

Dear Brother.

I reciev'd a note from L<sup>d</sup> Anson on Monday evening to acquaint me with the Kings having consented to my proceeding to the Fleet under Sr Edward Hawke, in a private ship, and that he had directed the Hero Capt. Edgescombe to receive me on board and proceed with me accordingly. The hero will be ready in a day or two.

I saw Capt. Clemens of the Callis last night who came into the sound to convoy some Swedish Ships, which he and Capt. Hervey of the Monmouth had cut out of Brest water under la conquette, tho' protected by four batteries. Hervey was not contented with having insulted the French in this manner, but sent a boat a shore to the first battery he <sup>had</sup> pass'd on perceiving an Abby not far from the Shore there, to acquaint

them that if they offer to fire a single shot from thence he would that instant beat down the Abby about their ears. This so terrifi'd them, that they return'd for answer that they were very sorry any of their People had been so impudent as to fire on the English Fleet, but that they would take the greatest care it should not happen for the future, humbly hoping they might still be permitted to make signals with Powder only, when they saw the English Fleet.

The French Fleet has not above 100 men a Ship, with whom they are continually working their Sails as if they intended to come out. You may easily suppose this trick does not take with us here.

I saw 3 Battalions of the Devonshire Militia on Monday Morning under arms in the

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the lines round the Dock. The men are by no means equal to the other. There was a kind of mutiny on Friday in one of the Battalions. It seems the D. of Bedford has neglected informing the Officers as much as he might in their Duty, but what is worse forgot to <sup>appoint</sup> an Agent to receive the pay, for which neglect the Men had been without pay for near 10 days. This would necessarily occasion a mutiny in the most regular army in the world. It was however soon stopp'd <sup>not in</sup> <sup>right manner.</sup> For altho' the Col. & themselves should have taken up the money for each Battalion instead of which they let each Capt pay his own company: so that some Officers paid the whole pay without Stoppages, others according to the rules perscrib'd by the army. This has made a difference in the Pay of some of the Soldiers.

Major

Gen. Devoure who commands here, is afraid  
to burn his fingers as Ld Ligonier, has positivly  
orderd him never to write to him unless  
he can possibly help it, however he has  
orderd the Gentlemen of the Militia to write  
to the Duke of Bedford, to appoint an  
agent as soon as possible, and has  
orderd me to write to Ld Ligonier at this  
time to hurry the receiving the pay  
with all expedition. I own I fear  
this militia will be a disgrace to their  
country, and I shall think it the greatest  
luck, if they get their pay sent down  
and get settl'd soon, without this happens  
in the course of a very few days indeed  
I fear a fresh disturbance will not  
be so easily check'd. I remain

Mount Edgecombe<sup>d</sup> a Brother  
July 19<sup>th</sup> 1759  
in the morn. your most affectional  
obedient Brother  
Edward

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