

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

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Content List – Volume 81 (1781 July 21 – December 31)

***Reference nos. 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
81/1, folio 1-2	3	1781 Oct. 22	[Secretary of State] George Germain to Brigadier General Campbell, Lieutenant Governor of Jamaica	<p>Draft despatch No. 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intelligence received regarding French military manoeuvres.
81/2, folios 2-4	6	1781 July 21	James Trower, L. B. Martin, J. [Gra?], Wm: Elphinston to Secretary of State George Germain	Correspondence, dated at Jamaica, from the four suspended assistant judges regarding their reinstatement to the Supreme Court.
81/3, folios 5-13	9	1781 August 1-18	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Rt Hon. Lord George Germain	<p>Despatch no. 109 with 3 enclosures – from Dalling to Admiral Sir Peter Parker (15 August 1781), Inhabitants of Westmoreland to Dalling (6 August 1781), and petition from Westmoreland (11 August 1781).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation of troops to Rattan • Appointment of second physician to troops in Jamaica • Arrival of Lord Montague’s Corps (Dalling allowed them to take their rations without stoppage; fear of potential circumstances which might render naval assistance impracticable) • Preparations made in light of intelligence regarding approaching enemy forces • Arrival of parliamentary donation to Jamaica • Petition from inhabitants of Parish of Westmoreland

81/4, folios 14-15	21	1781 August 19	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Rt. Hon. Lord George Germain	<p>Despatch no. 110</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hurricane reported to have hit Jamaica, not as severe as previous one, but serious damage occurred, particularly to Westmoreland and Hanover. Many provisions were lost, along with damage to food crops, e.g. plantain trees and corn used by slaves for subsistence. Supplies required from all quarters.
81/5, folios 16-29	24	1781 August 25	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Rt. Hon. Lord George Germain	<p>Despatch no. 111 with 5 enclosures from P. Parker at Admirals' Pen to Dalling (17 August), Dalling to Parker (21 August), from Parker at Admiral's Pen (22 August), Dalling to Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker (27 August), and petition of inhabitants of the Parish of Hanover (7 August).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of parliamentary donation following recent hurricane. Appointment of Mr. Thomas Mure as public agent for Jamaica. Intelligence regarding movements of French fleet flag of truce arrived from Port au Prince. Final date on the letter is August 30, 1781.
81/6 folios 30-32	39	1781 Nov. 7	Mr. Long and Mr. Neave, senders	<p>Send by order of general meeting of the West India Merchants, the enclosed Extract from their minutes, 10 October 1781, praying that a naval force be employed to protect island. Sent by Mr. Long and Mr. Neave, who request a meeting with secretary of state. [Extract included.]</p>
81/7 folios 33-35	45	1781 Nov. 10	Lord George Germain to Lieutenant Governor Campbell	<p>Draft despatch no.5 from secretary of state</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of parliamentary donation following recent hurricane. Provision of allowance for Major Odell's Corps. Distinction made by Assembly between garrison of the island and troops sent there. Clothing and

				equipment for Provincial Corps in North America. Dalling's proposed expedition to Curacao.
81/8 folios 36-37	48	1781 Nov. 10	Secretary of State to Lieutenant Governor Campbell	Draft despatch No. 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Account of an expedition undertaken by Mr. Lawrie in the Bay of Honduras Employment of Mr. Hodgson at Mosquito Shore
81/9 folio 38	50	1781 Nov. 16	B. Long and Richard Neave to Lord George Germain	Further correspondence, dated at Kingston, from Mr. B. Long and Mr. R. Neave of the West India Merchants regarding protection of island.
81/9.1 folios 39-40	52	1781 Jan. 25	Thomas Dancer to John Allan, Esqr. (London)	Letter dated at Kingston requesting a favour to transmit his memorial to the secretary of state requesting half pay as physician to troops in the expedition against Fort San Juan. Due to losses there, governor not so agreeable to fulfill promise.
81/10 folios 42-43	55	1781 Nov. 29	George Germain to Lieut. Governor Campbell	Draft despatch from secretary of state <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication with Mr. Symmer, agent for Turks Islands, regarding allowance for raising a company for their defence.
81/11 folios 44-91	57	1781 Sept. 10	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Rt. Hon. Lord George Germain	Despatch No. 112, with 21 enclosures from Dalling to Sir James Wright, commander in chief of forces in South Carolina (August 18), Dalling to G. C. Ricketts, Esq. (August 20), Dalling to George Crawford Ricketts, Esq. (no date), G. C. Ricketts to T. Mure, Esq. (August 21), G. C. Ricketts to Dalling (August 21), Thomas Mure, Commissary General to G. C. Ricketts, Esq. (August 22 at Kingston); Thomas Mure to Dalling (August 23); Dalling to

				<p>George Ricketts, Esq. (August 23); Ricketts to Dalling (August 24); John Campbell to Dalling (August 24 at Hanover); inhabitants of Parish of Hanover to Hon. John Campbell (August 23); Robert Sewell to governor (August 27); Dalling to Thomas Mure, Agent General (August 28); L. B. Martin to John Clement, Esq. (August 28 at St. Elizabeth); Commissioners Peter Campbell, Will Dunlop, John Wedderburn, John Campbell, Robert Mure to governor (Sept. 1); William Harvie to Dalling (Sept. 3 at Spanish Town); Sir Peter Parker to Dalling (Sept. 7 from Admiral's Penn, request supplies of peas and oatmeal in great want); Dalling to Parker (Sept 10); governor to Commissioners for distributing the Parliamentary donation (Sept. 14 at Spanish Town); Dalling to L. B. Martin (Sept. 18).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cartel between Jamaica and Havana; troops taken at Pensacola sent to New York; Spanish determined to send their prisoners to any place except to Jamaica, even the capitulation of Pensacola states the garrison should not be at Jamaica; believes attack could be expected whenever Spanish strong; intelligence re. vessel movements out of Havana; proposed expedition to Curacao [Dutch island north of Venezuelan coast]• Most enclosures pertain to situation following recent hurricane to hit Jamaica and particularly the relief of distressed inhabitants in Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Elizabeth's
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81/12 folios 92-95	108	1781 Sept. 20	John Dalling to Rt. Hon. Lord George Germain	<p>Unnumbered despatch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maladministration resulting in secretary of state's correspondence with Dalling and Campbell being confused. Correspondence was referring to Dalling's departure from government
81/13 folios 96-99	112	1781 Sept. 26	Archibald Campbell to George Germain	<p>Despatch no. 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dalling's departure from office Proposed attack on Curacao [Dutch island north of Venezuelan coast] Defences at Port Royal Military works being undertaken on forts and fortifications of Jamaica
81/14 folios 100-103	117	1781 Sept. 27	Archibald Campbell to Lord George Germain	<p>A regulation of government about the proclamation concerning the rebel prisoners, has become a grievance; includes newspaper clipping of article "Governor's-office, Jan. 25, 1779. These are to give Notice, THAT his Majesty has signified his pleasure to his Excellency the Governor, that when any Prisoners taken in Rebel privateers or armed cruizers, shall be brought into any of the ports within this government they shall be committed to the common Goal or other place of safe custody; and when any opportunity offers of putting them on board of his Majesty's ships, his Excellency has directions to deliver them to the Commanders in such numbers as they can be received, in order to their being sent to England under the Admiral's direction...."</p>
81/15 folios 104-105	123	1781 Sept. 28	John Clement, Deputy Secretary to William Knox, Esq.	<p>Missing despatches sent by fleet 23 last month located.</p>
81/16 folios 106-120	125	1781 Sept. 28	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Lord George Germain	<p>Despatch no.113, with 7 enclosures</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed attack on Curacao [Dutch island off the coast of Venezuela] – correspondence between vice admiral and Dalling respecting, and the result of the deliberations on that subject at a meeting of the admirals and generals on this station.
81/17 folios 121-144	141	1781 Sept. 30	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Lord George Germain	<p>Despatch no. 114, with 4 enclosures – report from E. Despard, Commandant of the Island of Rattan (now Roatan), 3 Sept.; report from James Thomson, Captain in Major Lawrie’s Corps; letter from Jno Skene Thomson dated 26 Sept. at Kingston; letter from James Ferrall, Richard Hoare, William O’Brien, James McAuley, a committee for the whole dated at Rattan 16 July.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situation in Rattan [island in Caribbean, off north coast of Honduras, now called Roatan] and area on the mainland, and actions to attack Spanish military provisions as a means of preventing Spaniards from attempting any attack on English settlements Report back from Captain E. Despard, of the 79th Regiment and commandant of Rattan-- mentions Bluefields, Cape Gracias a Dias, Black River, Bay of Honduras, Mosquito Shore, Indians, Rattan “Negroes,” 1st battalion of 60th Regiment, San Pedro (up the River Chamalicon), “slaves” Report from Capt. Thomson – detailed actions targeting Spanish military provisions; mentions Rattan Rangers, Black River Volunteers, 60th Regiment, Loyal Irish Corps, Major Lawrie’s Corps, St. Pedro, Port Omoa Letter from Dr. J. Thomson – observations and descriptions of things and places observed while en route from outside Black River (where taken prisoner

				<p>April 1780) through Spanish country to Comayagua, the capital of the province of Honduras; mentions Indians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from inhabitants of Rattan to Captain Despard-hopes for speedy return of Despart to island; gives assurances of assistance when required to extend British dominion on the continent and “fixing a permanent right in the Crown, to this Island
81/18 folios 145-152	165	1781 Sept. 30	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Lord George Germain.	<p>Unnumbered despatch with 2 enclosures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dalling’s decision to delay immediate execution of Harry, alias Henry Gordon, a free 'mulatto,' on trial and found guilty of murder of Sergeant Patrick Lock of 94th Regiment, tried at Supreme Court held at town of Saint Jago de la Vega, 7 Sept. 1781 ; provides reasons - judges, in their direction to jury, considered to be only an offence of manslaughter, and the coming forward of a written deposition by witness on 11 Sept. which corroborated written statement given to coroner by Nancy Morgan, free mulatto, not permitted to appear at trial, favourable to convicted. • Dalling requests assistance on decision whether to execute Gordon. <p>Enclosed: trial report sent to the governor (signed at Kingston, by French, Elphinston, and Fitch, 27 Sept.), including affidavits of Nancy Morgan and Johanna Fraser.</p>
81/19 folios 153-156	178	1781 Nov. 18	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Lord George Germain	1 enclosure – newspaper article

				Opening session speech, addresses of Council and Assembly and my answers published in newspaper, dated Oct. 18, 1781.
81/20 folios 157-158	184	1781 Sept. 28	Robert Sewell to Lord George Germain,	Postponement of his departure to later date due to ill health from the "influence of the climate."
81/21 folios 159-160	187	1781 Nov. 8	Robert White to Lord George Germain	Private correspondence regarding role as colonial agent of the inhabitants of the Mosquito Shore which is Bay of Honduras (agent since Dec. 1773); concerned has offended Germain.
81/22 folios 161-164	190	1781 Sept. 20	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Lord George Germain	Unnumbered private despatch Confusion about or suppression of letter resulting in "depriving me of so honorable an interpretation of His Majesty's pleasure."
81/23 folios 165-168	195	1781 Sept. 25	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Lord George Germain	Unnumbered private despatch with 1 enclosure Enclosure from Robert Sewell dated 10 Sept. from Spanish Town, pertaining to leave.
81/24 folios				[No folios, number not used.]
81/25 folios 169-170	201	1781 Sept. 28	Lieutenant Governor Archibald Campbell to Rt. Hon. Lord George Germain	Unnumbered private despatch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campbell's request for leave to return to Europe and justifications – "...unhappy differences between General Dalling and the Assembly, having put a stop to the necessary improvements and preparations for defence, and even gone so far as to check the military ardour of the Militia, who now very seldom turn out for the purpose of being trained to arms; it appeared to me, that while I was injuring my health and fortune in Jamaica, my best endeavours to render my material

				<p>service to my King and Country, under such circumstances, would prove ineffectual.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dalling’s prolonged stay and signs of his intentions.
81/26 folios 171-172	204	1781 Nov. 17	Stephen Fuller [British agent for Jamaica] to Rt. Hon. Lord George Germain	Correspondence mentioning memorial of Dr. Thomas Dancer and Dr.’s letter to Mr. Allen [not included with letter]; Dancer's character inquired into, found to be 'unquestionable'.
81/27 folios 173-176	207	1781 Nov. 19	Stephen Fuller to Lord George Germain	<p>1 enclosure – petition of Assembly of Jamaica, passed 10 July 1781</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defence of the island – difficulty raising sums necessary for keeping and repairing fortifications and support of troops; request relief from further expenses • Letter indicates additional distress – merchants withdrawn their credit and are getting home their money already advanced speedily, upon a conception that the enormous additional tax upon their staple commodity will be so soon attended with bad effect
81/28 folios 177-180	211	1781 Nov. 28	Stephen Fuller [British Agent for Jamaica] to Governor Dalling	<p>Dated at London Tavern. 1 enclosure – Extract from the Minutes of a Meeting of the Jamaica Planters and Merchants held the 28 Nov. 1781</p> <p>Petition requests meeting between secretary of state and planters and merchants, regarding defence of Jamaica; signs of imminent attack from France and Spain and urge naval military strength immediately be sent.</p>
81/29 folios 181-182	215	1781 Dec. 5	Lord George Germain to John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica	Draft despatch from secretary of state

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue of correspondence regarding Dalling's departure from government - secretary of state sent despatches to Campbell, presumed Dalling had left island. • Insists Dalling departs from office and hands over to Campbell, particularly in light of threatened enemy attack in winter.
81/30 folios 183-184	217	1781 Dec. 5	John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica to Archibald Campbell	Order made, in the presence of the King, at St. James's court, 5 December 1781, signed by Stephen Cottrell, demanding hand-over of government in Jamaica from Dalling to Campbell.
81/31 folios 185-188	219	1781 Dec. 5	Lord George Germain to Lieutenant Governor Archibald Campbell	<p>Draft Despatch no. 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privy Council order demanding hand-over of administration from Dalling • Details of military arrangements to be carried out • Curacao expedition
81/32 folios 189-192	224	1781 Dec. 19	Stephen Fuller [British agent for Jamaica] to Lord George Germain	<p>1 enclosure</p> <p>Asks for enclosed to be passed on to the king - petition to the king from himself as agent for Jamaica, requesting more troops be sent to Jamaica to protect "loyal and faithful subjects...who are so far from being able to resist the efforts of an enemy, that they are not equal without a considerable aid from your Majesty to protect themselves against their slaves." Due to losses in young regiments' ranks sent over due to climate, request sending seasoned veterans to their assistance. Urgent.</p>

81/33 folio 193	230	1780 Oct. 14		Article in <i>Royal Gazette</i> , Kingston, 14 October 1780, reporting destruction of Savanna la Mar and other areas in and near Jamaica due to latest weather event on the 3rd. "No pen can describe the horrors of the scene which the morning presented to the sight of the few who survived to lament the fate of their wretched neighbours...." Mentions Bluefields, Rattan [Roatan], Black River, Parish of Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth.
81/34 folios 194-195	232	1781 Dec. 31	Robert White to Lord George Germain	Advices, forwarded by Robert White, from Captain King of the vessel <i>Camden</i> , regarding situation at Mosquito Shore; believes if troops are not sent soon to protect it, it will be destroyed or abandoned by Spring.
81/35 folios 196-351	235	1781 August 4	Edward Barry to Rt. Hon. Lord George Germain	Enclosures nos. 198-351 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence from Mr. Edward Barry, enclosing numerous copies of despatches forwarded to secretary of state at request of Governor Dalling relating to unsuccessful military operations in St. [San] Juan. [San Juan Expedition proposed by Dalling against Spanish province of Nicaragua with main objective to capture strategic towns of Granada and Leon on the northwestern shore of Lake Nicaragua.] • The Preface • Narrative of the late Expedition to St. [San] Juan's Rivers and the Lake of Nicaragua, signed [Major General] John Dalling, [governor of Jamaica] • Letter from Lt. Col. Alex Leith of the 88th Regiment, 26 June 1780 at St John's Harbour • Extract of letter from Superintendant to General Dalling 18 Nov. 1779 • Letter from John Dalling, 6 Jan. 1780

				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letter from [Major] J. Lawrie, Cape Gracias a Dios, 2 Sept. 1779• Letter from John Dalling, Jamaica, 6 Sept. 1779• Letter from William Dalrymple, Black River, Mosquito Shore, 3 Oct 1779• Letter from [Major] James Lawrie, Black River, Mosquito Shore, 27 Dec. 1779• Letter from [Captain] John Polson [overall commander of expedition], St. John's Castle, 30 April 1780• Abstract of letters from secretary of state laid before the general officers by order of Major General Dalling, signed Archibald Campbell and George Garth, 17 August 1780 at Jamaica.• Account of Capt. [also written as Col.] Dalrymple's conduct while at St. John's by Capt. Despard of the 79th Regiment, as requested. [Dalrymple commanded at St. John's Harbour.]• Letter from James Clark at St. John's Harbour, 27 Sept. 1781. Arrived at St. John's Harbour 11 Sept. with transports due to high winds. General Kemble understood by your despatches importance of leaving for Bluefields with remains of his "sickly army" which did not amount to more than 200 men, 120 of which were in such a condition as not give the least assistance to the rest. Arrived 19th and found captains Dixon and Despart at the Castle, the only officers fit for duty, describes his concerning first impressions. Went upriver with Despart. Provides observations and opinion for any future military endeavours, such as using black persons to carry troops and stores as the Europeans "cannot possibly stand the fatigues of that service..." and serving troops pork and beef alternately instead of only pork as this brings on "severe fluxes, and other dangerous disorders." Comments supplies were immense, but
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				<p>abuses exceed all manner of comprehension, and many men from the <i>Diamond</i> lost their lives from fatigue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (folio 247) Letter from Alex Leith [Lt. Col. 38th Regiment] at St. John's, 22 July 1780. Recovering from illness due to climate. Provides account of situation here and "total inactivity that has pervaded every officer on this command." Details his observations as to Capt. Commandant Dalrymple's performance critically. General Kemble is 15 miles nearer the lake and he informs of his proposal to assist and complications in the field. States lots of rain and sick - "whoever goes into the hospital is brought out but to his grave – in short our situation is such, that nothing but carrying the Battery will save the few men we have left, being about 140." Calls this a calamity which should be investigated. Goes tomorrow to make attack. If grand army comes this way, remind governor he will meet with unsurmountable difficulties without "negroes" to navigate the boats. • Separate instructions to Capt. Commandant Dalrymple, Capt. Polson, Col. Kemble, 20 Oct 1779, from Dalling concerning preparations for expedition intended about the middle of January; with additional instructions for Lt. Col. Kemble, 20 May 1780; instructions for Capt. Gleadow [Royal Irish Corps] during his residence on the Mosquito Shore, 3 July 1780; and instructions from Edward Barry at Jamaica to Lieut. Col. Irving, 1 July 1780, and Major Jenkins [doctor?]; instructions to Capt. Rochat, 14 August 1780; for Capt. Clarke, 26 August 1780 from John Dalling. • More documents not listed here. • (folios 284-296) "Journal" signed [Capt.] Jno Polson. Daily journal from 3 Feb. 1780 – 29 April. • More documents not listed here, including from Admiral Parker, and (starting folio 341) Returns of ordnance and military stores and provisions shipped by order of Gov.
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				and Command in Chief of Jamaica John Dalling for service on the Spanish Main, copied from bills of lading – 12 Sept 1779 – 31 August 1780. Listing for each vessel named.
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