

E. of Sandwich
Admiralty Sept^r 2^d 1779.

Fortescue
2757

3496

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Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the letters just received by Lieutenant Bowen who was sent out in a cutter to find Sir Charles Hardy.

Mr Bowen reports that the fleet is in very good spirits; and only a few ships sickly, as your Majesty will see by the sick list in the enclosed state & condition of the fleet; their chief want is beer and water, the former of which it is to be feared will be difficult to be supplied immediately.

Mr Bowen says that His Royal Highness

Prince William is in perfect health.

Sir Charles Hardy will now be sure of being joined by all the reinforcements, and every care will be taken to supply his wants without a moment's loss of time.

Mr Bowen says that nothing could exceed the ardour & alacrity of the whole fleet when they thought the enemy was in sight.