

E. of Sandwich

Fortescue 3426

4324

Salt Hill Octo 14th 1781
8 o'clock A. M.

About an hour and a half ago a Messenger arrived here from Mr Stephens with the enclosed dispatches containing an unpleasant account of an action between the English & French fleets in America before the arrival of Admiral Digby.

Your Majesty will also find in the Box an account of Commodore Johnsons progress who finding the enemy prepared to receive him at the Cape of good Hope made no attempt there, but dispatched the force intended for India to its proper destination. he has however been so fortunate as to capture five Dutch India

men of great value, & to turn a sixth.

Lord Sandwich begs your Majesty would have the goodness to send the messenger away to London as soon as your Majesty has perused the dispatches, as Lord

Sandwich is setting out immediately for town to meet Mr Stephens, in order to make the proper extracts from these papers for publication, & for the information of your Majesty's confidential servants.