

good effects of such measures, and it little becomes us to recommend violent and hazardous proceedings: We must always look back with satisfaction and gratitude to that period of your majesty's reign, when a prudent concession restored tranquillity and commerce to all your majesty's dominions.

We trust that, after having humbly intreated the exertion of your majesty's wisdom, for reconciling amicably the differences which unhappily subsist among your subjects, we have cleared ourselves to our own consciences, and acquitted ourselves in the eyes of Almighty God, of our sovereign, and of our country, from any share whatsoever in producing the calamities which the present proceedings, so insensibly began, may yet bring upon this nation.

318 PROVIDENCE, December 9.

Colony of Rhode-Island, &c.  
The following are published by order of the general committee.

Witness, HENRY WARD, secretary.

(No. 1.)  
I WILL suspend hostilities against the town till I have further orders, upon their supplying the king's ships with fresh beef, &c. Let it remain neuter. The ferry and market boats to supply it unmolested. If the rebels enter the town, and break the neutrality, I hold myself disengaged, and at liberty to do my utmost for the king's service.

JAMES WALLACE.

His majesty's ship the Rose, Nov. 14, 1775.  
To the inhabitants of the town of Newport.

At a TOWN-COUNCIL, Newport, Nov. 14, 1775.  
THE council accepts the letter from capt. Wallace, as a truce, and hopes general Hopkins will accept it in the same light.

(No. 2.) Head quarters, Nov. 15, 1775.

Gentlemen,  
I RECEIVED a copy of a letter, signed by James Wallace, commander of his majesty's ship Rose, together with your approbation of the contents: In answer to which I am to let you know, that I will permit you to supply the ministerial navy now in your harbour with fresh provisions, &c. provided the quantity be ascertained, and is no more than what is sufficient, or has been heretofore made use of, and that under the inspection of a man that I shall appoint and authorize, and not otherwise; provided that he, said Wallace, with all the vessels and boats under his command and direction, let all the wood, market, and ferry boats pass and repass, together with their passengers and effects, unmolested and unexamined, on failure or breach of which I shall immediately stop the supplies. This is all that can be expected in supplying the ministerial navy except they remove out of cannon shot of the town of Newport.

I am, gentlemen, your humble servant,  
ESEK HOPKINS, brigadier-general.

To the worshipful town-council of the town of Newport.

(No. 3.) Newport, Nov. 16, 1775.

SIR,  
YOUR proposal for settling a truce between the town of Newport and capt. Wallace we have received and examined, and as the word *unexamined*, in your proposal, seems to us will not be complied with by capt. Wallace, request you will leave the same out, as we apprehend it contrary to his instructions and the acts of parliament, and are fearful it will greatly impede the wished for truce. I am, in behalf of the town council of Newport, Sir, your very humble servant,

WILLIAM CODDINGTON, council clerk.  
To Esek Hopkins, Esq; brigadier general of the forces in this colony.

(No. 4.)  
To the worshipful TOWN COUNCIL of the town of Newport.

Gentlemen, Head-quarters, Nov. 16, 1775.  
I RECEIVED yours this day, wherein you request the word *unexamined* may be left out of my proposals, which I now give you leave to do; but think it would be more for your interest to let it remain. I am, gentlemen, your humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS, brigadier-general.

(No. 5.) Newport, Nov. 16, 1775.

SIR,  
YOUR proposals for a truce with this town were laid before us yesterday, by a committee appointed to wait on you for that purpose. We should be happy in complying with them, but our very unhappy situation we fear is such, that however anxious we are to comply with your proposals, we shall not have it in our power, unless capt. Wallace will please to consent and agree, that whatever provisions, &c. he may have occasion for, should be procured and furnished him by Samuel Dyre, Esq; who will wait on you to receive your orders for the same, whenever you please. Our great fear is, that should your men be suffered by you to come into our market, we should not be able to prevent them from being taken. If capt. Wallace will agree to be furnished by Mr. Dyre, we hope the truce may be preserved; and you may be assured every thing shall be done by us, and the greatest part of the inhabitants remaining in town, that it shall not be violated on our parts. We also promise that every thing shall be done to prevent the troops from coming into town: Capt. Wallace to be furnished with fresh beef, &c. for his ships use, lying under his command here; the ferry, market, fish and wood boats to pass and repass unmolested.

Signed by order and in behalf of the town-council of Newport.

WILLIAM CODDINGTON, council clerk.  
To James Wallace, Esq; commander of his majesty's ship Rose.

(No. 6.) His majesty's ship Rose, Nov. 16, 1775.

Gentlemen,  
I HAVE received yours of the 16th inst. It is perfectly agreeable to me to take the provisions from any person you choose to appoint. The greatest care shall be taken to preserve the truce on our side, for which reason our men shall not be permitted to enter the town, unless the rebels enter, and oblige us for the

king's service. I am, gentlemen, your most humble, and most obedient servant,

JAMES WALLACE.

To the inhabitants of the town of Newport.

(No. 7.)

At a TOWN-COUNCIL, Newport, Nov. 16, 1775.  
THE council having received the within from capt. Wallace, content that he shall be supplied, for his ships use in this harbour, with two thousand pounds weight of beef per week; and has now requested six hogheads of rum, which we think it necessary he should be supplied with, as by the best information we can obtain, he has about five hundred men now to victual on board the vessels under his command.

Signed by order and in behalf of the Town-Council of Newport.

WILLIAM CODDINGTON, council-clerk.  
To Esek Hopkins, Esq; brigadier-general of the forces in this colony.

(No. 8.) Newport, Nov. 17, 1775.

SIR,  
WE received yours of this date, wherein you permit the ships under the command of capt. Wallace to be supplied weekly with sixteen hundred weight of beef, and two hogheads of rum. The committee who went with the letters to capt. Wallace, to agree with him respecting his supplies of provisions, informs us, that they stipulated for two thousand pounds weight of beef per week, and the last week asked for two thousand pounds weight, but when he came to receive it took no more than sixteen hundred and twenty four pounds, he being governed by the number of men then belonging to his vessels here under his command; so that we imagine he will take no more than for the number of men he now has here and request you will allow him to take as much as he shall require, as far as the amount of two thousand pounds weight.

Signed by order and in behalf of the Town-Council of Newport, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM CODDINGTON, council clerk.  
To Esek Hopkins, Esq; brigadier-general of the forces now at Middletown.

(No. 9.) Newport, Nov. 17, 1775.

SIR,  
Mr. Christopher Champlin, contractor for victualling the ships here, this day informed the council that he has now in his possession seventeen barrels of salted pork, and five casks of calivance, which he bought in June last for the use of the ships here, under the command of capt. Wallace; and he informs us, that he some time since informed capt. Wallace, that he had such provision bought for his service, but as affairs were, he could not deliver them to him; and he therefore now informs the council thereof, that they may act therein as they may judge fit: whereupon we recommend it that said provisions may be delivered to capt. Wallace, for his ships use, as he says he has already charged them, and that his accounts are closed. We therefore, if it be agreeable, request that you will give orders for the delivery thereof.

Signed by order and in behalf of the Town-Council of Newport, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM CODDINGTON, council-clerk.  
To Esek Hopkins, Esq; brigadier general of the forces of this colony.

(No. 10.) Head quarters, Middletown, Nov. 17, 1775.

GENTLEMEN,  
I have received a copy of your letter to capt. Wallace, and his to you, bearing date the 16th inst. and also your request of this date, that the said Wallace may have delivered him seventeen barrels of pork, and five ditto of calivance, now in the store of Mr. Christopher Champlin.

You have my permission, under the care and direction of Samuel Dyre, Esq; to deliver to capt. Wallace the above seventeen barrels of pork, and five barrels of calivance, and also to deliver two hogheads of rum, and sixteen hundred weight of beef, once a week, and that on Saturday.

Moreover, Samuel Dyre, Esq; has my permission to supply the ships with sauce, he rendering to me a weekly account of the quantity delivered.

ESEK HOPKINS, brigadier-general.

To the worshipful Town-Council of Newport.

The above foregoing ten letters, No. 1 to 10, are true copies.

Witness,  
WILLIAM CODDINGTON; council-clerk.

WILIAMSBURG, Dec. 16.

Last Tuesday a vessel from the West-Indies, for Norfolk, was made a prize of by a party of our troops, and carried into Hampton. Her cargo (which was intended for the use of our enemies) consisted of 2700 dollars, a large quantity of sugar, and several hogheads of rum.

Great Bridge, near Norfolk, Dec. 9.  
The enemy were reinforced about 3 o'clock this morning with (as they tell me) every soldier of the 14th regiment, at Norfolk, amounting to 200, commanded by capt. Leslie; and this morning, after reveille beating, crossed the bridge, by laying down some plank, and made an attack to force our breast-work (the prisoners say the whole number amounted to 500, with volunteers and blacks) with two pieces of cannon, but none marched up but his Majesty's soldiers, who behaved like Englishmen. We have found of their dead capt. Fordyce and 12 privates, and have lieutenant Battit, who is wounded in the leg, and 17 private prisoners, all wounded. They carried their cannon back under cover of the guns of the fort, and a number of their dead. I should suppose (to speak within compass) their loss must be upwards of 50. Some powder and cartridges were taken. I sent an officer to inform them if they would not fire upon our people they should collect the dead and wounded. This they agreed to, and there has been no firing since. We are now under arms, expecting another attack. There is but one man of ours hurt, and he is wounded in the hand. The prisoners inform that Lord Dunmore has got a reinforcement of highlanders; they I expect will be up next.

Extract of a letter from Col. Woodford to Edmand Pendleton, Esq; President of the Convention.

Great Bridge, December 10, 1775.  
I must apologize for the hurry in which I wrote you yesterday, since which nothing of moment has happened

but the abandoning of the fort by the enemy. We have taken possession of it this morning, and found therein the stores mentioned in the inclosed list, to wit, 7 guns, 4 of them forty, 1 bayonet, 19 iron dises, 2 iron vels, 6 cannon, a few shot, some bedding, a part of a hoghead of rum, 2 or more barrels, the contents unknown, but supposed to be rum, 2 barrels of bread, about 20 quarters of beef, half a box of candles, 4 or 5 dozen of quart bottles, 4 or 5 iron pots, a few axes and old lumber; the spikes, I find, cannot be got out of the cannon without drilling.

From the vast effusion of blood on the bridge and in the fort, from the accounts of the sentries, who saw many bodies carried out of the fort to be interred, and other circumstances, I conceive their loss to be much greater than I thought it yesterday, and the victory to be complete. I have received no late information from Norfolk or Princess-Anne, nor yet fixed on a plan of improving this advantage. I have dispatched scouting parties, and from their intelligence shall regulate my future operations.

Inclosed is an inventory of the arms, &c. taken yesterday, to wit: 2 silver mounted fuzes with bayonets, 1 steel ditto, without bayonet, 24 well fixed muskets with bayonets, 6 muskets without bayonets, 18 touch boxes and pouches, 3 silver mounted cartouch boxes, 2 cannon ditto, 26 bayonet belts, 27 caps, 2 hats, 1 barrel with powder and cartridges, 1 silk hankerchief with linen in it, 2 watches, cash 12s. 6d. 1 pair of gloves, 4 stocks and buckles, 1 pair of silver shoe-buckles, 3 pair of silver knee buckles, 2 snuff-boxes, 20 knives, 1 barrel with ball and oakum, 12 coats, 12 waistcoats, 11 pair of shoes, 12 pair of garters, 1 pair of breeches, 1 shirt, 1 pair of stockings, a parcel of old knee-buckles, a parcel of old buttons, and 1 black handkerchief.

The arms I shall retain for the use of the army; the other articles I shall dispose of at vendue, and apply the money arising from the sale in such manner as the convention shall be pleased to direct.

Lieutenant Battit having an inclination to inform the king's troops of the humane treatment he has met with here, I dispatched ensign Hoopes with a flag of truce, who returned with the inclosed answer from the commander of the fort, viz.

Captain Leslie presents his compliments to Mr. Battit, and returns Colonel Woodford his sincere thanks for his kind treatment of the prisoners. He is happy Mr. Battit's return is so high, but is extremely sorry for the loss of your Fordyce.

The unfortunate capt. Fordyce was a captain of the grenadiers of the 14th regiment; most of the soldiers were grenadiers of that regiment. As the captain was a gallant and brave officer, I promised to intercede with all the military honours due to his great merit, which I hope will meet with the approbation of the convention.

About 200 Carolina men are arrived under the command of col. Vail; they are composed of regular minute-men, militia, and volunteers; and have fought with them 6 cannon. I have received no certain account of col. Howe, where he is, what number of forces he commands, how armed and provided, or when or where he intends to join me.

I shall pay a due regard to the reinforcement you mention, and the establishment of posts. I am just informed by Lieut. Battit that a servant of major Mather, who was in the party with col. Scott and others, informed Lord Dunmore that not more than 200 British men were here: that imprudent man caught at the bait, and dispatched capt. Leslie with all the regulars, who arrived at the fort about 4 in the morning.

I have enclosed the honourable the convention a general return of the forces under my command, also a list of sick and wounded. It is my wish to narrow orers for what is to be done with the wounded prisoners, when able to travel. I recollect nothing more to add at present, than that I am, with great respect, your most obedient servant.

ANNAPOLIS, December 28.

The following process of the ingenious Dr. Wesseling for making crude nitre, which he has successfully practised, is published by order of the Convention.

RAKE from off the earthen floors of old stables, tobacco houses, cellars, especially wood cellars, the near barns where cattie resort, sheep stable, pigsties, and poultry houses, tan yards, slaughter-houses, and the like, where the rain hath not penetrated, all the dirt and other putrescible matter which is not entirely rotten, and dig the earth up a foot deep, more or less, according as the spot hath been covered from the rain longer or shorter time; form the earth thus dug up into small hills, and leave it so two weeks to the exposure of the air, if longer it is the better. Provide one or more tight hogheads or tubs, the number according to the extent of your design; pierce their bottoms with holes which fit with plugs; on the inside place sticks across the holes, and over the sticks a large handful of straw setting your hogheads or tubs a little way from the ground, so that small tubs or pans may conveniently be placed under the tap-holes; fill your hogheads or tubs with the beforementioned earth, pouring warm water thereon till the earth is well soaked, and just cover it therewith; let it remain twenty four hours, and draw the ley gently off; but if it should appear a little muddy, it must be poured on again till it runs off clear; this ley is fit for boiling; but as the nitre is not be wholly extracted from the earth, again pour fresh water on the old earth and draw off a second ley which afterwards pass through your hogheads or tubs of fresh earth as directed before: the manner of boiling the hogheads and drawing off the nitrous ley is the same as in making common ley. Boil the strong nitrous ley in a copper or iron vessel till two third parts or more are wasted, taking off the scum as it rises, and laying in your hogheads of fresh earth. When the two thirds are wasted by boiling, add about one half of the remaining third of the ley of wood ashes, which may be previously made and kept ready for the purpose, and the boiling must be continued till a drop of the ley will let fall and cooled on a cold iron discovers some crystals; then pour or lade the liquor into a wooden tray or large earthen glazed dish, and set it in a cool place, a cellar, and after ten or twelve hours standing, the liquor being poured off, the crystals will be formed on the bottom, which are crude saltpetre. If the remaining liquor is still in a sufficient quantity, boil it again till the abovementioned token appears, and let it as