

\* Present

August 14. 1782. AM

Lord Shelburne

Lord Grantham

Mr Townshend

General Conway

Mr Pitt

Lord Sneyd

Cabinet Meeting

Minute of Cabinet,  
14 August 1782.

It is Humbly recommended to your Majesty that Lord Howe, as soon as he has completed for sea the Fleet under his Command, should be directed to proceed off of the Texel with a Squadron from twenty to twenty three Ships of the Line in quest of the Dutch Squadron & not finding them there, to proceed as far to the Northward as the Nose of Norway. In order to meet them & give security to the Navigation in the North Seas, and particularly to the Valuable Convoy ready to sail with stores from the Baltic & other Convoys bound thither, and his Lordship having in his judgment, under the appearances favourable for the Safety of the before mentioned Trade, to return to Spithead as soon as possible, In order to proceed upon other very material and Important Service. And It is Humbly recommended that Lord Howe should be at Liberty to detach before him off the Texel a division of his Fleet if he judges it necessary.

It is further Humbly recommended to your Majesty that as many of your ships as possibly can be got in readiness, should be collected at Spithead. In order to join Lord Howe upon his return from the Service of the North sea.

Should it be advisable to send two Ships of the Line to convoy the East & West India trade into the Sea before Lord Howe's getting back to Spithead, It is Humbly wished to recommend to your Majesty, that it may be directed if at the time It is judged Expedient.