

to a second Action. In this first they must have lost great Numbers of their Men, though their Rigging suffered little to Appearance.

I have the Honour to inclose a Return of the Killed and Wounded, List and Disposition of the Squadron, and Line of Battle.

Captain Balfour, who is charged with the Delivery of this Letter, served as a Volunteer for Six Weeks on Board of the Royal Oak, and was with me in the Day of Action.

I have the Honour to be, &c.  
M<sup>r</sup>. ARBUTHNOT.

*Extract of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Arbuthnot to Mr. Stephens, dated Royal Oak in Lynne-haven Bay, March 30, 1781.*

**I**N Continuation of my Letter of the 20th Instant, I have the Honour to acquaint you, that I put to Sea with the Squadron under my Command on the Morning of the 24th, and steered a Course for the Delaware, where it was conceived likely the Enemy might endeavour to take Refuge; but as the State of the Weather towards Noon appeared to indicate a Gale, which is generally expected at this Season, I judged it adviseable to return to the Bay, where I anchored the same Evening.

The next Day and the following we had the Wind from the Northward, which, had we been at Sea, must inevitably have crippled some of our Ships, or driven me very considerably to the Southward.

On the 26th a Reinforcement of Troops, in Number about Two Thousand, commanded by Major General Philips, arrived from New-York, under the Escort of Captain Hudson, of the Richmond, with the Ships and Vessels named in the Margin\*: At the same Time the Iris and Pearl, which had been detached to observe the Rout of the Enemy, returned without having discovered them; the former had sprung her Main-Mast in the late Gale.

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1781

LINE OF BATTLE.

*THE America to lead with the Starboard, and the Robust to lead with the Larboard, Tacks of Board.*

Frigates.	Rates.	Ships.	Names.	Guns.	Men.
Guadaloupe.	3d	America	Captain Thompson	64	500
	—	Bedford	Captain Affleck	74	600
	4th	Adamant	Captain Johnston	50	350
Pearl to repeat Signals.	2d	London	{ Rear-Admiral Graves Captain Graves	98	768
	3d	Royal Oak	{ Vice-Admiral Arbuthnot Captain Swiney	74	624
Iris.	—	Prudent	Captain Burnett	64	500
	—	Europe	Captain Child	64	500
	—	Robust	Captain Cosby	74	600

Mariot Arbuthnot, Esq; Vice-Admiral of the White, Commander in Chief.

Given on Board His Majesty's Ship the Royal Oak in Gardiners Bay, February 13, 1781.

M<sup>r</sup>. ARBUTHNOT.

*A LIST of the French Ships composing the Enemy's Squadron on the 16th of March, 1781.*

Ships Names.	N <sup>o</sup> of Guns.
Neptune (coppered)	84
Burgogne (coppered)	84
Conquerant	74
Provence	64
Ardent	64
Jafon	64
Eveillé (coppered)	64
Romulus	40

*Frigates. Hermione, Gentile, Fantafque en Flute.*

*Royal Oak, Lynne-haven Bay, March 28, 1781.*

M<sup>r</sup>. ARBUTHNOT.

*St. James's, April 23.*

This Day John Morin, Esq; was, in virtue of His Majesty's Reverfionary Grant, sworn before the Earl of Hillsborough, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, into the Office of One of

The Medea was immediately dispatched to reconnoitre the Delaware.

The Army under Major General Philips were immediately forwarded to Portsmouth, and the Junction effected between the Forces at present there under Brigadier General Arnold.

I wait with great Impatience to embrace the first Opportunity to put to Sea, which I shall seize the Moment it offers. For these last Two Days the Weather has been so squally, as to preclude all Communication by Boats between the Ships of the Squadron.

\* Orpheus, Chatham, Savage, Halifax, Bonetta, Vulcan Fire-Ship.

*RETURN of the Killed and Wounded in the Action between the British and French Squadrons off the Capes of Virginia, March 16, 1781.*

	Killed.	Wounded.
Robust	15	21
Europe	8	19
Prudent	7	24
Royal Oak	—	3
London	—	3
Adamant	—	—
Bedford	—	—
America	—	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>73</b>

OFFICER KILLED.

Hon. Lieutenant Lyttelton, of the Robust.

OFFICER WOUNDED.

Master of the America.

*Royal Oak, Lynne-haven Bay, March 28, 1781.*

M<sup>r</sup>. ARBUTHNOT.

the Clerks of His Majesty's Signet, in the Room of Sir Joseph Copley, Bart. deceased.

GEORGE R.

*An ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTION to all Ships of War and Privateers that have or may have Letters of Marque against the French King, the King of Spain, or the States General of the United Provinces, their Vassals or Subjects, or others inhabiting within any of their Countries, Territories or Dominions, or against any other Enemies or Rebellious Subjects of the Crown of Great Britain. Given at Our Court at St. James's, the Twentieth Day of April, 1781, in the Twenty-first Year of Our Reign.*

**W**HEREAS We have ever been desirous to prevent Interruption being given to the Trade and Commerce of every State in Amity with Us, as far as was compatible with the necessary Operations of War: And whereas it will tend very much to that Purpose that the Trade and Navigation of the Baltic should remain uninterrupted; We have