

Copy.

14 Aug 1779 3480

By the Commissioners for
executing the Office of
Lord High Admiral of
Great Britain and
Ireland

In L^d Sandwich's
of 16 Aug.

14 Aug 1779.

Copy of an Order
to Admiral Sir
Charles Hardy.

Whereas there is now reason
to believe, from the long delay of
the Appearance of the combined
Fleets of France & Spain in these
Seas, as well as from the intelligence
which has been received of some of
the French Ships having been obliged
to put into Corunna by Sickness,
and others by being disabled in
the late Gales of Wind, that they
may not venture to meet His
Majesty's Fleet under your command
if they can possibly avoid it; You
are, therefore, in pursuance of His
Majesty's pleasure signified to
us by Lord Viscount Weymouth one
of His Principal Secretaries of State,
herely required and directed
(notwithstanding any former orders)
in case you shall have reason
to think from any Intelligence
you have received, or may receive,
that the Enemy have any intention
of avoiding an Engagement by
returning to Brest; not to confine
yourself to any Station which will

hinder

hinder you from doing your utmost
to give the Enemy Battle and
prevent them going into Port.
Given under our hands the 14
August 1779.

To

Sandwich
Lisburne
A Man

Sir Charles Hardy
Admiral of the White
Be the
at Sea

By command of their Lordships
B. Stephens.

N.B. The above Order was sent by
Express the same night (in
duplicate) to Plymouth and
Falmouth, to be forwarded by the
first conveyance from those places.