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Hamillies Octob.
10th 1759.

Y^r Brother

S^r Edward Hawke receiv'd an express
from the Admiralty late last night, expressing
great apprehensions of the Embarkation
going forward at Vannes, and that they
had receiv'd advice from Admiral Bate
that Bombart was to stay the Hurricane
months at Cape Francois, and therefore
was not to be expected home for a considerable
time. And that they fear'd he had weaken'd
himself too much by making so large a
detachment with heavy. They recompanied
their apprehensions about Vannes, with an
extract of a letter of Intelligence, by which
they are inform'd that the Troops are ready
to

embark but see little probability of getting out as there are English frigates at the mouth of the river and cruising in Morbrian Bay, who take every little Boat in shore and mention three particularly.

Thinking you may not dislike to be inform'd of the Destination of the Squadron agreeable to the post, and to this last order I shall give you a short account of it.

By a former Intelligence Bombard having been expected home by about this time, and it being particularly recommended to J^d. Hanke from the Admiralty to keep a sharp look out off Rochford. He thought it would require a detachment of seven Ships under an Admiral at least to do that service effectually. And therefore without waiting for

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the reinforcement which he expects from Portsmouth dispatch I hear, immediately with three Ships, he was to find two there and two more Ships have been sent after him which makes him seven sail of the line and one Frigate. Upon this new order he has recall'd him, and ~~of his Ships~~ ^{and sent} ~~four~~ ^{four} which are to reinforce J^d.

As for Vannes St Edward has always given the greatest attention to it, and I fancy by the list I enclose of the Ships at Morbrian under Juffs command, you will not think any thing has been overlooked that might tend to the Blocking up of that Port, or of attempting to destroy by firing ^{tea} or of any Ships got together for the Embarka^{tion} or for any other purpose.

Monday the 8th in the evening Capt. Barrington
came to us from Hervey, who after advising
with his Pilot, who is a very sensible fellow,
and whose knowledge of the French coast
and dexterity and boldness in carrying in
his ship he has had great experience of.
He found, his Pilot pretended to be if possible
better acquainted with the navigation of
Morbihan Bay, and the river up to Rennes
than he is in that of Brest, and therefore
brought him to the Admiral to acquaint
him with it.

So Edward after thoroughly examining
him and finding him as clear as possible, that
there was seven fathom water very far up,
and the Pilot declaring he was ready and
would undertake to carry in any ship, and
that if the wind was Easterly no large ship
or

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of transport could run up the River, and therefore that they might be burnt in that proposition. And that if he did not carry in the Ships as he understood he would suffer himself to be hang'd. The Admiral immediately dispatched Barrington to Duff with orders to put himself under his command, and at the same time sent an order to Duff that if he found it practicable to send in his private Ships and to do his utmost to destroy those Ships. And promised a handsome reward to the Pilot if he succeeded in what he understood. I flatter myself therefore you will not think St Edward has been deficient in doing his utmost on that side.

The wind having been south west ever since Capt. Barrington has hardly reach'd
Duff.

and Fear will come too late to do much,
for there came an Express from Suff last
night to acquaint the Admiral, that
most of the ~~large~~ frigates and Transports
had run up the river.

Capt. Rowley is this instant come
from Hervey, with an account that the
French Fleet are in state quo. and
that two men of war and six Transports
had attempted to come out, but that he
had driven them ⁱⁿ again.

Notwithstanding these two considerable
detachments, we have actually 19 ^{sail} with us
for the Hervey is a few leagues from us, we
see him every day. and we expect two or
three Ships daily from Plymouth, besides
Admiral Boscawens's squadron from ^{the} Portsmouth.
When

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this reinforcement comes we shall be
very strong indeed. Yet as we are, We are
by no means insufficient to meet the
enemy, and have all the reason in the
world to hope we shall do it whenever
we have an opportunity, with very good
success.

I beg my most humble Duty to my Mother
and most affectionate compliments to
my Sister &c. being with the greatest
regard
Yr Brother

Yr affectionate & obedient
Brother Edward

His Highness Prince Edward.

Cambridge 10. Oct. 1759.

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