

Minute of Cabinet
Sept: 16th 1779.

3531

* at a Meeting of His Majesty's servants at
L^d Weymouths in Arlington Street Sept: 16th 1779

Present

L^d Chancellor

L^d President

L^d Sandwich

L^d George Germaine

L^d Weymouth

L^d North

L^d Amherst

agreed that it be recommended to His Majesty
that three ships of the Line be detached from
America to the Leeward Islands immediately,
with such a body of troops as can be spared
from thence without disturbing the operations
in America. these ships to be replaced early
in the Spring.

To send five or six copper bottomed ships to
the Leeward Islands & Jamaica, to be taken

from Sir Charles Hardy's fleet as soon as his
cruise is ended.

To send the *Edgar* & three other line of battle
ships, not of Sir Charles Hardy's fleet, with
a convoy to Gibraltar, and from thence
to proceed directly to the West Indies with
the first Easterly wind after their arrival
at Gibraltar.

If a sufficient land force cannot be sent
to the West Indies from America, to consider
what troops may be sent from England
with the ships that are to be taken from
Sir Charles Hardy's fleet; but that at all
events, a force of not less than 5000 troops
should be sent to the West Indies.

Any reinforcement for Minorca may be
sent out with the Gibraltar convoy, to
be forwarded to Minorca whenever the
Admiral at Gibraltar sees a fair opportunity
of sending them thither.