Sir Samuel (aft. 1st Visct.) Hood

Dec 3 1779

3631

Sir

I have the deepest Sense of Gratitude for the Letter your Majesty most graciously pleased to condescend to write me by Major General De Bude

Your Majesty may firmly rely, on the utmost exertion of every person in the department of the Dock yard, in carrying on the Equipments of Your Majesty's Ships, and I have full belief Sir, that the expedition that was used in coppering the Sandwich was never exceeded by any Artificers and I can venture to assure your Majesty, the same active & zealous disposition will ever prevail, not only in the Master Shipwright, and his assistants, but in every subordinate person.

As misfortune may befall the best of Men, there was a pressing necessity for carrying the Sandwich out of the harbour; for want of wind the Ships could not be moved quite so soon as the Tide would have

have permitted, and she being unusually deep, and going near the ground, she would not readily answer her helm. The greatness of the draft of water the Pilot I fear was not sufficiently aware of, to which, and the Tide on its turning from Flood to Ebb, setting on the inner part of the Spit, together with a failure of wind just in the narrows, the accident was owing; but I am very sure, from the strictest observation the officers of the yard made, during her being on shore, that the Ship has not received the least injury - The Pilot has carried your Majesty's Ships in, & out of Harbour above five & thirty years

This misfortune has occasioned it, to be submitted to the Navy board, from hence, whether it would not be adviseable to give orders for the most favourable Stage of the Tides to be attended to, in carrying Ships of a large draft of water out of the Harbour, without their guns, and to take them

on

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on board at Spithead.

Notwithstanding the Sandwich has 24 pounders below instead of 32, and is lighter masted, she drew above a foot more water, than ever she did, on leaving the harbour before.

It has ever been Sir, and ever will continue to be, my greatest pride & ambition to acquit myself in my duty to the utmost of my abilities, for the good of your Majesty's Service, and I most humbly and with the utmost deference, beg leave to subscribe myself.

Your Majesty's
most dutifull and
devoted Servant
Saml Hood

Portsmouth Dockyard
Decr. 3. 1779

Sir Samuel Hood
December 3 1799