

Great Britain. Colonial Office. Original Correspondence: Jamaica (CO 137)

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Content List – Volume 79 (1780 Sept 23 - 1781 March 3)

*Reference numbers include volume no., item (or document no.), and folio no. (number written on top right of every second page)

Reference No.	First Frame No.	Date	Communicants	Summary
79/1, folio 1-2	4	1780 Nov 12	[Secretary of state?] to Governor Dalling, Jamaica	Draft despatch Regarding liaison with Indians against Spanish – Treasury has agreed to sending presents to in addition to dresses manufactured in England same as purchased for them by Spaniards previous to present war
79/2, folios 3-4	6	1780 Nov 12	[Secretary of state?] to Major General Campbell	Private. Draft despatch Same topic as above with particulars about shipping presents and concern for its transport safely.
79/3, folios 5-8	9	1780 Sept 23	Mr. Robert Hodgson (Spanish Town, Jamaica) to Rt. Hon. Lord George Germain	Correspondence, 2 enclosures Regarding his displacement from Mosquito Shore-attempts to preserve his character and continue to provide public service there. Shows displeasure at contents of enclosed letter which attempts to discolour the grounds on which Germain sent Hodgson to the Shore. Mentions his father's having acquired the country for the Crown, his own saving of it at the last

				<p>peace and the credit for ruling in it until falsely accused of not obeying the King. Now unhappily at Jamaica.</p> <p>Enclosed: copies of 2 letters, 1780 June 5 and July 5, Robert White (Mountgrove, Hampstead near London) to Governor Dalling. Pertains to Mr. Hodgson - does not speak highly of Hodgson's character or past abilities and undeserving of any military merit. State of dispute between inhabitants of Mosquito Shore and Hodgson, which had resulted in his dismissal in May 1776.</p>
79/4, folios 9-10	15	1780 Nov 2	Robert Hodgson (Jamaica) to William Knox	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Regarding his charge for house rent in 1776 – inaccuracy due to Mr. Lawrie. Recommendation of boats called pitpans, which soldiers in the late expedition would attest are best boats for rivers.</p>
79/5, folios 11-12	18	1780 Nov 4	Mr. Robert Hodgson (Jamaica) to Rt. Hon. Lord George Germain	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Comment on expedition. Mentions Col. Stuart, who has gone home.</p>
79/6, folios 13-43	21	1780 Oct 20	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to George Germain	<p>No. 80, 15 enclosures</p> <p>Encloses reports and pleas from inhabitants from various parishes hit by natural disaster.</p> <p>Enclosed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letter, 1780 Oct. 8, distressed inhabitants to General Dalling. Wave destroying town of Savanna-la-mar, and much of the estates in Hanover with famine real concern, signed by distressed servants;

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letter, 1780 Oct. 10, Salt Spring, Hanover, John Campbell to John Clement, deputy secretary. Storm of 3rd and brief description – no shelter, arms destroyed; • letter, 1780 Oct. 12, Montego Bay St. James’s, from J/I Palmer. On behalf of distressed inhabitants - concern of famine due to storm and fear of ruination, requests vessel so people can send requests for supplies, and help with government to contribute to relief by alleviation of taxes or otherwise; • letter, 1780 Oct. 14, Spanish Town, Edward Barry, secretary [to Dalling], to Hon. Thomas French, Custos of Kingston. As ordered by governor encloses letter from George Murray and others from Westmoreland concerning their distresses due to severe hurricane; governor ready to co-operate with gentlemen of Kingston to help alleviate sufferings; • letter, 1780 Oct. 14, Spanish Town, Edward Barry, secretary [to Dalling], to George Murray, Esq. Meeting expected today on speedily assisting your sufferings; governor requests information on how best to help. Vice admiral ready to assist with vessels for provisions; • letter, 1780 Oct. 15, Hanover, John Campbell to John Clement. Inhabitants requested military detachment sent and quartered at Lucea? But advise waiting until housing provided which will take a while since people busy making shelter for themselves. Casualties of storm in this parish – 13 white persons, at least 50 or 60 “slaves,” property damage at least 1/4th value of “slaves” and freeholders in parish, which will take years to make up;
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letter, 1780 Oct. 15, King's House, Edward Barry [secretary to Dalling] to Paul Phipps, senior magistrate of Kingston. Governor requests to know what provisions in Kingston, how best to assist those sufferers in parishes of Westmoreland and Hanover, any vessels to charter to go to Savannah or Charles Town for provisions, and whether use of shoes meant for militia should be better used for distressed. Coats on their way. P.S. – vessels ready to go to assist; • resolutions made at a meeting of inhabitants of Town of Kingston on 14 and 16 Oct. to consider most effective and speedy way to relieve sufferers due to dreadful storm, signed John Somersett, deputy clerk of Parish of Kingston - letter of remaining distressed inhabitants read (not included here); resolved – subscription amount opened for supplying provisions, group of named merchants to be a committee to report on provisions for sale in Kingston, which was presented and approved and ordered sent to governor (not included here), agreed to governor's question about giving militia shoes to inhabitants, loan of stated amount of money be raised by voluntary subscription for immediate relief of those sufferers in Westmoreland, Hanover and St. James's who have no one to help them, and committee of named persons ordered to get the subscription filled so that necessaries of food and clothing can be dispersed by local magistrates and vestry men; • letter, Kingston, 1780 Oct. 16, Paul Phipps to Edward Barry [secretary to Dalling]. Received
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				<p>yours of 13th detailing the different kinds of distresses due to dreadful hurricane and earthquake, which almost destroyed all buildings in parishes of Westmoreland [sic], Hanover, part of St. James's and St. Elizabeth's. Immense losses reported to life and property (including ship carrying Spanish prisoners from St. John's). Provisions and goods to the value of £10,000 have been distributed until more substantial aid can be gathered;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letter, 1780 Oct. 20, King's House, Edward Barry, secretary [to Dalling], to Hon. John Palmer, Castos of St. James. Received yours of 13th detailing circumstances after hurricane; governor ready to help and requests you will keep him informed with required needs. Gentlemen of St. James told to be quick writing letters; • letter, 1780 Oct. 18, Governors Office, Edward Barry, secretary [to Dalling], to George Murray, Esq. Encloses resolves of merchants of Kingston for you and others of Westmoreland. Governor sent transports with troops, ammunition, shoes, jackets; chartered 2 vessels for America (Savannah and Charles Town) for provisions. Keep governor informed of need of your parish. Other items sent detailed; • letter. 1780 Oct. 23, Westmoreland, [J/I?] Milleyler, George Murray, William Hylton to John Dalling. Parish committee members hope legislature will help as few estates can put their mills about and doubts parish will make any produce; canes greatly damaged; rough calculation in pounds of parish losses given;
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letter. 1780 Oct.26, Montego Bay, J. Palmer to Edward Barry, esq. Met principal inhabitants of St. James. Kingston merchants' help will contribute to relief of immediate wants almost entirely confined to articles of subsistence; • extract from the <i>Supplement to the Kingston Gazette</i>, Jamaica, 1780 Oct. 14. Describes the storm of Oct. 3 at Savanna la Mar, with names of those affected and estimates of numbers of people lost, also condition of named vessels. Parish of Westmoreland information gathered- nothing left standing, all produce destroyed, Blue Castle estate 200 black persons killed; St Elizabeth reports more favourable – estates suffered but to lesser degree than those in Westmoreland, Hanover and St. James over which greatest force of hurricane passed; Black River – few houses overthrown, and some plantain walks and cane destroyed. Lucea – upwards of 400 persons perished. Parish of Hanover – universal devastation.
79/7, folios 44-69	54	1780 Oct 25	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Rt.Hon. Lord George Germain	<p>No. 81, 8 enclosures</p> <p>Mostly reports on military operations on Spanish mainland, ie. Nicaragua:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • necessary to adopt a defensive rather than offensive war due to wretched state of troops if succours do not speedily arrive; • data in military return shows present force scarcely adequate to defence of island; • obstacles to success – death of newly arrived troops, sickly state of remainder of troops, capture of General Rainsford's Regiment,

				<p>capture of outward-bound fleet with troops on board;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • require more favourable accounts from Capt. Clarke as to River St. John and from Misters Irving and Stanford as to feasibility of Bluefields route, and the friendly disposition of “Indian Tribes.” Waiting on Lt. Muller’s report from a branch of the River of Bluefield; optimistic if following true: favourable as “Indian Chiefs” related, feasibility of penetrating into Spanish settlements adjoining the Lake practicable, and fortunate enough to receive timely supplies from Europe or America; • Pensacola, Florida – cannot assist with succours which were urgently requested from Governor Chester and Major General Campbell; • Assembly asked to be prorogued due to effects of natural disaster; for same reason suggest not the best time to requisition for support of troops; • Capt. Clarke reports back on exploration of River St. John – difficulties of river not great; plan well laid but ill executed and gives examples of what was seen; overall opinion – want of proper craft in first instance and ill treatment to “Indians” and “Black River negroes,” which caused them to elope and by which means the laborious part of the work fell to the share of the soldiery, laid foundation of all subsequent misfortunes; • reports of attack by Capt. Cartaret on French Fleet at Martinique headed for West Indies under command of Count D’Estaing; • asks if troops can be raised in America for offensive operations on mainland, such as
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				<p>Continental's lately taken, many English, Irish and Scotch, and argues this would provide double advantage – diminishing rebel force on Continent and increasing that of His Majesty's arms on Spanish mainland;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• report of a revolution in Peru and if true, a fatal consequence occurred from oversight of not taking possession of entrance to Lake when so much within our power, still an incentive to carry on;• mail packet sent home without taking mail - concerned about lack of communication and consequential lack of information and possible misfortune due to;• 2 ships of war – <i>Ulysses</i> and <i>Pomona</i> gave chase to 2 vessels off Port Dauphin to the eastward of Cape Francois, and ran them to shore. <p>Enclosed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. letter, 1780 18 May, Pensacola, John Chester to John Dalling. Grateful for expression of sending help. Mobile and dependencies, and the garrison there have fallen to enemy. Reports indicate Spaniards in great force in shipping and men, and provides more detail. Asked Admiral Sir Peter Parker for reinforcement of shipping speedily as very existence of colony depends on it – with 40 gun ship and 2 or 3 frigates sent, could easily take the Spaniards. Also asks for troops that can be spared; shows belief with this aid would be successful in regaining all of Florida colony;
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				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. letter, 1780 Sept. 16, Jamaica, John Dalling to Governor Chester. By letter of Lt. Col. Heil of my battalion dated 13 June, informed all danger as to Pensacola over. Have not heard anything on the request by General Campbell to Admiral Parker for naval aid; 3. “Observations made in the River of St. John Sept the 24th & 25th 1780 in the different Reaches relative to their bearings and distances.” Tabular data for each section of river with distance in miles, depth of water in feet, strength of current; 4. sheet 1 - Return of Absent Officers; list includes absentees for following regiments of foot: 92th, 93rd, 94th, Loyal Irish, with reasons for absence such as death, on duty and where, health. Sheet 2 – Monthly Return of His Majesty’s Royal Artillery, 60th (Royal American), 79th, 85th, 88th, 92nd, 93rd, 94th regiments of foot and Loyal Irish Corps, Jamaica 1 October 1780. Tabular data provides numbers for every regiment under different categories, such as officers present including commissioned and staff (examples - chaplains, adjutants, quarter masters, sergeants, mates, drummers and fifers; as well as categories of effective rank and file which includes fit for duty, sick in quarters, sick in hospitals, on command, recruiting, on furlow; and named officers for each regiment absent and reasons; 5. Declaration of Francisco Mirando of Puerto Cabeillo?, merchant and owner of sloop <i>La Soledad</i>, taken 10 October 1780 enroute to Dutch island of Curacao by private brig of war <i>Arrow</i>. Talks of rumours that month of revolt of
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				<p>southern provinces of New Spain throwing off allegiance to Spain and confirmed by letters arrived 27th. It was suspected the kingdom of Santa Fe was ripe for similar revolt;</p> <p>6. letter. 1780 Oct. 7, <i>Pelican</i> off Bluefields, Stephen Kemble to General Dalling. Received your letters of 26 August enclosing resolutions of brigadiers, with Col. Irving's and Capt. Clark's Instructions. Happy with Clark's appointment with powers given him to regulate matters relative to navigation of the river. Clark left Harbour of St. Johns for the Castle on 13th and expected return in about 10 days, at which time I am expected to be prepared to sail for Bluefields. Embarked 19th with few remaining troops agreeable to enclosed Return and sailed 21st leaving Capt. Davis acting quarter master general to embark all remaining stores and follow when Capt. Haynes returned to take him under convoy. Normally don't allow troops to go to Jamaica without recommendation of Mr. Welch and Mr. Dancer but felt necessary and in future your commands will be obeyed – Capt. Dixon's application will be forwarded. Col. Irving sailed 15 Sept from St. John's Harbour for Bluefields and promised to prepare everything for reception of the sick. Capt. Park sailed at same time but has had trouble at sea. 3 months' provisions for 200 men to be sent to the Castle; detachment of Light Horse to take part of it and remainder to be lodged at the Coloradoes till it can be forwarded. Detachment also used to strengthen garrison and to push upriver quantity of provisions for immediate use, but would have preferred sending subaltern</p>
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				<p>and detachments of Loyal Irish Corps but they are troublesome set and probably would have been unsuccessful. Capt. Pellet of Jamaica Volunteers left to command at Cooke's Post Coloradoes with subaltern of the Legion and some men as a guard over prisoners, boats, etc., and to forward all stores to the Castle. He is directed to have small redoubt constructed in order to command the Colorado Branch [of San Juan River] with six pounder which is ordered. Black persons just arrived to be employed carrying up provisions to the Castle when stores embarked at the Harbour, and a few will be left with Capt. Pellet, as well as Capt. Flynn of the Craft Department, a subaltern of the Batteaux Corps, and hospital mate. These captains to conduct craft from post to post so that black persons may not run off. Capt. Patterson, superintendent of craft, remains at Harbour with Capt. Davis to collect and dispose of craft in need of repair. Disappointments on first arrival at the Castle: provisions not as expected, inability of soldiers to navigate craft, and overturning of boats. Sickness was explanation given, and drunkenness was mentioned once. Power of Col. Polson to hold general courts martial confined to himself solely. Soldier of Loyal Irish Corps and one of Legion in confinement for theft. From state of affairs at Harbour, Capt. Clark did not promise himself much exertion could be made from the Castle but letter received from me indicated every exertion on my part would not be wanting. Capt. Haynes intends taking <i>Diamond</i> up St. John's Harbour and returning with her to Jamaica</p>
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				<p>which leaves us with no ship of war; expresses necessity of having one to look into St. John's Harbour now and then and to convoy such vessels arriving with provisions;</p> <p>7. letter, 1780 Oct. 11, Bluefields, Stephen Kemble to General Dalling. Left from St. John's Harbour on 21 Sept and arrived 8th. En route at Corn Island ordered Capt. Briley in the sloop <i>Betty</i> to take on board the hospital stores and staff and to follow me. On arrival found Capt. Davis of the ship <i>Betty</i> had completed embarkation of stores at St. John's Harbour and got here the 6th; also found brig <i>Polly</i> in which Col. Irving had landed his stores. Sickness – seamen falling down very fast, ship <i>Betty</i> only 2 men for service and <i>Flora</i> hospital ship has so few men it needed assistance coming into harbour. The <i>Hope</i> not arrived and concerned for safety. Sloop <i>St. John</i> unfortunately passed this harbour in the night as well as most of the <i>Diamond's</i> convoy and she is now on shore upon some of the Keys to windward with all powder and some heavy artillery on board! Capt. Everett just arrived from Rattan [Roatan] with 52 black persons and has been sent to this vessel's assistance. These black persons much needed. Capt. Park and "slaves" under his direction are on board the <i>Hope</i>. 150 or 200 black persons may be got at Black River if they were to be commanded and solely directed by officers of their election. This might be managed by Major Lawrie. Brigs <i>Polly</i> and <i>Julia/Julius</i> to be unloaded quickly and resent back to Jamaica. Transports <i>Betsey</i>, <i>Flora</i> and <i>Sally</i> shall return to Kingston as soon as our weak state allows.</p>
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				<p>Black persons readying grounds and then erecting huts for soldiers who in meantime will be landed and put under tent cloths. Before Capt Davis left St. John's all provisions forwarded to the Castle and Cooke's Post, black persons to assist under supervision of the Light Dragoons. Reinforcement necessary due to weak state of the Castle and approaching sickly season. The Light Dragoons will be a trifling addition and reasons, plus difficulty getting guard for the stores, so no assistance can be sent from here. Even though care given to the sick on board the <i>Flora</i>, 57 died since their embarkation at St. John's. Every effort being made to supply troops with fresh meat and fish (mentions Mr. Shaw as being responsible) and expects prices higher than normal; wine, sugar etc. will be distributed to the well and sick. Effectual reconciliation taking place with the "Indians" at Tibuppy. Lately I am much indisposed and officers greatly wanting to carry on service; request those that have recovered at Jamaica to return. If something were to happen to me Capt. MacDonald of the Jamaica Volunteers would be commanding officer, and he is unfit for this. All I will write as I must lie down with fever and not want to detain Capt. Haynes from leaving as his people are falling sick every hour;</p> <p>8. letter. 1780 Oct. 22, Jamaica, Governor Dalling to Major General John Campbell. Received yours of the 4th. Distressed situation of troops under my command barely adequate to island defence; little or no assistance from hence either for attack on enemy or for defence of West Florida can be expected. Reasons explained for</p>
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				<p>need to recruit from America – late arrival of Troops from Europe too late in year for service and wretched state (more fit for hospital than service), want of proper barracks and necessaries, heavy rains, and scorbutic habit of troops’ bodies. Also General Rainsford’s Regiment intended for defence of this island has been captured in outward bound London Fleet by combined squadrons of France and Spain. Very difficult to supply troops which you so urgently request. Will support when can.</p>
79/8, folios 70-79	82	1780 Nov 2	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Lord George Germain	<p>Unnumbered private despatch, 1 enclosure</p> <p>Failure of military operations on mainland. Prospects not pleasing unless troop reinforcements arrive. From severity of weather and inattention of officers, hardships of soldiers great. Criticises aspects of the recent expedition such as delay in taking possession of entrance to Lake. As noted by Sir Alexander Leith in a letter to Col. Keating, Major Dalrymple is targeted as having impeded the service, and enquiries should be made into conduct of officers on expedition. Argues there was enough support given for the mission of commanding and even taking possession of the Lake. Offers to take command to conquer the area but the appropriated force must be unconnected with safety of this island and myself unfettered from its defence.</p> <p>Enclosed: “Narrative of Sir Alexander Leith, Lieutenant Colonel of 88th Regiment.” (10 pp.) Pertains to expedition; questions and answers. Starts by indicating he arrived at St. John’s Harbour on the 19th of June,</p>

			<p>embarked 26th up River St. John having had to wait for transport arrivals. Copy signed by Edward Barry.</p> <p>Questions asked: Amount of days to proceed up river; any remarkable circumstances in passage, situation found of the Castle, who was at the Castle with you; cause of Gen. Kemble's not proceeding up river immediately; reasons provisions at Harbour not forwarded up; amount of craft carried up; precautions keeping boats at different divisions kept together; cause of great sickness in army; what about medicines; the kind of attendance surgeon general and his mates provide; means for vegetable availability for sick; were food provision properly parcelled out to men; soldier's clothing; occurrence at St. John's Castle since your arrival of 7 July; time difference between first military division and general's departure for intended attack; number of men went in 2 divisions; amount of days between departure of 1st division and return of General Kemble to Castle with whole army; General Kemble's consultation on intended attack; how near general approached enemy's works; did general reconnoitred in person the enemy's post; did general send any other officer on that service; reasons induced Gen. Kemble to return after proceeding so far up; Kemble mentioned nothing about want of provisions being reason of his returning; did you enquire whether post was strongly fortified; reports made as to its strength; length of time in making report before general's departure for attack; had you considered going up yourself; did you communicate it to General Kemble; Kemble's answer; what were your proposals to Kemble; did you make any preparation for attacking post and vessels that guarded entrance of Lake; Gen. Kemble's answer to your proposal; did you have knowledge of regular force in</p>
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				<p>Nicaragua of Spanish troops; any material point neglected on commander in chief's side so as not to ascertain command of Lake; did you believe Lake might have been possessed; do you think enemy could have driven us from high land as the entrance of the Lake or from any one of the islands we might have chosen to occupy; opinion – would not more expanded air of the Lake have conduced more to recovery of soldiers than either continuing at the fort or retiring to harbour; were provisions to be had from islands in the Lake or from adjoining coasts or both; was it known by commanding officer or not at the time of descending the river if he could get from the harbour or not on his arrival there; were comfortable articles sent down for troops at different times delivered to them; was the force forwarded equal to the enterprise; if equal, from what apparent cause did it fail (answer – from injudicious conduct of the commanding officers); how long did Kemble remain at the harbour; how long did Dalrymple remain after him; what force from Kemble would have enabled Polson to have taken possession of the Lake and had he forwarded it on his first arrival in the harbour; climate unfavourable but what other cause attributed exceeding sickness of soldiers; was there no shoes sent down.</p>
79/9, folios 80-83	92	1780 Nov 4	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Lord George Germain	<p>No. 82; 1 enclosure</p> <p>Captain Amherst sent to Lord Cornwallis with despatch from Dalling requesting rebel prisoners for intended service on mainland; also carries copies of all letters already written to commander in chief and different governors.</p> <p>Enclosure: Letter, 1780 Nov. 4, Jamaica, John Dalling to Rt. Hon. Earl Cornwallis. Happy to hear of late</p>

				signal victory gained over rebel forces on 16 Aug. Due to climate, earnestly requests as many rebels as possible to serve under my command, even few hundreds will be of greatest consequence. Introduces and recommends his aid de camp – Captain Amherst of the Royal Americans. Leaves decision to you on acquiring needed men wanted to work the batteaux.
79/10, folios 84-87	97	1781 Jan 10	Stephen Fuller, Colonial Agent for Jamaica to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State	<p>1 enclosure</p> <p>Requests enclosed memorial written by himself to be presented to the King which contains my sentiments on the only adequate relief of the sufferers in Jamaica.</p> <p>Enclosed: Memorial from Stephen Fuller as agent for Jamaica, written 1781 Jan. 9. Requests relief following natural disaster (hurricane) in Jamaica on 3 Oct. Particularly recommends to Parliament to provide a loan of money to be lent for few years without interest or a very small one and after that term to bear an interest of 5% till paid. This will comfort the needy and infuse fresh vigour into your disconsolate subjects, and the revenue of this country would be reinstated and it is to be hoped improved.</p>
79/11, folios 88-93	103	1781 Jan 13	Lord George Germain to Governor Dalling	<p>Draft despatch No. 33</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> King concerned about situation in Jamaica after earthquakes and hurricane of 2nd and 3rd Oct, and relieved it did not affect the whole island and that provisions were available at Kingston to share. Realise more help required - application of funds from Parliament under consideration for disaster relief for lower classes;

				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• reports similar hurricane catastrophes in St. Lucia and Barbados on 10th and 11th. Fortunately the Fleet had already sailed under convoy of Sir Samuel Hood with ample supplies of provisions;• news of Guadeloupe and Martinico (Martinique) suffering from natural disasters – dispersion and destruction of fleet of victuallers and transports which had arrived at Martinico day before; sad but contributes to our security as puts it out of the power of enemy to take advantage of our distress. Our naval and military force in Leeward Islands will be superior upon arrival of Sir George Rodney and troops which went out with Sir Samuel Hood; also intelligence that no reinforcement of ships or troops has sailed from France or Spain; mentions departure of Mons. De Guichen from St. Domingo;• comments on Nicaragua expedition after reading reports of Sir Alexander Leith and Captain Clarke: poor conduct of officers and the consequences thereof, rebel forces to be employed, reluctant to send more troops until had fuller assurance of their being better attended to and employed with more hope of attaining the object of sending them. Enclosed extract of my letter to Lord Cornwallis of 9 Nov. shows I was early in giving directions for recruiting troops for Jamaica and augmenting force upon the Spanish mainland by engaging the rebel prisoners, and so have no doubt that the officers you sent to America will have assistance. This help, seconded by natives and “people of colour” may still effect success;
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requests to be kept abreast of information on revolution in Peru and activities of insurgents; indicates willingness to assist in arms to enable inhabitants to maintain their independency on the Spanish monarchy; • previous intelligence you received of French transports been accompanied by Count d'Estaing's squadron is false for both de Guichen and d'Estaing arrived at Brest with almost the whole Fleet of France; and only 12 ships of the line under orders of Mons. Freville at Brest appointed to convoy out the trade and storeships for West Indies; • recognition of continued sickness of troops in Jamaica - provisions sent of rations and healthcare/medicines; suggests officers not taking sufficient care of soldiers – not preventing men from intoxicating themselves with new rum, or exposing themselves to damp night air, or not obliging them to cleanliness in their persons and quarters. Mentions rations now coming from the Crown and will require exact account of; • pertaining to West Florida, shows regret at Dalling's inability to spare troops and trusts the admiral will station such naval force for its protection until troops can be sent; • Mail packet boats – 2 always sent to West Indies when boats can be had, one carrying mail to Jamaica is leaving without touching Leeward Islands.
79/12, folios 94-97	110	1781 Jan 30	Beeston Long and Richard Neave to Lord George Germain	1 enclosure

				<p>At request of general meeting of West India merchants held yesterday, sending copy of memorial presented to your lordship some time ago.</p> <p>Enclosure: Extract of minutes from meeting of the Jamaica Planters and Merchants, 1781 Feb. 8, regarding the relief funds and their distribution; forwarded by Mr. Long and Mr. Neave.</p>
79/13, folios 98-99	116	1781 Feb 28	George Germain, [secretary of state], Whitehall to Governor Dalling	<p>Draft despatch No. 34</p> <p>£40,000 has been allocated by House of Commons as relief for Jamaica following disaster. After Treasury and King's consideration, recommend urging council and assembly to appoint committees to facilitate distribution of funds.</p>
79/14, folios 100-101	119	1781 Mar 3	Gregg & Potts, Skinners Hall	<p>Request for copy of a letter pertaining to a suit being now depending in which several merchants of this city are interested on some insurances effected on one of the prizes taken on the capture of Fort Omoa [in present-day Honduras], the merchants are advised it is necessary to have copy of letter relating to the capture from Adjutant General Dalrymple to Governor Dalling dated 28 Oct. 1779.</p>
79/15, folios 102-103	122	1780-1781	Mr. Cumberland to Lord George Germain.	<p>Copy of a memorandum put into the hands of Lord Germain by Mr. Cumberland regarding case of Mr. Hodgson. Germain appeared sensible of the injury done Mr. Hodgson by premature proceeding against him and has been pleased to intend him a compensation but in effect the very contrary has hitherto been the case. Requests that his appointment in Jamaica include a place and date from time of his embarkation to relieve his anxiety about his trip.</p>

79/16, folios 104-105	125	1780-1781	[?]	Copy of petition to British House of Commons from planters, merchants and others of Jamaica, requesting aid after disaster of 3 Oct. Brief; unsigned.
79/17 folios 106-117	127	1780 Nov 5	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Lord George Germain	<p>No. 83, 4 enclosures</p> <p>Reports regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor state of troops in Jamaica such that impossible for junior officers to live on their pay without the aid of island subsistence; • Lord Charles Montague, on his request, despatched to South Carolina to raise troops; given him letters for commander in chief and Lord Cornwallis; • favourable accounts from a branch of Bluefields River; optimistic of communication by the Lake from the north and south seas; • Captain Amherst, my aid de camp, despatched to the area; • comments on failure of operations at Lake Nicaragua – flatter myself that after the strictest scrutiny, the attack on the Spanish settlements will be found to have been well planned and if the intent is not successful hope it will be remembered that no human foresight can entirely provide against the direful effects of an inhospitable climate and the neglects or mistakes of individuals; • ordered 100 days bat and forage to be issued in consideration of expences incurred by officers in their taking the field in August last when combined fleets of France and Spain menaced this island;

				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• comments on letter received from General Kemble at Bluefields and the problem of much delayed mail packets to windward bringing communications from you, and sickly state of troops and inability to afford to support. Found myself under necessity of conclusively coming to determination to order the troops withdrawn and fort blown up;• defence of West Florida – hears from prisoner Lt. Doblin at St. Jago de Cuba, that embargo laid on at Havana on account of expedition going forward against Pensacola under command of Don Galvez, Governor of New Orleans. Wishes he could afford to assist but shattered condition of fleet;• due to present situation, necessary to reduce staff brigades and flank corps – formed troops into 2 brigades, one under General Garth, the other under General Campbell. Incorporating privates of 93rd and Dalrymple’s corps into the 60th and 79th Regiments due to weak state of these regiments. Their officers, non-commissioned officers and drummers will be sent home in transports which is less expensive. More likely to gain island pay for troops in general by reducing amount of officers, especially for such a small proportion of men;• Assembly sitting since 7th, had been prorogued from 17th Oct. and has done very little. Few discontented trying to start an enquiry into my whole conduct from start of 1778 to present. <p>Enclosures:</p>
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				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Letter, 1780 Nov. 17, Jamaica, John Dalling to Sir Henry Clinton. 2. Letter, 1780 Nov. 17, Jamaica, John Dalling to Lt. Gen. Earl Cornwallis 3. Instructions for Captain Amherst, signed John Dalling 4. Letter, 1780 Nov. 8, Jamaica, John Dalling to Brig. Gen. Kemble
79/18, folios 118	140	1780 Dec 28	[no date]	<p>“A Sketch of the TOWN, HARBOUR & FORTS of ST. JAGO de CUBA.” Colour.</p> <p>Note on back indicates was originally with Governor Dalling’s dispatch no. 85.</p>
79/19, folios 119-122	142	1781 Feb 14	Beeston Long and Stephen Fuller, agent for Jamaica to Lord George Germain	<p>1 enclosure</p> <p>Regarding relief funds for those suffering from hurricane of Oct. 3 and allowed by House of Commons: 40,000 pounds, and distribution.</p> <p>Enclosed: Extract from the Minutes of a Meeting of the Jamaica Planters and Merchants, Feb. 8 1781.</p>
79/20, folios 123-138	147	1781 Dec 5	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Lord George Germain	<p>No. 84, 5 enclosures</p> <p>Not having heard responses from previous dispatches, concerned they have not been laid before Germain and in future will send for Germain’s immediate inspection. Details of Thomas Harrison's case in the Court of Vice Admiralty. Dalling explains his reasons for removing Harrison from his role as advocate general – abused me in the most outrageous manner and through the channel of public papers endeavoured to throw every possible obstruction in my way towards carrying on public business; also remarks on his removal of judges, as well as his relationship with the Assembly - who waste a</p>

				<p>great deal of their time in committees scrutinizing into matters which they have no business, but solely with intent of spattering my character. Hopes Assembly provides necessary provision for troops for combat.</p> <p>Enclosures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. letter, 1780 Oct. 31, Bluefields, Brig. Genl. Stephen Kemble to Genl. Dalling. Capt. Muller arrived with difficulty; better if he had arrived bit sooner; this detained brig <i>Polly</i> from going up Bluefields River with Col. Irving to explore it. Muller will follow when weather better. Bad weather with lots of rain. Ordered incorporation of the Legion and corps of Batteaux men into Jamaica Volunteers but will not make much difference in numbers as only 75 effectives last return. Not able to send men to Black River as barely have enough fit for duty to protect stores that are to be landed. Instead ordered Capt. Caddel to collect his company and put himself under command of Major Lawrie; appears from Lawrie Caddel is unworthy of his commission. Sloop has brought 30 more black persons from Roatan. With no ship of war and uncertainty of when one may arrive, approved proposition made by misters Cairn and Thomson of employing some of the "Indians" on an expedition to Matina as it may divert Spaniards from making attempt upon Cook's post. Concerned about safety of vessel <i>Hope</i> which carries detachment of Loyal Irish Corps with Capt. Park, black persons and stores; have searched and cannot find;
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				<p>2. letter, 1780 Nov. 15, Bluefields, Brig. Genl. Stephen Kemble to Genl. Dalling. Upon arrival found late Sir Alexander Leith when at Pearl Key Lagoon had allowed contract between Misters L'Estrange & Brookman and "Indians" to make pitpan canoes. Vessel <i>Hope</i>, contrary to Muller, found at St. Andreas, delayed by wind but expected at St. John's Harbour. Few "Indian" articles on it but inadequate to pay for pitpans. Tried but failed to get intelligence from Castle so sent vessel to St. John's Harbour due to concern about state of the Castle's staffing due to sickness and provisioning. Sent Captain Davis with permission for detachment of Loyal Irish Corps to Castle if necessary and land provisions. Muller delayed going upriver by "Indians" who wanted to visit friends at Pearl Key Lagoon first. Explains problems with captains indicating why did not send one to Black River – Capt. Landeak of Batteaux Corps dead; Capt. McGuire very inadequate for his role; Capt. Herbert of Legion very ill; Capt. Thomson of Legion very ignorant for land command; Capt. McDonald and Davis of Jamaica Volunteers only remain and cannot be spared. Infrastructure works slow due to want of proper people to attend black people; Capt. Rochat very ill and my repeated attacks of fever rendered difficult to do business, and unless recover will need to request change of air for health. Craft issues – Col. Irving taking charge collecting pitpans, etc.; only one been brought from "Indians" on this river and fear possible delays consequently, and many diminished from loss and disrepair. Need to hear your commands.</p>
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				<p>Enclose return of artillery and stores [not in here]. Received return from Mr. Despard of artillery and ammunition needed at garrison at St. John's Castle but would have been better to receive before left harbour; sent what could. Conductor of artillery – incapable but have no choice but to keep; justified substituting him based on conduct on loss of sloop <i>St. John</i>, same with Capt. McGuire's behaviour on same sloop loss shown in enclosed court of enquiry [not included here]. Consequently, troops sent should be amply supplied as can't depend on quantity of stores here. Capt. Everett's opinion that some black persons might be got at Black River and, if agreed, Major Laurie could organise already being there. Black persons here do not want to go up St. John's River and fear they would desert. Enclose list of late appointments [not included here]. Dr. Keiffe came with black people and paid him to go to Castle as requested by Capt. Dixon. Dr. Henderson, surgeon's mate, sent to Jamaica due to health, which contradicts your orders but necessary for recovery;</p> <p>3. letter, 1780 Nov. 20, Bluefields, Stephen Kemble to Genl. Dalling. Waiting to send mail till Mr. Muller returns from his expedition upriver. From Muller and Col. Irving's opinions need light troops and "Indians" as diversion to act up Bluefield River for another quarter. Capt. Davis returned from St. John's Harbour unable to execute business entrusted with as ship <i>Hope</i> not here. Via Mr. Dixon's enclosure [not included here], all well at St. John's Castle but provisions and stores very damaged on way up</p>
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				<p>due to weather and irregularity of Mr. Orton's detachments which are detailed in letter. When Capt. Davis left St. John's Harbour, river water more than 6' higher than when I left and very rapid so no boat could proceed. Lt. McKenzie and Mr. Kieff, surgeons mate, were to proceed when can. Concerned about Capt. Dixon's garrison being attacked by Spanish but have not fit men for duty to help. Enclose letter from "Indian" governor in which states wants Mr. Cairns to lead them in expedition; wait for answer. Not prepared if attacked by Spanish – troops' huts not finished and redoubts not started. PS – enclose return of garrison of St. John's Castle [not in here];</p> <p>4. letter, 1780 Sept. 27, St. John's Harbour, Capt. James Clarke to Gov. Dalling. Provides account of his voyage on river St. John's. Arrived St. John Harbour 11 Sept but Capt. Haynes advised not safe to anchor transports due to weather so instead met with Kemble who left harbour, after reading your letter, with sickly army of about 200 men of which over half not able to be serviceable. Bluefields decided as best place for stores and troops. I set out for Castle, arrived 19th. Wretched state of Castle – only 2 officers fit for duty, captains Dixon and Despard. This would encourage Spanish attempts to take post. Informed Dixon 2 craft on way. Capt. Despard and I went upriver to reconnoitre country up main branch to St. Croix. Gives observations on: river current and where greatest difficulties are, mentions above Cook's post; potential Spanish provision routes; also considerations for future operations on river: over 1,000 black persons</p>
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				<p>and pitpans to carry stores and troops, nothing sent in larger packages than barrels, troops fed beef and pork and not just pork which causes disorders, emphasizes proper care of provisions and stores noticing much destruction and loss in those sent to St. John's as seen on river bank, while troops advanced in need. Mentions everything shipped that was saved from sunken transports and from shore at St. John's but many seamen of <i>Diamond</i> lost lives from fatigue. P.S. Since writing my health so critical that life despaired. Of 23 men carried down with me to St. John's, not one returned.</p>
79/21, folios 139-147	164	1780 Dec 28	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Lord George Germain	<p>No. 85, 1 enclosure</p> <p>Report on military operations on mainland; even with negative reports, still shows optimism to continue to the Lake.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • based on Lt. Muller's general report thus far, operations from branch on Bluefields River appears unfavourable; provides summary of problems • advocates the River St. John's as best way to attack Spaniards successfully • leave captain and 50 men at Bluefields to assist "Indians" in harassing Spanish frontiers until hear from you • must abandon Fort St. Juan • intentions if Lake been taken and I had proceeded with troops from Jamaica; does not understand why naval force kept at port • positive opinion of Rattan/Roatan settlers' desire to resettle on St. George's Key

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions role Mr. Lawrie has played in negligence and want of necessary arrangement • encloses report from Capt. Bain of the 60th Regiment, recently returned from Charles Town [Charleston, South Carolina] to see feasibility of obtaining military reinforcements from captured Americans • detriment to island defence not having barracks erected so troops could rendezvous together • Lt. Dobbin, captured by Spaniards, just returned and gives favourable account of town of St. Jago; Dalling considers an asset if taken • Encloses drawing entitled “A Sketch of town and harbour and forts of St. Jago de Cuba” [not included here]. <p>Enclosures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letter, 1780 Nov. 14, Charles Town [Charleston], from James Bain, Captain 1st Battalion. 60th Regiment. His experience going to South Carolina – taken with 65 others at sea by privateers and paroled on island off Charles Town; saved by St. Helen’s inhabitants and got to Charles Town. Lt. Col. Balfour’s response to his venture; as well as Lord Cornwallis’s - not at all favourable. Commandant Balfour indicated still a chance to succeed if rebels will not exchange General Burgoyne’s Army, then commander in chief might permit recruit on prison ships. Waiting on commander in chief’s answer;
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> letter, 1780 Dec. 30, Jamaica, Brig. Genl. Archibald Campbell (also lieutenant governor of Jamaica) to Lord George Germain.
79/22, folios 148-151	178	1780 Dec 30	John Dalling to Lord George Germain	<p>Hopes Major Dalrymple may again be enabled to recruit his corps as it was among the very best of all the young corps. Hopes major and his officers may be extended so that the corps may be put on the establishment.</p> <p>Enclosure: Letter, 1780 Dec. 30, Jamaica, Brig. Genl. Archibald Campbell to Lord George Germain. Extolling the merits of Major Commandant Dalrymple. He goes home to recruit the Loyal Irish anew which have fallen a sacrifice to this inhospitable climate.</p>
79/23, folios 152-169	181	1780 Dec 29	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Lord George Germain	<p>No. 86, 5 enclosures</p> <p>Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provision made by Assembly for troops on Jamaica; committee appointed to inspect the Courts of Justice and the case of the dismissed four judges, and Dalling's opinion on; will transmit papers of inquiry proceedings regarding the expedition at St. John as well as proceedings as to the dispute between Dalling and Thomas Harrison. Received much abuse and misrepresentation; vacancy for physician to army due to death of Dr. Powell; appointed Dr. Edward Ledwith; encloses letter from Major Odell from New York, return of army to the first of Dec, and 2

				<p>letters from Col. Irving who I had sent down to Bluefields.</p> <p>Enclosures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. letter, 1780 Dec. William Odell, Major in the Loyal American Rangers to General Dalling. Vessels to send provisions as requested, and transports for 250-300 men. Request sending flour for wife; 2. Monthly Return of Royal Artillery, 60th, 79th, 85th, 88th, 92nd, 93rd, 94th and Loyal Irish Corps, Jamaica Dec. 1, 1780. Tabular format with following data numbers for each regiment: present (Officers – commissioned and staff, sergeants, drummers and fifers), effective rank and file, wanting to complete to the allowance (numbers available in rank and file column), alterations since last return (invalids, dead, discharged and recommended, discharged and not recommended, deserted), absent officers (including dates and reasons), name and rank of officers on duty and on what duty, and vacant officers and by what means; 3. enclosure: Col. C. Irving to Governor Dalling. Results of mission of penetrating and investigating Spanish savanna by the River [Russwa?]; provides summary. Mentions sketch [not included here]. Communicated results to Capt. Muller. Mentions Rama Creek,
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				<p>River [Wass?], St. John's River and the Lake. Raised 150 "Indians" from great River district alone as part of "Indian Corps" am to command and have them readied at Pearl Key Lagoon in case of attack before Bluefields. From knots received from Mosquito King, hope to complete regiment with company of black bombardiers which will be of superior utility in these climates. "Indian" presents – bestowed them only on those in the field and regimented. These people should receive pay like other troops while in actual service all presents in future be abolished as tending to bribe the worthless while the active "Indian" who is fit for war gets nothing. Very beneficial plan for government – savings and success. At Christmas propose make attacks on Spanish Town at source of different rivers which will divert Spaniard's attention and open communications (roads) between us and Spanish country;</p> <p>4. letter, 21 Nov., Bluefields, C. Irving to Edward Barry, Esq. [secretary to Dalling] Pertains to potential of cutting road to savanna – if so, needs to know quickly; discusses various expenses involved; "Indians" are expensive labour; cost of craft now dearer than previous, example of St. John's affair pricing;</p> <p>5. "Proceedings at a General Congress held at Tibuppy the 1st Octr. 1780 by Colvill</p>
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				<p>Cairns and James Thomson, by order of General Stephen Kemble and chiefs of two Tribes of Mosquito Indians". [Also known as Miskito people.] Present: George King of the Sambos, Colvill Britton, Governor of the Sambo Indians; Julius Caesar, colonel of the "Indians"; Duke Isaac, admiral of the "Indians"; Col. Dick Richard; John Smee, general of the "Indians"; Jasper Hall and Barnall, captains of the "Indians"; and John Young, interpreter. After chiefs considered, answered various questions put to them: 1. Amount wanted for dead; 2. Amount claimed as deprived "prisoners of colour" and amount we must pay per head; 3. Presents to be distributed according to proportion of men each tribe had upon the expedition; 4. Entitlement to presents of those that stayed home or returned after being part of way to St. Johns; 5. Willingness to give assistance to English in driving Spaniards from towns in your frontiers; 6. Willingness to assist with scarcity of provisions; 7. Expectation of payment for "Indians" dying during expedition; 8. Amount of craft at St. Johns; 9. Are crafts available for sale; 10. Amount of craft presently on coast; 11. Selling or hiring them; 12. Help in procuring; 13. Any further grievances – no, doubts removed, dead and prisoners paid for, so satisfied, and King's friends;</p>
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				6. pencil sketch showing Bluefields Lagoon and Bluefields River, numbered locations showing Spanish look out, road Col. Irving took, Santa [Pocha?] hill, Bihia, and Col. Irving's house; written description included with sketch.
79/24, folios 170-171	202	1781 Dec 31	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Lord George Germain	No. 87 Mortality of European soldiers in Jamaica and need for barracks at high level or island will continue to be cemetery of poor European soldier. Low state of health of imported soldiers. From August to now, 1100 men lost. Advocates for more attention from ministers as troops arriving are not meeting purpose intended if dying and security of Jamaica at risk.
79/25, folios 172-222	204	1781 Jan 1	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Lord George Germain	No. 88, 2 enclosures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House of Assembly enquiry regarding the effects of late expedition at St. John's/St. Juan's upon Jamaica; Dalling explains his criticism of enquiry (Committee report enclosed.); • case of the dismissed four judges. Enclosures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial from Governor Dalling in his defence of suspending Mr. Harrison, former advocate general, and aftermath of that decision; • List of papers annexed to following Report; • Report of the Committee into the effects of the late expedition at St. John's including Examinations (questions and answers) from

				<p>following: Major Dalrymple, commandant of the Loyal Irish; Major MacDonald, major and commanded corps called Jamaica Royal Volunteers; James Smith, agent for Royal Bateaux Corps; Captain Richard Bulkely of 79th Regiment of Foot; Captain Cuthbert Collingwood commander of HMS <i>Hinchenbrooke</i> [correct spelling is <i>Hinchinbrook</i>]; William Lewis, commander of corps of Light Horse; Captain Polson, 1st Battalion 60th Regiment, commanded at Fort St. Juan/St. John for a time; Brig. Genl. Archibald Campbell, questioned about the Jamaica Legion; Hercules Ross, holder of office of agent general in government; Alexander Cummins, clerk in governor's Secretary Office; Edward Barry; and Minutes of the Committee proceedings. Assembly concludes sending military resources in troops, artificers, inhabitants, "people of colour," particularly troops sent to the Island for island security during a period of war, put island security in jeopardy and should not occur in future without the King's command. Report includes information on military units sent, including seamen, state of health and mortality rates.</p>
79/26, folios 223-234	259	1781 Jan 1	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Lord George Germain	<p>No.89</p> <p>Proceedings of the opening of Legislature session; Dalling's address shows interest for support for distressed inhabitants due to hurricane; and recent additions of military ordnance and ammunition arrived.</p>

				Enclosed: copies of Dalling's speech, council's address and response.
79/27, folios 235-236	272	1780 Dec 29	Mr. James Trower, Mr. L.B. Martin, Mr. Grant and Mr. W. Elphinstone to Lord George Germain	Letter of thanks regarding a petition sent by them.