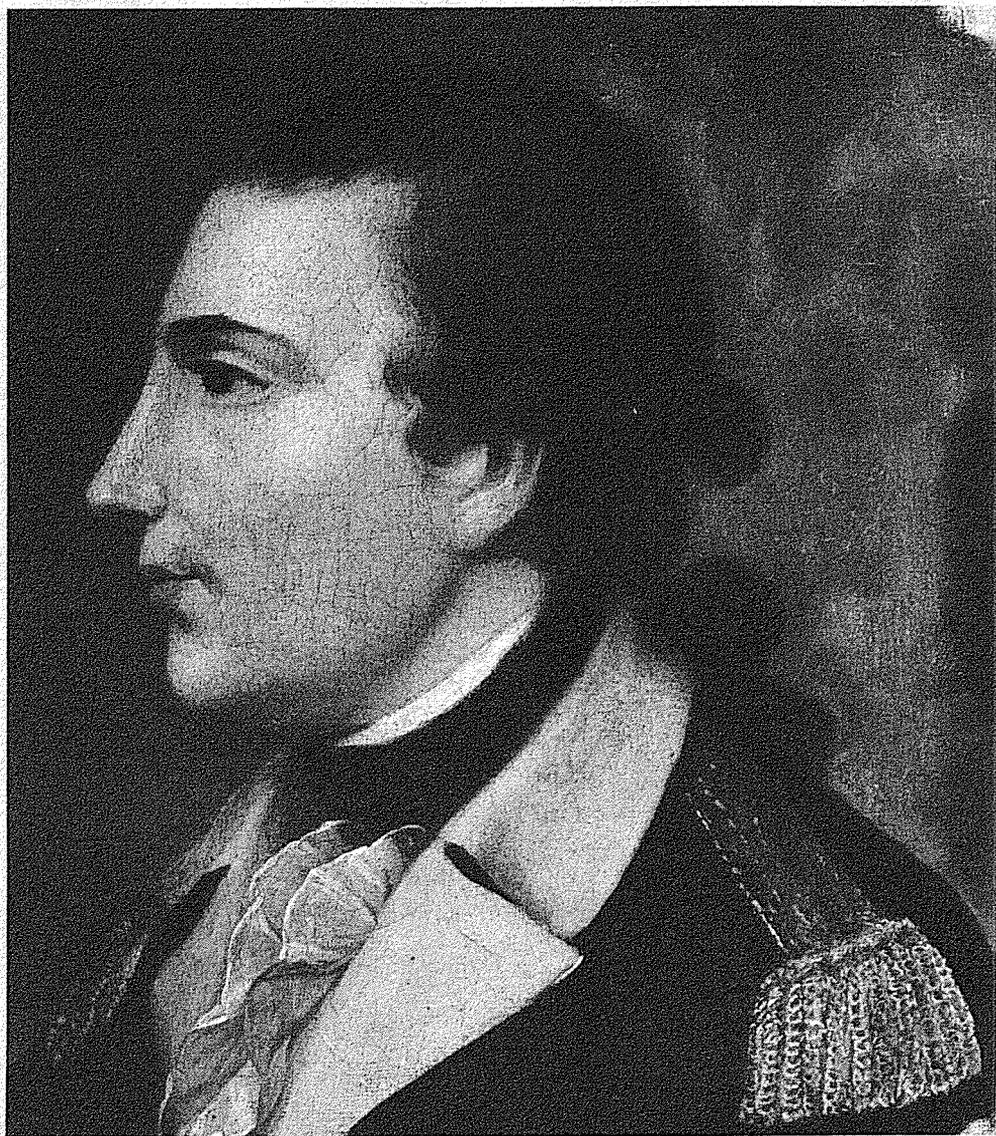
1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 249.

### BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD MONTGOMERY TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER <sup>1</sup>

Dear General,

Camp before St Johns Octr 20th

I have the pleasure to acquaint You with the Surrender of Chamblee to Major [John] Brown & Major [Henry Beekman] Livingston which Last headed about three hundred Canadians – we had not above 50 of our Troops, Indeed It was the plan of the Canadians, who Carried down The Artillery past the Fort of



*Brigadier General Richard Montgomery. By Charles Willson Peale, c. 1785.*

St Johns in Batteaus – I Send You the Colours of the 7th Regt and a List of Stores Taken – Major Brown assures me we have Gotten 6 Tons of Powder, which with the Blessing of God will Finish this Business here – Major Brown offer'd his Service on this occasion – upon this & all other occasions I have found him active & Intelligent—

The Enemy's Schooner is Sunk – they have not been very Anxious To Save her. Else they might Easily have Protracted her fate – I must now think unless Some unlucky accident befalls us we shall accomplish our Business here as I shall Set to work in earnest on this Side the water – the troops in high Spirits Col. [Seth] Warner has had a little Brush with a party from Montreal The Enemy retired with the loss of 5 Prisoners & Some killed, Some of the Prisoners (Canadians) are dangerous Enemy's & must be taken Care of La Mouche one of them, The Caghnawagas have Desired 100 men from us, I have Complied with their Request, and am Glad to find they put So much Confidence In us. and are So much afraid of Mr Carlton, not That I think they had any thing to Apprehend He has Too much business on his hands already To wish to make more enemies—

I Shall Endeavour by means of the Chamble Garrison to obtain better Treatment for Allen & The other Prisoners as well Canadians as our own Troops.

I shall Send off the Prisoners as Soon as Possible – their number of Women & Quantity of Baggage is Astonishing –

Be so Good as to let Capt [Marinus] Willet Return with his Company immediately, if it can be done – He Conducts the Prisoners –

The Commanding Officer at St Johns has been So polite as to let our Batteaus pass to the Head of the rapids in order to take in the Baggage of the Chamble garrison – he behaved very Genteelly to Lt [Samuel] Lockwood of Waterburys [regiment] who Went in with the request, from Majr [J.] Stopford The Majr is a man of Family in Ireland –

But one man Killed Since my last.

Let us have rum my Dear General else we Shall never be able to go thro our business –

I am much Chagrined at Your relapse that You may Speedily recover Your Health is the Ardent wish of Your Sincere & Affectionate [&c.]

Rich<sup>d</sup> Montgomery

Major Brown has brought the Colours of the 7th Regt which I have the honour to transmit to You –

Before Capt [John] Lambs Company of Artillery arrived I was obliged to appoint officers & Men to that Service – they are Still necessary. I promised to use my influence for an addition to their pay. I hope the Congress will Indulge me in this particular

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 250–252, NA. Part of this letter headed “Extract of a letter from General Montgomery, dated Camp before St. John's, Oct. 20, 1775,” was printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet*, November 6, 1775.

CAPTAIN NOBLE BENEDICT TO THE REVEREND EBENEZER BALDWIN, DANBURY,  
CONNECTICUT <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Camp before St Johns 20th Octr 1775

This is the 33d day that we have been in this disagreeable situation, but I flatter myself that our Continuance on this ground is but short. The season is advancing, which will either drive us Northward, or Southward, to habitations more comfortable. I have the happiness to inform you that yesterday the Fort at Chamblee was surrendered to us without the loss of one man on our side 70 odd regulars was taken Prisoners & about 94 women & children, which transaction gives new life and vigour to our Troops; and adds Courage to the Canadians, whose spirits have drooped by the Misconduct of Cl [Ethan] Allen, in Attacking Montreal with so Small party that he and his men were allmost intirely cut off, which doubtless you have heard.

The Canadians I think I may venture to Assert are Quite full on our Side, and the Indians likewise; whose Friendship we have taken unwearied pains to obtain; but to return to this Hornets Nest at St Johns, which still continues obstinate, we in the first Place built a Bomb battery about 100 rods South of the Fort which appears to annoy them considerable, we then built a gun battery to the Southward of that, but does not have the desired effect. then we built a gun battery on the east side of the River off against the Fort, within 100 rods of them, in plain sight, at which battery we have kept a continual fire at their water Craft (which consist of large scows Gondolas & other Small Craft) till they are so disabled That we have nothing to fear from them. likewise at their houses which by their appearance is rendered very uncomfortable to them. We are about building on the North side off them another battery. when the whole comes to be opened upon them, on all sides, I think the dogs must Surrender or find it very hot weather. we have more or less Cannonading or bombarding every day, but thro the blessing of God we have onely lost 4 men by their Shot & Shells. Our Army is in good health in General and in fine Spirits. nothing to Obstruct us from traveling thro Canady but this little foutre Place, which I doubt not but in a few days we shall be master off. and walk triumphant into Moreal w[h]ere Part of army will winter. to keep the Canadians in spirits wether we succeed or not, doubtless a part will Tarry in Canady this winter.

I am very hearty myself and my company that is remaining with me. my respects to my wife and family. & compliments to all Friends & Neighbors. I am Sir [&c.]

Noble Benedict

1. YUL. Benedict was captain of a company in Colonel David Waterbury's 5th Connecticut Regiment.

LETTER FROM CANADA TO A NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Camp before St. John's, Oct. 20, 1775.

I have the Satisfaction to inform you that Fort Chamblee surrendered the 18th instant, to Major [John] Brown. Inclosed I send you a List of the Officers,

Soldiers, and Stores, taken at Chamblee. Your Brother is gone to Long Geel,<sup>2</sup> where they have had a small Skirmish with 150 Canadians, and have taken five of them prisoners.

A List of Prisoners taken at Chamblee.

Major Stopford,	Lieutenant Harrison,
Captain Price,	Captain Alge, of the Schooner,
Captain Goodwin,	Commissary M'Colough,
Lieutenant Hamen,	A Surgeon,
Lieutenant Shuttleworth,	76 Privates,

An Inventory of Stores taken at Chamblee.

80 Barrels Flour,	6564 Musket Cartridges,
11 Ditto Rice,	150 French Arms,
7 Ditto Pease,	3 Royal Mortars,
6 Ditto Butter,	61 Shells,
134 Ditto Pork, (7 damaged)	500 Hand Granadoes,
124 Ditto Gun Powder,	83 Stands Royal Fusileer
300 Swivel Shot,	Muskets,
1 Box Musket Shot.	83 Accroutrement for ditto,

Naval Stores for 3 Vessels.

1. *Constitutional Gazette*, New York, November 4, 1775.
2. Longueuil.

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

Octr 1775                      At single anchor in do [Hog Island] Road  
 Friday 20 AM do Wear very coald the fire Still conti[nues] employed  
 voriously ½ past 4 PM came on board a flagg a treus from the  
 Town of Falmouth ½ Past they returned on Shor the fire Still  
 continues in the Town

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.

REUBEN FOGG TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

Sir: I would inform your Excellency that on tuesday the 17th Instant about five oclock after noon there was draw'd up before the Town of Falmouth two ships one sloop & an armed schooner of War and the 18th about Nine oclock in the morning fird on the Town and in a short time the town was set on fire by the Ships and by twelve or one oclock near three Quarters of the town was in flames some of the Men from the Ships Landed and the Militia being Rais'd for the defence of the Town drove them back to the Ships & one Baptist John Armstrong Fled to Lieut. Josiah Libby who commanded a party of men & surrendered himself to them and says he chooses to fight for America. I now send him to head Quarters to be examined by your Excelency & say what service he shall be

put to I send him by Mr Charles Morris & Jonathan Libby two of the men he fled to.<sup>2</sup>

From your most Obedient Humble Servt

Scarborough October 20th 1775

Reuben Fogg

P.S. I hope yr Excelency will be more fully informd of the unhappy affair than I am capeably off at present.

1. Mass. Arch., vol: 164, 163.

2. *Ibid.*, "[This prisoner was received by Washington who referred the case to the Provincial Congress. This latter body set the man at liberty.]"

MATTHEW GRISWOLD TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL<sup>1</sup>

Sr.

Cambridge Octr 20th 1775 –

I have to Acquaint Your Honr That an Express arrived at Head quarters from Portsmouth Informing that on Monday last [October 16] two or three armd Vesells. Sundry Transports all full of men arrivd. at Falmouth in Casco Bay from Boston (being part of the Ministerial force): with orders to Destroy That Town with Portsmouth in Case the Inhabitants Refusd to Deliver up their Arms, give hostages &c.: That upon [a] Truce. the Inhabitants Deliverd to the Chief Comm[odore] of the Ships Eight Musquets and had time to Consider till Nine of the Clock Next Morning. – That the Post came away half after Eight: That Just about Nine he heard a heavy firing towards that place supposd the People had Rejected the Terms and that the Cruel orders were carrying into Execution.

Govr Cook has also Recd advice that Capt Wallace has Recd orders to do the Same to any of the Towns in Rhode Island & Connectc where any arm'd force appears to oppose the Ministerial Troops: what Precaution is proper to be taken for the Protection of our Colony Your Honr and the Honble Genll Assembly will Consider: – Its: Supposd not Expedient at present to Communicate the Matters Transacted by the Comtee &c. Conven'd here without Special Leave –

Some of our Connectc officers are very Desirous that Some Further Provision Might be made for the Sick People in the army belonging to our Colony—I am with great Respect [&c.]

Matth<sup>w</sup> Griswold

1. YUL. Griswold, Deputy Governor of Connecticut, was representing that colony at the conference attended by a Committee of Congress, representatives of the New England colonies, and George Washington.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR., PLYMOUTH<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Head Quarters Octo 20 1775.

Your Favour this Day came to Hand. Your Conduct in fitting out the Vessels is much approved by his Excellcy who is particularly pleased with your Dispatch – Colo [James] Warren has wrote to [Benjamin] Wormwell about his Demand of 8d more than others, which I hope he will retract, otherwise you must endeavour to procure another as we are resolved to submit to no Demands that Appear to be unreasonable. The difference to him is Small, but as we must pay the Same to others, & in that Case the Difference to the Publick will be consid-

erable – I think you had better take the Swivels, but we would not have the Vessel delayed for the Sake of making up her Compliment of Ten – Advise with Capt Martingale about the Cohorns, if he thinks they will be Serviceable you can take one or both – Inclosed is a Letter to the Committee about the Powder – The Cartridge Paper will be sent immediately – Capt Adams will have the same Terms as other Masters out of Salem & Marblehead –

I shall dispatch Capt Coit assoon as possible, but the General would have you Stay 'till the Vessels are equipped & Sailed – If it is not absolutely necessary for Capt Martingale to return to Camp before he sails he can stay to superintend the Workmen &c – I cautioned him against an extravagant Outset but I fear his former Ideas upon the Subject are insuperable there certainly can be no occasion for such a Number of Guns, unless he means to go without Powder for them as we cannot Spare so much of that Article as such an outset would require – We think 8 or at the most 10 Six pounders quite sufficient with 10 or 12 Swivels – Inclosed is a Letter to the Committee at Bristol which may be of some Use in procuring the Guns if you are obliged to go there for that Purpose – By what I mentioned in my former Letter I only meant to give you a Caution as we have been very unfortunate in sending Persons to do Business where their Connections lay – It will be best for you to pay all contingent Expences, if you have not current Cash Mr Watson the Agent will supply you, & his Draught here upon me for these Expences or any other attending the Vessels will be honor'd – If the Committee of Plymouth claim a Property in the Vessel notwithstanding she is to be employed on the Publick Service you must agree with them as with private Persons on the best Terms you can—

Pray forward both Vessels assoon as possible, & in your next let me know when Martingale's Vessel will be ready – if he wants Ammunition from hence let us know in Time that none be lost in fitting out these Articles – I am Sir [&c.]

Jos Reed Secy

P.S. By all Means caution Capt Martingale against a large Outset – The Design is to intercept the Enemy's Supplies, not to look out for the Enemy's Armed Vessels –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO THE PLYMOUTH COMMITTEE <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen I am desired by his Excellency General Washington to acquaint you that the Publick Service requiring a Number of armed Vessels to be fitted, to intercept the Enemy's Supplies: & the Distance making the Transportation of Ammunition tedious, you will render the General a most Acceptable Service, & much promote the Publick Interests, if you will supply, out of your Town Stock or otherwise, the Powder necessary for the Service. The General will either replace it or pay for it, as may be most Agreeable to you. Any other Service you may render Capt Bowen in this Affair will be kindly accepted,

I am by his Excellency's Order, Gent &c.

J R. Sy –

Head Quarters Octo 20th 1775

1. Washington Papers, LC.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO THE BRISTOL COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen His Excellency General Washington has directed me to acquaint you, that conceiving it would be of publick Service to fit out some Armed Vessels, he is equipping Two at Plymouth, designed to intercept the Enemy's Supplies. It may perhaps be Necessary for Capt Bowen to apply to you for Some Guns if so, it will much oblige the General, & promote the publick Service, if you would furnish him with such as he may want, & you can Spare. Any other Assistance which he may crave, we doubt not you will chearfully give, as we are embarked in one great & Common Cause – I am Gent, by his Excellency's direction [&c.]

J R Sy

Camp at Cambridge Octo 20th 1775 –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO COLONEL JOHN GLOVER AND STEPHEN MOYLAN, SALEM<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Head Quarters Octo 20 1775

Your Favour of yesterday was duly received: the 260 Dollars Mr Moylan will keep till he returns & then pay it to the Commissary General – I sent for Colo [William] Burbeck who makes some excuse that he could not get the Order ready, but promises it shall be this day Completed –

I also sent for Dr Spofford who agrees to go if his Colonel does not object to it. He is now gone to consult him & if he determines to go I shall dispatch him immediately –

You will remember Gentlemen that the Vessels will want a part of this Flour. You will therefore be pleased to retain as much as will be necessary for this Purpose. P.M. 6 oClock After pursuing Dr Spofford all Day to get his decisive Answer I have at last got it, that he will go, & is preparing, so that I hope he will be with you some time tomorrow –

We have Accounts that the small Squadron which sailed sometime ago is bombarding Falmouth & Portsmouth – Our Vessels must be careful how they fall in with them – Please to fix upon some particular Colour for a Flag – & a Signal, by which our Vessels may know one another – What do you think of a Flag with a White Ground, a Tree in the Middle – the Motto (*Appeal to Heaven*) – This is the Flag of our floating Batteries – We are fitting out two Vessels at Plymouth. & when I next hear from you on this Subject I will let them know the Flag & the Signal, that we may distinguish our Friends from our Foes. You will hasten the Equipment of the other two Vessels as fast as possible –

Be pleased to purchase ½ Doz Reams of the best Writing Paper to be had at Salem or Marblehead, & send it down here P first Oppy –

If you think any Good Purpose would be answered by it, you can send out Colonel Glover's Schooner 'till the Substitute is got ready – I am Gent [&c.]

J R Sy

Colo Glover does not Notice the Receipt of Capt [John] Langdon's present to the Officers who retook his ship – Don't let it be forgot in your next –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR BENJAMIN TUPPER<sup>1</sup>

Whereas Information has been given to me, that two Vessels the one belonging to Holmes & the other to Coffin both Persons of known Enmity to the United Colonies are now laying at Martha's Vineyard, intending to proceed to Boston with their Cargoes for the Benefit & Refreshment of the ministerial Troops there – These are therefore to require you to seize the said Vessels, with their Cargoes, & Secure them in the Safest & nearest Port to the Camp for the Use of the United Colonies, and all Persons, Friends [of] their Country & the Cause of America, are desired to aid & assist you in the said Enterprize – for which they shall be reasonably rewarded out of the Said Vessels – Given under my Hand at Head Quarters Cambridge Octor the Twentieth Anno Domini 1775 –

G W

1. Washington Papers, LC.

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

[Extract]

Watertown, October 20, 1775

The committee of Congress arrived here last Sunday [October 15]. Colonel [Benjamin] Harrison went through the town without my seeing him. Doctor [Benjamin] Franklin and Mr. [Thomas] Lynch stop'd at Davis. I waited on them, and they came over and drank coffee with us. The next day I dined with them all at Head quarters, and yesterday they and the general officers, and the gentlemen of character from the southward on a visit here, were entertained by the House at [Nathaniel] Coolidge's, on the best dinner we could get for them, turtle, codfish, etc. Every kind of civility and mark of respect is shewn them here, and if they don't leave us better satisfied than they came to us, it will not be our faults. From the little conversation I have had with them, which has been as much as could be got in a crowd, I presume they will. I am much pleased with them. Doctor Franklin, who[m] I never saw before, appears venerable in the characters of a gentleman, a physician, and statesman. I think Mr. Lynch very sensible and judicious, and all of them firmly attached to the good cause, and I flatter myself their zeal will not be abated by this visit . . .

Several armed vessels are fixing by the General, and we have passed a bill to encourage individuals to fix out others. We have just received an account that they have been cannonading Falmouth, Casco Bay, and that Wallace, the pirate at Newport, has insisted on the removal of the troops from Rhode Island, or he will destroy Newport, and shewn instructions to the Committee there to destroy four towns, among which are Plymouth and Machias. The others I can't learn. This account the Governour, Cooke, has just received.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 149–155.NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

[Boston] 20 [October]

Reports were now industriously spread that the Rebels would certainly soon attack Boston on all Sides; that great preparations were making up Mistick

River, that in the Night time Boats were to come close along Shore by Dorchester Point, and crossing Gallows Creek enter the Town on that Side, where they thought it least defended. The Knowledge of the Rebels being very numerous in the Neighbourhood of Boston, and of their having collected some hundred of Whale Boats in the Rivers and at different parts of the Bay, perhaps made such Rumours be more attended to. Be that as it may; The *Falcon* hawled into the Creek as far as she could, and the *Nautilus* did the same at the mouth of the River leading to Mistick. Both these Sloops at that time were in a manner useless as Cruizers. The *Nautilus* had all her Rigging and Masts to examine; her Sails wanted mending, and the Vessel many Repairs, and had many sick people: The *Falcon* was rather in worse plight with respect to Sails and Rigging, having had a great deal of bad weather going to and coming from [New] Providence, but she was more considerably so in point of men, being upwards of twenty Seamen short of Complement besides near as many sick on board and at the Hospital. But although these Sloops were not then in a Condition to go to Sea, they were of Service in the Harbour while the Alarm of being attacked lasted: At the same time they were employed in refitting, and their sick and fatigued people had time to recover.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 152, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO FRANCIS LEGGE<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Preston Boston 20th Octr 1775

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having been pleased to direct that his Majesty's Squadron serving in America shall be supplied with fresh Meat at all Opportunities, I have directed the Agent to the Contractor to purchase Cattle Sheep and Hay, wherever they can be had. In consequence whereof he sends to Halifax the Brig *William*, James McEwen, Master, and I shall be greatly obliged to your Excellency to allow what Cattle Sheep and Hay can be purchased, to be shipped on board the said Brig for the use of his Majs Squadron at Boston. I send also two Transports one to bring Essence of Spruce and Wood, the other Stores for the Squadron, and I have desired that what Hay can be procured may be put into the Transports. It may be necessary to repeat to your Excellency that I shall constantly observe this Method of Application for what shall be wanted for the Kings Ships, and that all other applications in the name of the Squadron must be for private purposes. I am &c

Sam<sup>l</sup> Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 101, BM.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR.<sup>1</sup>

Plymouth

20 [October, 1775], Got the Ramers & Spunges &c. for the Guns, – Went to Marshfield abt 10 miles to Look for a Vessell but found none Suitable.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

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

Sir

Tionderoga 20th October 1775.

Since doing Myself the Honor to write You this Morning, by the Gentlemen who brought Your Dispatches, two very material Matters have occurred to me, and I send this by Express to overtake the Gentlemen.

I have unfortunately too, too much Reason to apprehend that very few of the Troops to the Northward will engage to remain in Canada, should we succeed; what is to be done in such a Case, – the Season is too far advanced to raise Troops below, & should they refuse to reinlist how dreadful the Consequences.

From whence are the Troops in Canada (on a Supposition that we succeed and they willing to remain) to be supplied with Ammunition, as Mr Carlton; will most certainly destroy all, should he be obliged to quit the Country, & we shall have none left.

These Matters I humbly conceive require the immediate Attention of Congress. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph. Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 238, NA.

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

[New York] Die Veneris, 9 HO. A.M. October 20th, 1775.

In pursuance of the order of yesterday, Timothy Doughty, a prisoner, being brought to the door, was called in. The letter from the chairman of the committee of Dutchess county, and all the affidavits and proofs against the said Timothy Doughty were read in his presence; and the said Timothy Doughty who declined a trial by the committee of the county where he resides, and put himself, as to all the charges against him, on this Congress, was fully heard in his denial of the charges against him, and his defence, and ordered to withdraw; and the Congress came to a determination thereon in the words following, to wit:

In Provincial Congress, New-York, Oct. 20th, 1775.

The Congress having taken the case of Timothy Doughty, now a prisoner before them, into their serious consideration, do determine, that notwithstanding his constant denial of the matters laid to his charge, they are of opinion that the said Timothy Doughty hath formerly entertained designs and opinions inimical to the great cause of American liberty, and been a principal instigator of the disturbances which have of late prevailed in the county of Dutchess, and that therefore he hath merited the hardships and sufferings which he hath sustained during his imprisonment. Nevertheless as he did continue in prison when he had an opportunity to escape, and did voluntarily repose himself upon the equity of this Congress, and hath farther promised that he will for the future demean himself in a peaceable and orderly manner, the Congress do resolve to acquit the said Timothy Doughty from any further punishment and recommend it to their constituents to receive him again as a member of the community.

The said Timothy Doughty was thereupon called in and the determination of the Congress read to him, and by order of Congress a certified copy thereof was delivered to him, and he was thereupon discharged.

*Ordered*, That another certified copy thereof be delivered to the chairman of the committee of Dutchess county.

Mr. Jonathan Lawrence of the city of New-York, being highly recommended to this Congress for his great vigilance, activity, care, prudence, skill, management, and unremitting industry, as a proper person for a commissioner to carry on and forward, with the utmost despatch and vigour, the fortifications erecting on the banks of Hudson's river in the Highlands, in this Colony, and that he is cheerfully willing to undertake that service:

*Ordered*, That the said Jonathan Lawrence be appointed a commissioner for that purpose, in the stead and to supply the place of Mr. John Hanson, whose private affairs have obliged him to decline that servi[c]e.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 181-183.

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

[Philadelphia] Friday, October 20, 1775

The Comee appointed to prepare a letter to the Genl to be sent by Captn McPherson reported the same, which was read and agreed to.

On motion made, *Resolved*, that an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of the Captn J. Macpherson for the sum of three hundred dollars.

*Resolved*, That three hundred dollars be paid to Captain John Macpherson, to defray the expences of his journey to the camp, he to be accountable.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 301.

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

Sir,

Philada 20. Octr 1775

Captn John Macpherson having informed the Congress, that he had invented a method, by which with their leave, he would take or destroy every ministerial armed vessel in North America, they appointed Govr [Stephen] Hopkins, Mr [Peyton] Randolph & Mr [John] Rutledge to confer with him on the subject, for he would not consent to communicate the secret to any but a committee & you. These Gentlemen reported, that the scheme in theory appeared practicable, and that though its success could not be relied on without experiment, they thought it well worth attempting on the fleet in & about Boston harbour, their destruction being an object of the utmost consequence. The Congress have therefore directed Capt Macpherson to repair immediately to Cambridge. They recommend this Matter to your particular attention & request, that if you view it in the light, which the Committee did you will give him all the support & assistance in your power & furnish him with every thing which he may require for this service—I am Sir [&c.]

John Hancock Presidt --

1. *Washington Papers*, LC.



*Peyton Randolph. By John Wollaston, date unknown.*

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

Dr. Sir, —

[Philadelphia] Octr. 20, 1775

The Bearer of this is John McPherson Esq. He is a Genius — an old Sea Warriour, Nine or ten Times wounded in Sea Fights.

He has a son in the Service — Aid de Camp to Schuyler — a very sensible Man.

Of Mr. McPherson's Errand to the Camp ask no Questions and I will tell you no false News. It will make a Noise in Time — but for the present for Gods sake let not a Word be said.

I hope all our Friends who have Opportunity will shew him Respect.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 156.

JOURNAL OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSEMBLY <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Friday, October 20, 1775

Upon motion,

The House took into Consideration Part of the Memorial from the Committee of Safety recommending the Appointment of a Commodore or Commander in Chief of the armed Boats provided for the Defence of this City and River, and after some time spent therein,

*Resolved*, That it is their opinion such an Officer is at this Time necessary, and that it be referred to the Committee of Safety to consider of, and report to the House, a person Proper for the Service.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 8th series, VIII, 7312. This is printed, and erroneously referred to as "In Congress," in John Almon, ed., *The Remembrancer or Impartial Repository of Public Events* [1776] (London, 1776), Part I, 121. Hereafter cited as Almon, ed., *Remembrancer*.

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

[Philadelphia] October 20th.

Upon application of Messrs. Wharton & Humphreys, for a sum of money towards the payment of two armed Boats they built,

An order was drawn by order of the Board, on Michael Hillegas, Esq'r., in their favor for two hundred and fifty Pounds.

The Pilots attended this day, and offer'd to undertake the service they were to be appointed to, at the Rate of seven pounds ten shillings pr month, and will attend again tomorrow to know the sence of this Board as to their proposals.

Edward Chamberlain, Master at Arms, Certifies that Capt. Henry Dougherty receiv'd on Board his Boat Eleven Muskets, bought of Nathaniel Monro, at 90s pr piece.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 373-375.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, OCT. 20." <sup>1</sup>

By a gentleman just arrived from the Jerseys, we are favoured with the following intelligence, which he received yesterday about noon from Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, a young Gentlemen of character, who lives about 25 miles from the sea-side, viz

That a transport vessel, from whence, or where bound, not certainly known, was on shore at Brigantine Beach, (about 60 miles from this city) on Tuesday afternoon last [October 17],<sup>2</sup> that a Captain, Lieutenant and Serjeant, of regulars, had come to shore on the Beach, and offered a large sum in half johanneses to a man there, to put them on board a man of war, which they apprehended not to be far distant, which was refused.<sup>3</sup>

At the same time several sailors came on shore, who said they had been pressed on board, and informed, that some barrels of gunpowder, with the small arms, were hove overboard, with some soldiers clothing; the vessel was left on a careen, with the sand nearly up to her quarter deck:—The sailors left the beach, and come over to the main, when it is said, they took to the woods.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 4 to January 6, 1776. The *Chronicle* erroneously dated the letter October 30.
2. The transport ship *Rebecca and Francis*, George Hastings, master.
3. Captain Duncan Campbell and Lieutenant James Smith Sims, of the Royal Highland Regiment of Emigrants. See *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, October 24, and Journal of the Continental Congress, October 25, 1775.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, SUPPLEMENT, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1775

Williamsburg, October 20.

Yesterday the Committee of Safety received advice, by express, that two vessels had arrived in Hampton road with a reinforcement of soldiers for lord Dunmore, said to amount to about 200 men. They are the troops which his lordship sent for to St. Augustine, and which, in our last, were said then to have arrived, some vessels having been seen coming in which were supposed to be those expected by lord Dunmore.

Last wednesday [October 18] lord Dunmore, with 140 men, went upon an expedition to Kemp's landing, in Princess Anne county, about ten miles from Norfolk, in a number of boats, and one of the men of war's tenders. They landed at a place called Newtown, two miles below, about dusk, and immediately marched up to Kemp's, where they broke open a blacksmith's shop, and destroyed about 50 muskets, which he had to repair, then fell to pillaging a number of other houses, and, by some means or other, got into their possession two officers in the minute service, and four private men. The chief object of this *notable expedition* was to intercept a quantity of gunpowder *lately imported*, which luckily had been carried off some time before, and is now safely lodged, out of the reach of lord Dunmore, and all *his gang*.

THOMAS ROBERTS TO ST. GEORGE TUCKER <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir/

Virginia Norfolk Octr 20th 1775 –

These will Meet you & all our friends I hope in a Much Better Situation then we are in at Present, this Morning we have had About 200 More Soulders from St Augusteen the Remaining part of the Regiment, I have but Little news to Write you & that Not Verry Agreeable to you I Suppose, Every thing here in the Gratest Confusion Imaginable, all our Fighting Men is all Gone off. Pore Thos Mathews is Taken on Board the Man of War, one of our Minuit Men, &

four Others this Week, two of the Robinsons A Brother Chip of yours is one of them which I Suppose you know,<sup>2</sup> they do Say their is Near 1200 Men at Williamsburg & 500 a Suffolk 400 Do a Camps [Kemp's] Landing, & Some at Smithfield & Hampton But What Quanty I Can't Tell. I wish I was with you & all my Family out of the Noise Which shall be Some time this Winter if his Honour will Permit me to Pass,

their is Nothing to be done here now, nor we Can't Collect our Debts, they seem to Laugh at you if you ask for Money now a Days We have had no Late News from England But Expect Every Day some, the Man of War has Distroy'd & Taken all the Amunition in & Near Norfolk, this is all the News I have Please give my Compliments to Mrs Campbell & Mrs Gilchrist & Children, Likewise your Fathers Family all, & I Remain [&c.]

Thomas Roberts

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, CW.

2. Captain Thomas Matthews of the Virginia militia, and William Robinson, a delegate from Princess Anne County to the Virginia Assembly, had been seized in Norfolk.

LETTER FROM NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, TO A CORRESPONDENT IN  
ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Oct. 20, 1775.

All our ports are shut up by the men of war, so that no vessel is allowed to go from one river to another. This day two vessels arrived here with a number of Soldiers. Not a day passes but they are searching for arms, ammunition, &c. and have taken prisoners, and secured on board the ships, several Gentlemen whom they suspect to have been most active on the American side of the question. Most of the inhabitants have abandoned this town; most of the houses and shops are empty, and if there is not a speedy settlement, the whole of this Province must be ruined.

1. *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, December 25 to December 27, 1775.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU<sup>1</sup>

Octobr 1775	Moored in Elizbth River Virginia Abreast the Town of Norfolk
Friday 20	At 4 PM sent the Marines & some Seamen to Norfolk At 5 They Retd wth Six peices of Ordinance At 10 sent the Same on Shore & took Some powder At 7 they Retd wth 37 Casks of Holland Gin Sent the Tender out A Cruize

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>

[Johnston County] Friday October 20th 1775

Resolved, That Abner Nash, and James Coor Esquires, or either of them, be impowered to Charter one or more Vessels, and agree with Masters and Sea men at the port of New Bern, and load the same to such parts as they shall judge expedient, and with such Articles they may think proper; not exceeding

the sum of One thousand pounds, proclamation money, in order to procure Arms and Ammunition, for the use and Protection of this province, the same to be at the Hazard, risk, and Expence of this province

Resolved, That Mr President, And Richard Quince, and John Forster esquires, or either of them; be impowered to Charter one or more Vessels and agree with Masters and Sea men at the port of Wilmington and load the same to such parts as they shall judge expedient, and with such Articles, they may think proper; not exceeding the sum of one thousand pounds Proclamation Money in order to procure Arms and Ammunition for the use and protection of this province, the same to be at the hazard, risk and Expence of this province.

Resolved, That Whitmill Hill, esquire, be impowered to Charter a Vessel, and agree with one or more Masters and Seamen at the port of Edenton, and load the same to such parts as he shall judge expedient and with such Articles as he may think proper not exceeding the sum of One thousand pounds Proclamation Money in Order to procure Arms and Ammunition for the use and protection of this province, the same to be at the hazard, risk and Expence of this province

1. Secretary of State Papers, Box 306, NCDAH.

## 21 Oct.

STEPHEN HOOPER TO COATES & REYNELL, PHILADELPHIA<sup>1</sup>

Esteem'd Friends

Newbury Port Octor 21st 1775 -

Reynell & Coates I have now before me, your kind Letter of the 5th covering a Duplicate of what you wrote me p Saml White together with an Invoice of sundry Goods, ship'd me by his Vessel, for which am obliged, & shall carefully examine the Invoice, & note the same to your Credit - the Sail Makers Bill on the *Industry*, does not appear so extravagant as I at first imagin'd, & the particulars afford me a Sättisfaction. I am much obliged to you, for the Sketch of my Account from your Books, by which I find your Advances on [William] Willcombs Cargoe exceed my Expectations, & your kind Intentions to promote my Interest in this Adventure, are too conspicuous to admitt of a Doubt, in my Mind; & I hope you have not as yet suffer'd in any Respect on my Acct rather than that should take Place, I would have you dispose of as much Molasses as will ballance your Acct & from every Appearance I should wish to have the remainder lay in Store untill further Orders, unless you discover an Appearance of Danger of its being destroy'd by our unnatural Enemies, which God forbid: - I am very sensible that Large Quantities have been thrown into your City, but as it appears to me, our Commerce is now at an End, & the Consumption of that Article is exceeding great & of Course the Demand will soon run the Prices up to at least 2/-, If not, should our Affairs take a sudden turn, I should be glad to have that Molasses here, with which I could make a sure Profitt, before any fresh Importations from the Islands, could possibly take Place, as I am convinced there is not more than sufficient of that Article in this Colony, to answer the Demand of the ensuing Six Months, & but very little expected; these Reasons convince me that it would be prudent to keep it for a Price. I am glad to hear of Willcombs Arrival in Falmouth, & that he was design'd for Barcelona which should he arrive

there, will afford a better Chance for obtaining a further Employ for the Vessell, or for the Sale of her, in some Parts of the Streights, than in England, & I now imagine he will not return to you again, but pursue the Plan of freighting his Vessell untill he can dispose of her. – I am sorry to find the Underwriters with you, so averse to take on Pollicys, bound this Way, surely they have not an Idea of the Difficulties which will attend the Cruisers guarding this Coast; as they have no Harbour but Boston that they could presume to lay in; & the boisterous Season is too great for them to keep at Sea; which induces me to think the Risque is not half so great as they imagine & I really expected they would not have refus'd 12 PCt on the *Dalton* & Cargoe but as the Capitall is large, & the Prospect of her Voyage being able to afford a good Premium, I conclude to have the several Sums mention'd in my last, cover'd at 20 pCt if it cannot otherwise be done, but since I wrote you, I have seen an extract of a Letter from a young Gen[tlema]n who served Me 7 years in my Store, dated at Point Petre 15th Sept wherein he says, that Capt [Eleazer] Johnson was bound home, but that he could not sail from thence untill the first of Novr that the Season may be far advanc'd when he arriv'd on the Coast, which will bring him a Month Later than I at first imagin'd, tho' this [Fact] is agreable to what I wrote him under 2d Augt which Letter suppos'd must have got to hand. – I am glad to find Willcomb laid in so largely of Provisions, as that Article must be scarce & high all over Europe. – I observe the Reason for Willcombs taking from you so much Money, which is obvious to me. My Brother [Samuel] White is yet detain'd in Boston & no Prospect of his getting out, as all Communication is Stopp'd on both Sides, but now & then, a few run away in Boats in the Night; I find he has sold his Cargoe & obtain'd the Money. The unexpected Advance on Bills on London, have induc'd me to inclose you a Dr'ft for £ 300 sterling, that if you sh'd have Occasion to advance the Premium on the *Dalton*, I would not intrude too much on your Goodness of which I have had repeated Instances, or if you should not have Occasion to make that Use of the Money, it will serve to Lessen the Sum you are already in Advance for me. This Sett was sent to Boston for Sale, when the unhappy Battle of Lexington commenced, wch caused such Confusion that no Person was willing to purchase, it has therefore remain'd a Blank ever since, not having had Occasion to make Use of it, my Friends in London are appriz'd of its Date, & you may with Safety indorse it, & the next Post will hand you the second & Third of the Sett: –

Since Willcomb sail'd, I had a Brig arrived at Baltimore from the West Indies with a Load of Molasses, which neated me there 21d Currency, free of every Charge even the Duties, & she took in 7,000 Bushells Wheat a 5/3, & saild for Falmouth the 6th Sept consign'd to my Friends Champion Dickason & Co of London; should she arrive in Safety, I doubt not of a fortunate Adventure in her, as the Crops in Europe have fallen very short – I am sorry to find a Prospect of a Prohibition on Provisions with you, as we plac'd much Dependence on the Severity of our Winters to have bro't in large Quantities of Flour into this Province, a Plan for which, has been in Contemplation by a few of my Acquaintance, to Join in a Compy & to take up, abt 6 fishing Schooners, prime Sailors, to proceed in Rotation, either to Philadelphia or Baltimore as the Risque to either Place may appear lest, & to continue all Winter, by which Means we were in Hopes of

collecting f[ro]m 6 to 10,000 Barrells before March expir'd, the Profitts on which, would be very handsome, add to which it wd greatly serve the Inhabitants of this Part of the Colony, who will certainly want that Article very much before the Spring opens, but from the Hint you gave me, we must at present put a Stop to our Proceedings untill we can have further Advice, relative to this Matter; Should the underwriters appear backward in taking a Risque on Johnson at 20 pCt you may venture a little higher rather than not have it done, as her Voyage will afford a 50 pCt Premium, but this *sub Rosa* – therefore in Hopes of soon hearing from you, that this matter is finish'd to Sattisfaction, I subscribe myself, with Wishes of Health & a peaceable Enjoyment of our Possessions Your esteem'd Friend

Stephen Hooper –

[P.S.] [Andrew] Giddings Just arrived here in safety from your Port; left [Edward] Wigglesworth 3 days past who does not yet appear –

1. Feinstone Collection, DLAR. Although Hooper addressed the partnership as "Reynell & Coates" the firm's name was "Coates & Reynell."

NICHOLAS COOKE TO THE NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Cambridge October 21st 1775

Your Application to me by Messrs [Samuel] Dyre, [John] Jepson, and [John] Malbone engaged my utmost Attention; and I embraced the Opportunity of taking the Advice of a Committee of the Honble the Continental Congress, now sitting here, upon the important subject of it. They unanimously gave their Opinion that the Inhabitants of Newport should supply the Ships of War with Beer and fresh Provisions as usual provided Wallace complies with the Terms he hath offered; and that the Troops should be removed out of the Town. They are also unanimously of Opinion that the Troops ought to remain on the Island. I have written to this Effect to General Hopkins; and have also submitted to him to remove the Troops at a greater Distance from the Town if he shall think the Service will not suffer by it.

I am also to inform you that an Express arrived Yesterday at Head Quarters from Portsmouth, advising that on Tuesday last [October 17] a Naval Force supposed to be the Fleet from Boston consisting of one 64, One 20, Two 18 with a Bomb-Ketch or Two and a large Transport or Two full of Men appeared off Falmouth Casco-bay and demanded of the Inhabitants that they should deliver up their Arms & give Hostages for their future good Behavior. Upon Condition of this Delivery of Part of them the same Evening he gave them to the next Day to consider of the Proposal. They accordingly delivered him 8 Muskets. He showed the Committee his Orders which were positive to destroy the Town, and also the Town of Portsmouth, in Case they should refuse to comply with the Terms offered. A very heavy Cannonading was heard the next Day at Falmouth. I give you this Information that you may consider what Probability there is of your being treated in a similar Manner. I am, Gentlemen, &c.

Nich<sup>s</sup> Cooke

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 280–281.

NICHOLAS COOKE TO COLONEL ESEK HOPKINS<sup>1</sup>

Sir, —

Cambridge, October 21st, 1775

Messrs. S. Dyre, J. Jepson, and J. Malbone, have waited upon me with a Memorial from the Town Council of Newport, setting forth the deep distresses of that town, and pressing in the strongest terms for the removal of the troops. I laid the application before the Committee of the Continental Congress, now sitting here, who unanimously gave their advice that the inhabitants should supply Wallace with beer and fresh provisions for the use of the ships, as usual, upon his complying with the terms offered on his part; and that the troops should be kept out of the town of Newport. They were, also, unanimously of opinion that the troops should remain on the island. I accordingly recommend to you to keep the troops out of the town so long as Wallace shall keep his promise, and make no attempt upon it. As the inhabitants are under the greatest anxiety, I submit it to your judgment whether or not it will be consistent with the service and prudent to remove the troops to a further distance from the town. If it can be done with safety, I recommend it in order to quiet the minds of the people.

An express came to General Washington, yesterday, from Portsmouth, with advice that a naval force from Boston had appeared off Falmouth, Casco Bay, and demanded of the inhabitants the surrender of their arms and hostages for their future good behaviour. He offered, upon their delivering up part of their arms the same evening, to allow them to the next day to consider of the demands. They accordingly delivered him eight muskets. The next day a very heavy firing was heard upon Falmouth. The commander of the fleet showed his orders to the committee; which were to destroy the town, and Portsmouth, in case they should refuse to comply with the demand. To me it appears highly probable that Newport and the other sea-port towns, may soon expect a similar treatment.

1. *Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society*, VI, 131-132.

PAUL ALLEN TO NICHOLAS COOKE<sup>1</sup>

Hon'd Sir —

Head Quarters October 21st 1775 —

Inclosed I send you a Copy of my order to Mr Wilbour, who Lives on Rooms Farm on this Island, the reason for my takeing this method, was, that I found from Experance that many Supplys were brot from the Farm to his House in Town, and then caried aboard the Ships

have Sent Similar Orders to Slochom that Lives on Andrew Olivers Farm in Tivertown and Pearce that Lives on Tom Hutcherson Farm on Cannanicut — Desire to Know Whether it meets with your Approbation, as also of your Advise to know what to do with Benja Tears who I have here under Confinement for Suspition of his being unfreindly, and for Supplying his Majestys Ships with Some Stock & Provisions

and whether it would not be best to take Bally that goes in the Custon-House Boat as he is as Mischeavous as any One, prehaps in Newport

I am at Your Honors Command, P. ordr Genll [Esek] Hopkins

Paul Allen

P. Allen Expects to be at Home before he Ships<sup>2</sup>

1. FDRL.

2. Allen was Cooke's son-in-law and was about to depart for the West Indies in an attempt to obtain gunpowder.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Saturday, October 21, 1775.

Upon a Motion, *Ordered*, That Mr. Walker, Mr. Jewett, Col. Lovell, Col. Otis, and Mr. Story, be a Committee to consider the State of a Schooner belonging to George Erving and Captain Wormwell, and her Cargo, and report concerning the disposal of three Quarters of the Cargo, viz. That belonging to said Erving.<sup>2</sup>

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

2. See Reed to Bowen, October 20, 1775.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN EPHRAIM BOWEN, JR.<sup>1</sup>

Plymouth

21 [October, 1775]. Procured the Water Casks & Got them filled, rained all day -

1. Washington Papers, LC.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES <sup>1</sup>

[Newport] October 21.

Things quiet in Town The Men o' Wars pple not suffered to come ashore or have Provision.

1. Dexter, ed., *Diary of Ezra Stiles*, I, 626.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-HAVEN, IN AMERICA, OCT. 21."<sup>1</sup>

Last Sunday [October 15] was conducted into New London, by a Norwich Vessel, a Ship belonging to Virginia, which had been dismasted in the Storm of the 2d of September; she has 8000 Bushels of Grain on board, which the Captain says he was carrying to England, but the Matter will be enquired into.<sup>2</sup>

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, January 1, 1776.

2. The ship *Peggy*, William Barron, master. See *Connecticut Courant*, October 16, 1775.

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

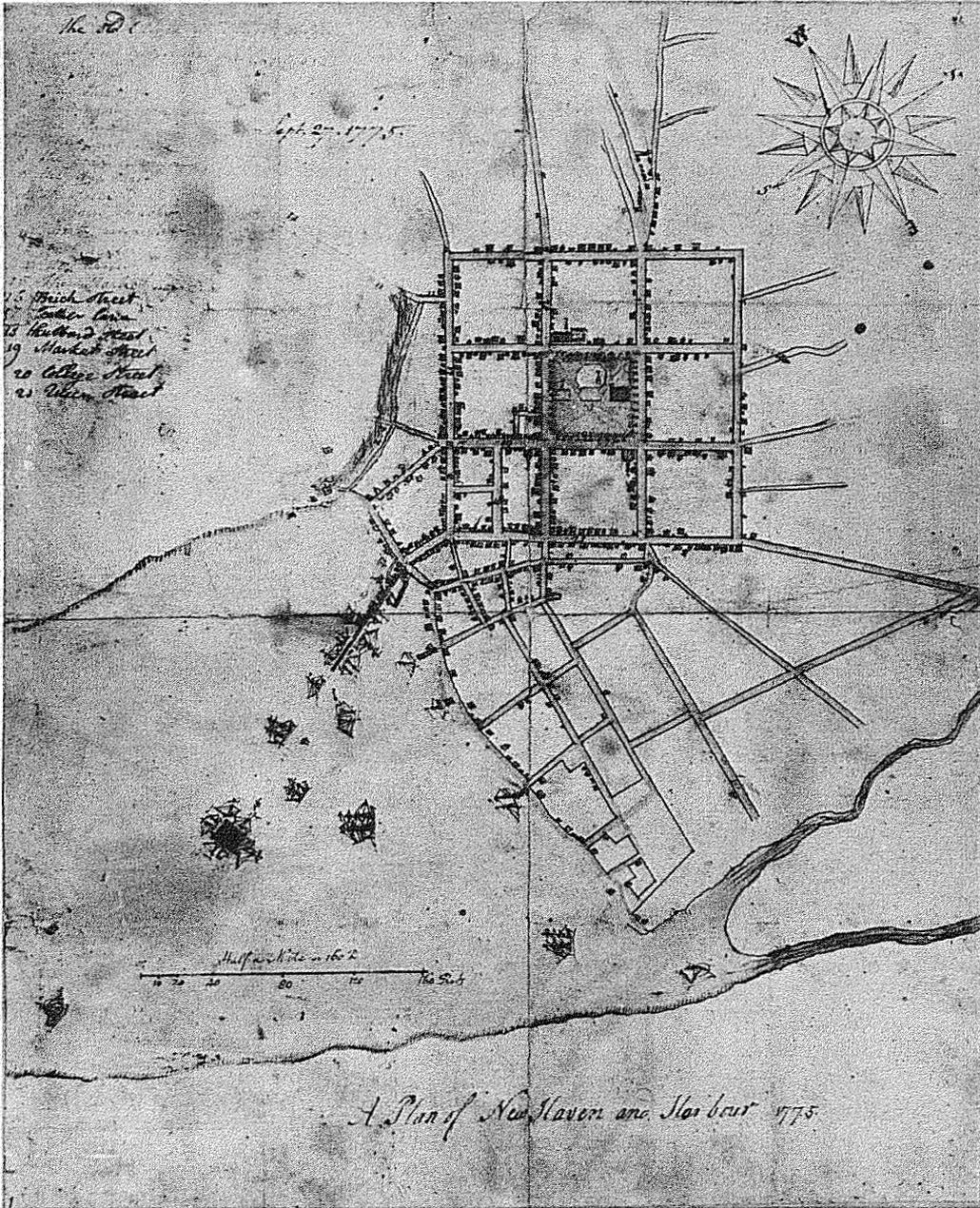
Sir

Tionderoga October 21st. 1775.

At four O'Clock this Afternoon I had the Honour to receive your Letter of the 12th Instant.

I should have been extremely happy, If Congress had been in Sentiment with me on the Necessity of a Delegation from that respectable Body to this Place, a Necessity which to me appears to be absolute.

A General Sir, who commands an Army in which Discipline and Subordination is established and prevails, and every Corps of which considers Itself under his immediate Command, can devote the greatest Proportion of his Time uninterruptedly to weigh every Measure that It may be necessary for him to pursue in Order to compleat the Wishes of his Superiors; Unfortunately for me I have seldom, very seldom indeed had half an Hour to Myself in any Period of this



Manuscript map of New Haven, Connecticut. By Ezra Stiles, 1775.

Campaign. Judge of my Situation at this Moment; General [David] Worster's Regiment detained here for three Days by violent Gales and heavy Rains, are now in Doubt whether they will proceed to the Army at St Johns, The General's Secretary and his Chaplain inform me, that many of the Officers & most of the Men, apprehend being detained in Canada all Winter; that they may be prevented by Frost from returning; that they will perish with Cold or Sickness; that if the Army should be under the Necessity of retreating from St Johns, many must fall a Sacrifice to the Enemy, as there will not be Boats suffici[ent] to bring them away, (altho' we really have Craft sufficient for a Thousand more than the Army consists of); That none but the General, his Secre[tary] and Champlain have any Inclination to proceed.

The Weather is now clearing, the Wind favourable and I wait in the most distressing Anxiety for the Morrow, to see the Event.

I shall dispatch a Copy of your Letter to General Montgomery, for him to Execute such of the Orders It contains as relate to the Affairs of Canada &c. I am happy that Congress has so just a Sense of that Gentleman's Abilities and Zeal his being in this Army has been the Source of vas[t] Consolation to me. I hope his Health will be continued to him that he may be enabled to support that Variety of Fatigue both of Mind and Body to which he is every moment exposed.

Were it possible to foresee the Result of our Operations at St Johns, I should be able to determine if it was necessary to build any Vesse[ls] of War on Lake Champlain, at present I am at a Loss what to do, but least any Detrimen[t] should arise to the Public from the Dilemma [I] am In, If it is the Intention of Congress to prepare Timber for constructing such Vessels without waiting the Event of our Operations, the Difference of Time it will take in, my sending t[o] New York for Carpenters or Congress sending ther[e] on Receipt of this and ordering them up, cannot be much, permit me however to observe that all that can be done this Fall will be to hew the Timber and prepare Roads to draw It out in Winter, so that the Shipwrights may begin their Work in April, I say this is all that can be done, for no Plank are to be had here, & if there was, Winter is so severe in this Latitude that no Building could be carried on.

If the Tun of Powder mentioned in Your Letter should be sent here, it will be vastly short of what this Garrison and Fort George ought to have should we be unfortunate at St Johns. – Should we succeed, a vastly greater Quantity will be wanted in Canada. –

Congress mentions a Garrison for Crown Point, I suppose that is founded on a Supposition that there is a Fortification at that Place, Whereas in Fact there is none. It may be possible this Fall to enclose the Barracks with a Pickett, but that is the most that can be done. And very much is wanted here, more (unless Canada should be ours) than can be at any Rate compleated this Campaign.<sup>2</sup>

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 242–244, NA; a copy in John Hancock Papers, III, LC.

2. Schuyler continued this letter for several days, and subsequent entries will appear under the dates written.

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

[New York] Die Sabbati, 9 HO. A.M. October 21st, 1775.

The Congress then proceeded to hear the proceedings of the Committee of Safety on the afternoon of the fifteenth day of September last.

On reading the order appointing Jacobus Van Zandt, Lewis Pintard and Henry Remsen a committee for the purposes therein mentioned, and to furnish them with £4,000, the Congress requested information what was done with the money, and what contract was made for importing the articles mentioned in that order.

The Congress was then informed by Mr. Van Zandt, that the £4,000 is sent out on the account and risk of the Provincial Congress, and whatever profits arise on said goods the Congress are to have the benefit of; that a vessel is chartered by Messrs. Jacobus Van Zandt, Henry Remsen and Lewis Pintard, to go to sundry places to obtain those goods for the sum of £550 sterling, payable on delivery of the said goods in any place within particular limits for that purpose mentioned in the charter party; but that in case of her being seized or taken on her voyage the owner of the vessel is to receive £300 sterling for her; that the vessel is to lay 40 working days to receive her cargo, after which she is to receive 40s per day demurrage; that whatever room may be in the vessel after the goods ordered by the freighters for the benefit of this Congress are laded on board, the owner or owners of the vessel have the liberty to fill up with any goods on their own account, without any deduction from the freight agreed for.

The Congress having received the above information approve of the proceedings of the Committee of Safety therein, and direct that an entry be made that the Congress does approve of the contract made by Messrs. Jacobus Van Zandt, Lewis Pintard and Henry Remsen, on behalf of the Congress; and that in the opinion of this Congress the said contract is a judicious, good contract, and on behalf of the Congress.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 183.

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

[Philadelphia] Saturday, October 21, 1775

A letter from Genl Washington dated 12 Octr with sundry enclose. was laid before the Congress and read.<sup>2</sup>

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 302.

2. The enclosures included copies of the orders given Captain Nicholson Broughton. This was the first time Congress had seen these orders. See Washington to Broughton, Volume 1, 1287-1289.

JOHN ADAMS' NOTES OF DEBATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] October 21, 1775

Saturday. *Zubly*. We can't do without powder, intelligence, drugs. Georgia must have an Indian war, if they can't supply the Indians. The Creeks and Cherokees are in our Province; we must have Indian trade. Four millions have been spent in six months. We have been successful, but we have gained little;

all the power of Great Britain, it is true, has gained very little. New England has been at great expense, so has New York; Pennsylvania has spent a hundred thousand pounds of their money, to fortify their river; Virginia as much; North Carolina a great deal; South Carolina have issued a million. Eighteen millions of dollars is an enormous sum of money; whenever your money fails you fail too. We are to pay six millions now, twelve millions more presently, and have no trade. I would bear the character of a madman, or that of an emissary of Lord North, rather than believe it possible to pay eighteen millions of dollars without trade. Can we make bricks without straw? We can live upon acorns; but will we?

*Wythe* . . . Commerce, whether we consider it in an economical, a moral, or political light, appears to be a great good; civility and charity, as well as knowledge, are promoted by it. The *auri sacra fames* is a fine subject for philosophers and orators to display themselves upon; but the abuse of a thing is not an argument against it. If the gentleman was possessed of the philosopher's stone, or Fortunatus's cap, would he not oblige the continent with the use of it? Why should not America have a navy? No maritime power near the sea-coast can be safe without it. It is no chimera. The Romans suddenly built one in their Carthaginian war. Why may not we lay a foundation for it? We abound with firs, iron ore, tar, pitch, turpentine; we have all the materials for construction of a navy. No country exceeds us in felicity of climate or fertility of soil. America is one of the wings upon which the British eagle has soared to the skies. I am sanguine and enthusiastical enough to wish and to hope that it will be sung, that America *inter nubila condit*.

British navy will never be able to effect our destruction. Before the days of Minos, nations round the Archipelago carried on piratical wars. The Moors carry on such wars now, but the pillars of Hercules are their *ne plus ultra*. We are too far off for Britain to carry on a piratical war. We shall, sometime or other, rise, superior to all the difficulties they may throw in our way. I wont say, there is none that doeth good in Britain, no, not one; but I will say, she has not righteous persons enough to save their State. They hold those things honorable which please them, and those for just which profit them. I know of no instance where a Colony has revolted, and a foreign nation has interposed to subdue them; but many to the contrary. If France and Spain should furnish ships and soldiers, England must pay them. Where are her finances? Why should we divert our people from commerce, and banish our seamen? Our petition may be declared to be received graciously, and promised to be laid before Parliament, but we can expect no success from it. Have they ever condescended to take notice of you? Rapine, depopulation, burning, murder. Turn your eyes to Concord, Lexington, Charlestown, Bristol, New York; there you see the character of Ministry and Parliament. We shall distress our enemies by stopping trade; granted. But how will the small quantities we shall be able to export supply our enemies? Tricks may be practised. If desire of gain prevails with merchants, so does caution against risks.

*Gadsden*. I wish we could keep to a point. I have heard the two gentlemen with a great deal of pleasure. I have argued for opening our ports, but am for shutting them until we hear the event of our petition to the King, and longer

until Congress shall determine otherwise. I am for a navy too, and I think that shutting our ports for a time will help us to a navy. If we leave our ports open, warm men will have their ships seized and moderate ones will be favored.

*Lee.* When you hoist out a glimmering of hope that the people are to be furnished from abroad, you give a check to your own manufactures.

*Chase.* A glove has been offered by the gentleman from Georgia, and I beg leave to discharge my promise to that gentleman, to answer his arguments. My position was this; that the gentleman's system would end in the total destruction of American liberty. I never shall dispute self-evident propositions.

The present state of things requires reconciliation or means to carry on war. Intelligence we must have; we must have powder and shot; we must support the credit of our money. You must have a navy to carry on the war. You can't have a navy says the gentleman. What is the consequence? I say, that we must submit. Great Britain, with twenty ships, can destroy all our trade, and ravage our seacoast; can block up all your harbors, prevent your getting powder. What is the consequence? That we should submit. You can't trade with nobody; you must trade with somebody; you can't trade with anybody but Great Britain, therefore, I say, we must submit. We can't trade with foreigners, the gentleman said. The whole train of his reasoning proved that we must break our whole association, as to exports and imports. If we trade with Great Britain, will she furnish us with powder and arms? Our exports are about three millions; would Britain permit us to export to her, and receive cash in return? It would impoverish and ruin Great Britain. They will never permit a trade on our side, without a trade on theirs. Gentlemen from New York would not permit tobacco and naval stores to be sent to Great Britain; nothing that will support their naval power or revenue. But will not this break the Union? Would three Colonies stop their staple when the other Colonies exported theirs? Fifteen hundred seamen are employed by the tobacco Colonies – one hundred and twenty-five sail of British ships; but you may drop your staple, your tobacco; but it is difficult to alter old habits. We have a great number of female slaves that are best employed about tobacco. North Carolina cannot, will not, give up their staple. The gentleman from Georgia was for trading with Great Britain and all the world. He says we can't trade with any nation but Britain therefore we must trade with Britain alone. What trade shall we have, if we exclude Britain, Ireland, West Indies, British and foreign? Eastern Provinces might carry it on with a small fleet, if their harbors were fortified. Southern Colonies cannot. Eastern Colonies can't carry on their trade to that extent, without a naval power to protect them, not only on the coast, but on the ocean, and to the port of their destination. The same force that would assist the Eastern Colonies, would be of little service to us in summer time; it must be a small, narrow, and limited trade.

The best instrument we have, is our opposition by commerce. If we take into consideration Great Britain in all her glory; Commons voted eighteen, twenty millions last war; eighty thousand seamen, from her trade alone; her strength is all artificial, from her trade alone. Imports from Great Britain to the United Colonies are three millions per annum; fifteen millions to all the world; one fifth; three

quarters is British manufactures. A thousand British vessels are employed in American trade; twelve thousand sailors; all out of employ. What a stroke! I don't take into view Ireland or West Indies. Colonies generally indebted about one year's importation; the revenue of tobacco alone half a million, if paid. North Britain enter less than the quantity, and don't pay what they bought; it employs a great number of manufacturers; reexported abroad, is a million; it is more. Eighty thousand hogsheads are reexported, and it pays British debts. The re-export employs ships, sailors, freight, commissions, insurance.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 499-502.

FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE TO LANDON CARTER <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia Octr 21st 1775

my dear Col. I received your Letter with great pleasure, tho contrary to your expectation it paid postage to the hated Post office. as the constitutional post now goes regularly, we may with a safe conscience say how d'ye to each other. It gives me concern to hear that you are withdrawing from public business; upon my word, this is not a time for men of abilities with good intentions to be only spectators, if we cant do all the good we cou'd wish, let us at least endeavour to prevent all the mischief in our power. Your good friend Ld Dunmore is endeavouring to raise all the powers on earth to demolish poor Virginia. We have advice, that at his earnest sollicitation a fleet may be expected this fall to ravage our defenceless plantations & burn our little Towns, And we have lately discover'd a plot of his & [John] Conolly's, which is to be executed in the following manner. Conolly despairing of getting up the Country through Virga or the Carolina's, is to go to St Augustine from thence to the Creeks & Cherokees, and through all the tribes to Detroit, by general [Thomas] Gage's commission he is to have the Garrison & Cannon of that place, & the assistance of the french at that settlement with all these he is to form an army in the spring, & march to Pittsburgh, from thence to Alexandria, proclaiming freedom to all servants that will enlist; there he is to be joined by Dunmore with the fleet & troops from England & march through the Country . . . We have given the earliest intelligence of these schemes to our Com. of safety, & hope with their endeavours assisted by the Carolinas & Georgia, that Conolly may be intercepted this fall or winter. Our military operations this campaign have been very languid from the want of powder, but we still hope our success in Canada will be such, as to cut a figure for the first essay, such measures have been taken, as give us good reason to expect a plentiful supply of that necessary article before the next spring, and then we shall be in readiness to receive the very warm attack, which from all our advices, the Ministry are preparing for us, but least then we shou'd fail in being supply'd from abroad, every man shou'd exert himself in making saltpetre. Your several plantations wou'd furnish a good deal & you know the process is easy. with plenty of powder the Victory is surely ours. —

1. F. L. Lee Letters, VHS. Lee was a Virginia delegate in the Continental Congress.

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

[Philadelphia] October 21st

The Pilots attended this day, when they agreed to enter into the Service of this Province, at the rate of Six pounds p Month, for the purpose of Piloting all Vessels from Chester through the Machines sunk near Fort Island to this City, and from this City to Chester; when it was unanimously

*Resolved*, That Michael Dawson, James Roberts, Joseph Gamble, William Molleston, Daniel Gordon, William Marshall, Nehemiah Maule, John Snyder, Matthew Strong, and William Ross, Pilots, be employed in the above services, at the said Rate of Six pounds p Month. And that Mr. [George] Clymer, Mr. [Robert] White, Mr. [John] Nixon, Mr. [Thomas] Wharton [jr.], and Mr. [James] Mease, or any three of them, be a Committee to draw up Instructions for the Pilots, and the form of the Oath they are to take, And that the said Committee are to have the whole direction of the said Pilots and the services they are to perform.

Capt. William Bradford having informed the Vice President that Major Wescott of New Jersey, was arrived in this City, with the Captain of a Transport Ship lately Cast away on Brig't Beach, near Egg Harbour, he order'd the Committee to be Summon'd, when the following Members appear'd:

Robert Morris, James Mease, George Clymer, George Taylor, Bernard Dougherty, Alexander Wilcocks, James Biddle, Andrew Allen, John Montgomery, Thomas Wharton, jun'r, Owen Biddle, Michael Swoope, John Cadwalader, Daniel Roberdeau, George Ross.

Capt. George Hastings, late Commander of the above mention'd Transport, being brought before the Committee, gave the following intelligence:

That he was Master of the Ship *Rebecca & Francis*, of two hundred and ninety-three tons Burthen, owned in London by James Mather; that he left Boston the 5th of October, for New York, with two Commission'd Officers—Capt. Duncan Campbell, and Lieut. Symes; two Sergeants, named Hugh Morrison and William Forster, and twenty-one privates, belonging to a Regiment Raising in America; That he understood they were going to New York, for the purpose of Recruiting; that last Monday Morning, before day, the weather being hazy, the Ship *Rebecca and Francis* Struck on the Shore at Brigantine Beach, where she is Stranded; That Capt. Campbell parted with him at the Beach on Tuesday Evening, and he supposes made the best of his way to New York, in Some Boat; but did not see him go into any boat, as it was Dark when he left his Tent; That Lieut. Symes went away Tuesday about noon, in a Small Boat, with an Elderly Man, dressed like a Fisherman; That they had on Board Sixty Firelocks, with Bayonets and Cartouch Boxes, and two Barrels and a half of Powder, all which were thrown into the Sea; That on the 20th July last, the said Capt. Campbell Sail'd with him from Boston to New York, and Carried between 50 and Sixty recruits from New York to Boston; That the said Capt. Campbell had been in the 42nd Regim't,

lived in Duchess County, New York Government, and has a wife and children there; That he, the Capt. of the Vessel, was not order'd to apply to any person at New York, but to lie under the protection of the *Asia* Ship of War; That Capt. Campbell frequently sent the Boat ashore for the Recruits that were raised for him; That the Soldiers now brought in said Ship were some of those enlisted at New York, & carried by Capt. Campbell to Boston in July last.

That General Gage and the Officers of the 48th & 59th Regt's are going home in a Transport Vessel of 16 Guns.

That Bills of £100 St'g sold in Boston for £80. That no men of War or Troops had gone to Quebec; Neither had they an account of an Expedition against Quebec, but there was a talk of one against Halifax.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 375-379.

### MILITARY STORES & AMMUNITION PUT ON BOARD THE GONDOLAS <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia, Saturday, October 21, 1775] <sup>2</sup>

#### The Experiment Capn [Benjamin] Thom[p]son

50 18 Pr round Shot	10 lb Match
100 do Wadds	1 Lead Apron
2 do Rammers & Sponges	15 Cutlasses
2 do Wadd Hooks & Ladles	8 Cross Barr shot
2 do Cartridge Boxes	60 Grape do
1 do Bed & Quine [Quoin]	50 lb Partridge do
2 Powder Horns Bitts & priming Irons	1 Budge Bbl
2 Iron Crows	1 Wadd Hook for Swivels
2 Hand Spikes	10 Pikes
4 Match Stocks	4 Boxes 18 pr 32 Cartridges 4½ lb
3 Lanthorns	100 Swivel do ½

#### Franklin Capn [Nicholas] Biddle

50 24 Pr round Shot	7 Cross Barr Shot
40 do Wadds	80 lb ¼ Grape Shot
1 do Rammer & Sponge	50 lb Partridge Shot
1 do Wadd Hook & Ladle	1 Budge Barrel
2 do Cartridge Boxes	2 Pr Pistols
2 Horn Bitts & Wires	10 lb Match
1 Iron Crow	1 Bed & Quine
2 Hand Spikes	1 Tomkin
2 Lanthorns	1 Box 24 Pr 8 Cartridges each 8⅓ lb
2 Match Stocks	3 do 24 do do 6
1 Bed & Quine	80 do Swivels ⅙
2 Rammers	20 do Swivels ⅙
1 Wadd Hook for Swivels	10 Pikes
15 Cutlasses	



Washington Capn [Henry] Dougherty

53 32 pr Round Shot	1 Apron Lead
2 do Rammers & Sponges	1 Budge Barrel
2 do Ladles & Wadd Hooks	80 lb 1¼ Grape Shot
2 do Cartridge Boxes	50 lb Partridge do
2 Horns, Bitts & priming Irons	9 Cross Barrs
1 Iron Crow	10 Pikes
2 Hand Spikes	15 Cutlasses
10 lb Match	1 pr Pistols
2 Lanthorns	1 Box 32 pr 8 Cartridges 11 lb Powder
1 Quine	do 24 do 6
8 Wadds	100 do Swivel ⅙
4 Match Stocks	

Bull-Dog Capn [Alexander] Henderson

50 18 Pr Round Shot	1 Hammer
100 do Wadds	2 Swivel Guns
2 do Rammer & Sponges	16 do Shot
2 do Wadd Hooks & Ladles	1 Budge Barrel
2 do Cartridge Boxes	2 Bitts
1 Bed & Quine	10 & 5 Cutlasses
1 Lead Apron	50 lb Partridge Shot
3 Horns, Bitts & priming Irons	10 Pikes
2 Iron Crows	1 Tomkin
2 Hand Spikes	4 Boxes 18 Pr 32 cartridges 4½ lb
4 Match Stocks	80 do Swivel ⅙
3 Lanthorns	20 do Cow
10 lb Slow Match	Horns
8 Cross Barr Shot	[Co-
144 Grape Shot lb 1¼	horns]
1 Fuimer [Former]	⅙
12 Hand Grenades	

Congress Capn [John] Hamilton

50 24 Pr Round Shot	6 Cross Barr Shot
22 do Wadds	50 lb Partridge Shot
2 do Rammer & Sponges	60 1¼ lb Grape Shot
2 do Wadd Hook & Ladles	1 Budge Barrel
2 do Cartridge Cases	10 & 5 Cutlasses
1 Quine	10 lb Slow Match
2 Horn Bitts & Wire	1 Pair Pistols
1 Iron Crow	6 Rammers & Wadds Swivels
2 Hand Spikes	2 Boxes Powder 24 Pr 16 Cartridges 8¼
4 Match Stocks	2 do do 16 do 6
4 Lanthorns	80 Swivel ⅙
1 Lead Apron	20 do ⅙
10 Pikes	

Dickinson Capn [John] Rice

50 24 Pr Round Shot	4 Rammers & 1 Worm for Swivels
30 do Wadds	10 Pikes & 1 Budge Barrel
1 do Wadd Hook & Ladle	70 1¼ lb Grape Shot
1 do Rammer & Sponge	50 lb Partridge do
2 do Cartridge Cases	15 Granades
2 Horn Bitts & Wires	1 pair Pistols
1 Iron Crow	1 Lead Apron
2 Hand Spikes	4 Boxes 24 Pr 32 Cartridges 2:8½ lb
2 Lanthorns	2:6½
2 Match Stocks	100 Swivel do ⅙
10 lb Match	

Effingham Capn [Allen] Moore

50 18 Pr Round Shot	60 Grape do
40 do Wadds	50 lb Partridge do
1 do Rammer & Sponge	15 Cutlasses
1 do Wadd Hook & Ladle	1 Budge Barrel
2 do Cartridge Boxes	10 lb Match
3 Horns, Bitts & Wire	1 Lead Apron
2 Hand Spikes	20 Swivel Cartridges
1 Iron Crow	10 Pikes
2 Lanthorns	1 Box Pow. 18 Pr 8 Cartridges 6½
2 Match Stocks	3 Boxe do 24 Do 4¼
8 Cross Barr Shot	80 Swivel ⅙

Hancock Capn Tho[ma]s Moore

50 18 Pr Round Shot	1 Lead Apron
50 do Wadds	15 Cutlasses
2 do Rammers & Sponges	1 Pair Pistols
2 do Wadd Hook & Ladles	10 lb Match
2 Cartridge Cases	60 Grape Shot
1 Quine	50 lb Partridge Shot
2 Horns Bitts & Wires	8 Cross Barr do
1 Crow	10 Pikes
2 Hand Spikes	4 Boxes 18 Pr 32 Cartridges 4½ lb
4 Match Stocks	100 Swivels do ⅙
2 Lanthorns	

Burke Capn [James] Blair

50	18 Pr Round Shot	1 Tomkin	
8	do Cross Barr	1 Quine	
20	do Wadds	2 Match Stocks	
2	do Wadd Hooks & Ladles	10 lb Match	
2	do Rammers & Sponges	10 Pikes	
2	do Cartridge Boxes	15 Cutlasses	
2	Lanterns	1 Pair Pistoles	
2	Horn Bitts & Wires	4 Boxes 18 Pr 32 Cartridges Powder	6 lb
2	Hand Spikes	80 Swivel	$\frac{1}{6}$
1	Iron Crow	20 do	$\frac{1}{6}$
1	Lead Apron		

Chatham Capn [Charles] Alexander

50	24 Pr Round Shot	3 Match Stocks	
10	do Cross Barr Do	15 Hand Granades	
30	do Wadds	2 Sheep Skins	
1	do Rammer & Sponge	100 lb Partridge Shot	
1	do Wadd Hook & Ladle	60 $1\frac{1}{2}$ Grape do	
2	do Cartridge Cases	30 Landgridge [langrage]	
4	Horn Bitts & Wires	1 Ammunition Chest	
2	Iron Crows	10 lb Match	
2	Hand Spikes	1 Budge Bbl	
2	Lanterns	15 Cutlasses & 1 Pair Pistols	
1	Lead Apron	4 Boxes 24 Pr 32 Cartridges	16 lb
10	Pikes	120 Swivels do	$\frac{1}{6}$

Ranger Capn [James] Montgomery

50	18 Pr Round Shot	12 & 3 Cutlasses	
8	do Cross Barr	60 $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb Grape Shot	
30	do Wadds	50 lb Partridge do	
2	do Rammers & Sponges	2 Boxes Powder 18 Pr 16 cartridges	
2	do Wadd Hooks & Ladles		$6\frac{1}{8}$ lb
2	do Cartridge Cases		46 Do Swivel $\frac{1}{6}$
1	Quine		Case Powder 4
1	Lead Apron	2 Boxes Powder 18 Pr 16 Cartridges	$4\frac{1}{2}$
1	Iron Crow	1 Budge Barrel	
4	Hand Spikes	6 Lead Apron for Swivel Weighting	
2	Lanterns	4 lb	
4	Horns Bitts & Wires	1 Pair Pistols	
2	Match Stocks	15 Hand Granades	
10	lb Match	70 Swivel Cartridges	$\frac{1}{6}$
4	Rammers & 1 Hook for Swivels	10 Pikes	

Camden [Camden] Capn [Richard] Eyres

50	18 Pr Round Shot	10	Pikes
8	do Cross Barr	1	Budge Bbl
20	do Wadds	1	Quine
2	do Wadd Hook & Ladles	4	Match Stocks
2	do Rammers & Sponges	10	lb Match
3	do Cartridge Cases	2	Rammer & 1 Wadd Hook for Swivels
2	Lanthorns	8	Double Head Shot
4	Horns Bitts & Wires	60	1¼ lb Grape Shot
2	Hand Spikes	50	lb Partridge Shot
1	Iron Crow	4	Boxes 18 Pr 32 Cartridges 4½ lb
1	Lead Apron		80 Swivel do
1	Tomkin		20 do ⅙
10	& 5 Cutlasses		

Warren Capn [Samuel] Davidson

50	18 Pr Round Shot	10	lb Match
8	do Cross Barr do	1	worm & 2 Swivel Rammers
2	do Rammers & Sponges	1	Budge Barrel
2	do Wadd Hooks & Ladles	10	& 5 Cutlasses
3	do Cartridge Cases	60:	1½ lb Grape Shot
1	Quine	50	lb Partridge do
1	Lead Apron	10	Pikes
2	Horns Bitts & Wire	15	Hand Granades
1	Iron Crow	14	lb Lead for Aprons
2	Hand Spikes	2	Boxes 18 Pr 16 Cartridges 4½ lb
2	Match Stocks	2	do 16 do 4½
2	Lanthorns		100 Swivel ⅙

[Endorsed] Account of Stores &c on board the Several Gondolas by Robt Towers, Commis.

1. Pa. Arch.

2. The date is approximated. Instructions to supply certain military stores to all thirteen gondolas were issued by the Committee of Safety to Commissary Towers on October 11, 1775. Each gondola lists fifteen cutlasses, and the Committee of Safety records the purchase, on October 20, of 195 cutlasses. None of the gondolas, according to the foregoing returns, carried any muskets, and the Committee minutes for October 23 report the delivery of various quantities of firelocks to each gondola. Hence, the return would have been made on either October 21 or 22, and, as the latter date was Sunday, it is probable that Towers' report was prepared on Saturday, October 21.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1775

Williamsburg, October 21.

Some time last week Lord Dunmore was alarmed with information that 19 pieces of cannon were fitted up, and would be soon placed on the wharves, &c. in Norfolk, to annoy the ships of war, and that a number of men were daily expected from Williamsburg, who were to fire them from behind hogsheads filled with sand. Yesterday se'nnight [October 13], in consequence of the above intelligence, his

Lordship sent ashore a party of soldiers, under command of two officers, who marched through Norfolk to the place where the cannon were, destroyed 17 of them, and carried off two for their own use, without molestation. The above cannon we are confident were never intended for such a purpose; on the contrary, they belonged to sundry private Gentlemen, who had them removed there for safety.

Two companies of regulars are just arrived, viz: Capt. John Fleming's from Henrico, and Capt. Robert Ballard's from Mecklenburg.

We hear from Norfolk, that Capt. Matthews, of the Norfolk minute-men, Mr. William Robinson and Mr. John Hancock, have been taken prisoners by Lord Dunmore, but for what we cannot learn.

A large sloop from St. Eustatia, mounting 16 six pounders and a number of swivels, is said to be gone up the bay with a large quantity of gunpowder. Mr. [John] Goodrich of Portsmouth, whose vessel Lord Dunmore suspects of having brought in a supply of that article lately, is confined in irons on board a man of war.

**22 Oct. (Sunday)**

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN JOHN SELMAN<sup>1</sup>

[Beverly, October 22, 1775]

At Cambridge I was ordered by Gen'l Washington to take the command of a detachment of said army and proceed on board the Schooner *Franklin*, on the 16th October 1775 his instructions and additional instructions, I send you a true copy of them. Before we sailed from Beverly I think it was a Mr. Morris [Stephen Moylan] an aid to Gen'l Washington came to me and asked for those instructions that he might see them, which I had received and was sealed and on the subscription p[a]rt was wrote (not to be opened till out of sight of land) I delivered them into his hand he immediately returned them to me, he had the same interview with Commodore Broughton, I believe in the same way. I remark on this that General Washington might be suspicious, this being the first enterprise of this nature with sealed orders, might start the mind, but the horrors of death in all its forms would not have operated to have broke a seal or denyed a duty<sup>2</sup> – as to the time of sailing from Beverly I cannot say positively but I believe the 20th or 21st October.<sup>3</sup>

1. John Selman to Elbridge Gerry, March 18, 1813, printed in *Salem Gazette*, July 22, 1856.

2. The letters were sent by Colonel Reed to Moylan on October 19, who reported the same day that the letters would be delivered "to each Capt on their departure." Washington Papers, LC.

3. The sailing date was October 22, 1775; see Moylan's and Glover's letter of this date.

STEPHEN MOYLAN AND COLONEL JOHN GLOVER TO COLONEL JOSEPH REED<sup>1</sup>

Dear sir

Beverly October [22]<sup>2</sup> 1775

The Schooners Commanded by Captains Broughton & Sillman [John Selman] Sailed this morning, as they had none but their old Colours, we appointed them a signal, that they may Know each other by, & be known to their friends – the ensign up to the Main topping Lift, –