

H. M. Lord. Sandwich  
(Fair copy of following)

3499

New Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> 1779.

Lord Sandwich Our fine Fleet being returned to Spithead for refreshments I do not object to, provided that is effected with the greatest expedition; but the times will not permit its waiting for every little convenience; therefore I trust on your not losing one moment in proceeding with the utmost dispatch to Portsmouth, and on your seeing that no time is lost in putting on board the several Ships what may be absolutely necessary for enabling Sir Charles Hardy to go and meet the combined Fleets of France and Spain now in the Channel; I am certain He could never have wished to take so glorious a command without feeling that ardour which ought to inspire every Englishman at this hour; therefore I am certain He will be eager to meet these faithless People. The Spirit of the Fleet gives me the fullest confidence that with the blessing of the Almighty France will now severely feel that chastisement which so infamous a conduct deserves.

4 Sept 1779