

**Privateering – Selected Sources in  
Frederick Haldimand. Papers and Correspondence: 1758-1784**  
(HIL-MICL FC LMR. H3F7P3)

**Correspondence with Major Hutcheson, 1776 to 1778.**

Volume 20. British Library Add. MSS. No. 21680. UNB Reel 9.

August 11, 1775. Boston. Major Hutcheson to General Haldimand

- The town of Machias has two armed schooners intercepting supplies. The capture and recapture of a schooner.

December 4, 1775. Boston. Major Hutcheson to General Haldimand.

- The capture of ships by rebel privateers.

December 12, 1775. Boston. Major Hutcheson to General Haldimand.

- The navy does not react to constant capture by rebel privateers. There is little supplies. The capture of a rebel privateer.

December 23, 1775. Boston. Major Hutcheson to General Haldimand,

- The capture of ships with supplies. The capture of the President of the Council of St. John's Island by rebel navy and 14 sail of vessels.

January 16, 1776. Boston. Major Hutcheson to General Haldimand.

- Rebel privateers continue to cause trouble.

February 2, 1776. Boston. Major Hutcheson to General Haldimand.

- The defeat at Quebec has confused the rebels. A rebel privateer has been destroyed. Naval preparations at Philadelphia and the ships are reported to go to Virginia.

May 23, 1776. Halifax. Major Hutcheson to General Haldimand.

- A ship of war with a prize has arrived. There is a reported capture of a brig carrying 1,500 half barrels of powder.

July 10, 1776. Staten Island. Major Hutcheson to General Haldimand.

- The fleet has arrived. A capture by rebel privateers.

August 8, 1776. Major Hutcheson to General Haldimand.

- The doing of rebel privateers.

**Correspondence of the Ministers with Generals Amherst, Gage, and Carleton, 1760 to 1778. Volume 37. British Library Add. MSS. No. 21697. UNB Reel 15.**

July 12, 1775. Whitehall. Lord Dartmouth to Governor Carleton.

- The Lizard takes out storeship Jacob under convoy with arms for 3,000 men. Naval and military reinforcements are to be made. The distribution of the fleet. All ships belonging to New England are to be seized.

June 30, 1776. Admiralty Court to the Vice Admiralty Court of Quebec.

- Instructions as to adjudicating on prizes.

**Letters from General Haldimand to Lord George Germaine and the Treasury, 1777 to 1779. Volume 42. British Library Add. MSS. No. 21702. UNB Reel 16.**

July 25, 1778. Quebec. General Haldimand to Lord George Germaine.

- General Haldimand purchased a rebel privateer that was taken by the Triton and to be used as an advice boat. He asks that the commander of the fleet be instructed to send information of the rebels' doings.

November 19, 1778. Quebec. General Haldimand to Lord George Germaine

- The destruction of fishing stations on the north shore and Labrador by a rebel privateer. There is a need for proper protection. The attempts of the rebels to produce a treasonable feeling among Canadians.

November 19, 1778. Quebec. General Haldimand to Lord Sandwich, Admiralty.

- General Haldimand suggests preventive actions with the depredations of rebel privateers in the St. Lawrence and lower coasts.

**Letters from Lord George Germaine to General Haldimand 1777 to 1779. Vol. 1. Volume 43. British Library Add. MSS. No. 21703. UNB Reel 16.**

January 10, 1778. London. Lord George Germaine to General Haldimand.

- The crews of armed vessels prisoners are to be kept until they can be sent to England. The crews of rebel traders are not to be pressed and may be set free.

March 19, 1778. London. Lord George Germaine to General Haldimand.

- Must take every measure to protect the navigation and commerce of Canada.

August 5, 1778. London. Lord George Germaine to General Haldimand.

- The authorization of letters of marque for seizing and destroying the ships and vessels that belong to the French King.

June 17, 1779. London. Lord George Germaine to General Haldimand.

- Spain had declared war. Letters of marque to be issued.

**Letters from Lord George Germaine (Secretary of State) 1780-1782. Vol. II. Volume 44. British Library Add. MSS. No. 21704. UNB Reel 17.**

May 19, 1780. Whitehall. Lord George Germaine to Governor of Quebec.

- The official circular respecting instructions to the ships of war, and letters of marque.

**Letters from the Treasury, 1777-1785. Vol. I. Volume 46. British Library Add. MSS. No. 21706. UNB Reel 18.**

March 30, 1779. London. Commander of the Navy to the Treasury (Extract).

- Ships will be provided for sending provisions to New York and Canada in July and notice will be given to the Admiralty for convoys.

April 1, 1779. London. Treasury to General Haldimand.

- The Treasury instructing Haldimand to settle the claims of Mure, Son & Atkinson relative to the armed vessels in the St. Lawrence and to decide the employment or disposal of these vessels with a copy of the letter to Messrs. Mure & Co.

**Letters to General Haldimand from the Board of Admiralty and Ordnance, 1778-1785.**  
[Volume 49. British Library Add. MSS. No. 21709. UNB Reel 19.](#)

January 27, 1777. London. Lord George Germaine.

- Instructions that were given with a commission for seizing ships belonging to rebellious colonies.

April 28, 1778. London. Admiralty to General Haldimand.

- Haldimand is empowered to grant letters of marque to vessels to seize ships from the rebellious colonies and those that are trading with them, with warrant and Act of Parliament attached.

June 23, 1778. Royal Warrant to the Admiralty

- Authorisation to Courts of Admiralty to adjudicate on prizes taken from Spain.

June 23, 1778. Royal Warrant.

- Authorisation to issue letters of marque etc. against Spanish ships etc., with instructions appended.

June 23, 1778. Royal Warrant.

- Instructions to masters of letters of marque against King of Spain.

June 24, 1778. Admiralty to Vice Court of Admiralty. Quebec.

- Authorisation to adjudicate on prizes.

June 24, 1778. Admiralty to Haldimand

- Authorisation for him to grant letters of marque against Spain.

January 8, 1780. London. Admiralty to General Haldimand.

- Haldimand is to instruct letters of marque of not to molest for four months the ships of Holland.

December 1, 1780. Admiralty to General Haldimand.

- Haldimand to transmit instructions to commanders of ships of war, privateers to observe the treaty with Russia, by which trade with the USA, who are at war, with either of the two contracting powers to be hindered except with regards to war supplies.

December 20, 1780. Royal Warrant to the Admiralty.

- Admiralty to issue letters of marque against the Dutch

December 22, 1780. Admiralty to General Haldimand.

- A warrant to issue letters of marque against the Dutch with instructions to masters of privateers.

April 24, 1781. Admiralty.

- Warrant for letters of marque not to make any prizes in the Baltic with instructions appended

June 23, 1781. Admiralty.

- Warrant extending time for exemption of seizure of Dutch vessels trading to Grenada, etc.

July 11, 1781. Admiralty.

- Sending additional instruction to exempt from seizure 7 Dutch ships (named) trading to Grenada, etc.

### **Letters from the English Ministers, 1777-1784.**

[Volume 50. British Library Add. MSS. NO. 21710. UNB Reel 20.](#)

August 5, 1778. Whitehall. Germain to Haldimand.

- (circular secret and confidential) Powers to issue letters of marque against the French has been delegated to governors of American colonies.

June 17, 1779. Whitehall. Lord George Germaine to General Haldimand.

- A declaration of war with Spain. A warrant for issuing letters of marque is to be sent.

March 2, 1780. Lord George Germaine to General Haldimand.

- The “Union” was seized by Paul Jones and taken to Norway and then released by the King of Denmark. Troops are to be sent to replace the reinforcement. Germaine does not see the need for a large force in Canada especially since the fleets in Europe and the West Indies were successful.

May 19, 1780. Whitehall. Lord George Germaine to Haldimand.

- Instructions to men of war and privateers are to be sent to Germaine.

August 4, 1780. Whitehall. Lord George Germaine to General Haldimand.

- Additional instructions for letters of marque.

### **Letters to the Ministers, 1778-1780. Volume I.**

[Volume 54. British Library Add. MSS. No. 21714. UNB Reel 20.](#)

September 25, 1778. Sorel. General Haldimand to Admiralty.

- Receipt acknowledging warrant for issuing letters of marque.

September 27, 1778. General Haldimand to Lord Barrington.

- Conferred to the temporary ranking of Major on Captains Nairne and Hughes in the Royal Highland Emigrants.

October 24, 1778. Quebec. General Haldimand to Lord George Germaine.

- Captain Pearson withdrew all the ships of war. The evil effect of the privateers in the St. Lawrence and there is an increased danger to Quebec since the French alliance.

November 19, 1778. Quebec. General Haldimand to Lord George Germaine.

- Fishing posts were destroyed by a privateer on the north coast and Labrador. Haldimand urges the Admiralty to defend.

June 18, 1779. Quebec. General Haldimand to Lord Sandwich.

- The devastation that the privateers have caused last year. There has been no arrival of ships of war, yet the privateers continue to plunder. A vessel was captured and the fisheries were plundered.

June 18, 1779. Quebec. General Haldimand to Lord George Germaine.

- There are American privateers in the Gulph, and they have captured vessels and destroyed fisheries that were wanted by ships of war. There is an urgent need for provisions.

September 13, 1779. Haldimand to Germaine.

- Received authority to issue letters of marque, will comply, with instructions relative thereto.

September 13, 1779. Quebec. General Haldimand to Lord George Germaine.

- Whether by accident or collusion, provisions shipped by vessels never arrived in New York. The desire for a naval force has enabled rebel privateers to destroy fisheries in the Gulph and Labrador. Haldimand details how to rectify this.

September 13, 1779. Quebec. General Haldimand to the Treasury.

- Receipt acknowledging contract for provisions. Fearful that the desire for provisions will prevent supplies being sent to the upper posts. Urgent demands to increase the amount of supplies sent due to the risk of capture and or loss.

October 25, 1780. Quebec. General Haldimand to Lord George Germaine.

- The enormous expenses at the upper posts and how to lessen them. There has been a large vessel placed on lake Ontario and facilitated the passage of bateaux so that provisions can be sent faster.

### **Letters to the Ministry, 1780-1782. Vol. II**

[Volume 55. British Library Add. MSS. No. 21715. UNB Reel 21.](#)

November 28, 1780. Quebec. General Haldimand to Germaine (No. 78)

- The privateers have been successful this year and encouraged the rebels to have more on the banks and Gulph.

June 10, 1781. Quebec. General Haldimand to Lord George Germaine.

- The despatches by convoy that were sent to Halifax may be lost and or captured. The misfortune might be due to ill-timed solitude of the Quebec merchants to send letters by that route.

August 20, 1781. Quebec. General Haldimand to Lord George Germaine.

- English and Irish fleets arrived at the St. Lawrence. There has been action between two ships sent as convoy and French frigates. The convoy is safe in the Spanish River, but a small armed ship, the Jack, may be taken.

September 8, 1781. Quebec. General Haldimand to Knox.

- Majority of the trade and Cork fleets are in the harbor. Riedesel and the troops of convention, with four victuallers have arrived.

October 22, 1782. Quebec. General Haldimand to Lord Keppel.

- The petition respecting the fisheries and Indian trade on the Labrador coast is enclosed. Two or three small vessels are recommended to be sent out, confined and placed under the command of the Admiral at Newfoundland.

**Letters to the Ministers, 1782-1784. Volume III.**

[Volume 56. British Library Add. MSS. No. 21716. UNB Reel 21.](#)

November 13, 1782. Quebec. General Haldimand to Navy Board.

- There is a report of cargo landing from Transport *Amazon* that was captured and recaptured.

**Letters from General Haldimand to the Secretary at War, Ordinance Office, Admiralty and Board of Trade, 1778-1786.**

[Volume 60. British Library Add. MSS. No. 21720. UNB Reel 22.](#)

September 25, 1778. Sorel. General Haldimand to Mr. Stephens, Admiralty.

- Warrants have been received for issuing letters of marque.

September 13, 1778. Quebec. General Haldimand to Mr. Stephens, Admiralty.

- Warrants received for issuing letters of marque.

October 20, 1780. Quebec. General Haldimand to Mr. Stephens, Admiralty.

- Instructions received for issuing letters of marque.

**Letters from Governors of Nova Scotia and Officers Commanding at Halifax, 177-1784.**

[Volume 149. British Library Add. MSS. No. 21809. UNB Reel 73.](#)

March 2, 1779. General Haldimand to Hughes.

- Haldimand asks that Hughes, alongside McLean, get the troops that were driven to Halifax because of bad weather last winter sent to Quebec. The vessels must be protected against privateers at the mouth of the St. Lawrence. Haldimand recommends a small post at the narrowest part of the Gut of Canso to deprive the privateers.

May 6, 1779. Halifax. McLean to General Haldimand.

- A vessel for the troops is at Lunenburg and the convoy to Bic is to sail immediately once the weather permits. Unclear as to whether the King's ships are ready to sail for the St. Lawrence to watch out for rebel privateers. The "Romulus" ship of war has brought four large transports so that some of the troops at Halifax are to be employed.

June 20, 1779. Halifax. Hughes to General Haldimand.

- Pondicherry has been captured.

June 20, 1779. Halifax. Colonel Bruce to General Haldimand.

- There was a capture and recapture of a ship from Glasgow. Pondicherry was captured. The large amount of prize money made by Liverpool, Glasgow and other towns.

June 12, 1781. Quebec. General Haldimand to Brigadier Francis McLean.

- An armed ship, “Jack” is to be sent to act as a convoy to the provision ships from Halifax. Provisions are scarce in the upper province. (See also Oct 3, 1781.)

July 17, 1781. Halifax. Brigadier John Campbell to General Haldimand.

- The provision ships have been unloaded, however with the arrival of the “Jack” the provisions were reloaded and now are ready to sail under convoy. (See Oct 5, 1781.)

October 3, 1781. Halifax

- Abstract of accounts for the “Jack” signed by W. Hanfield.

October 5, 1781. Fort Howe. Brigadier Campbell to General Haldimand.

- “Jack” has been captured. Captain Tongo has arrived in a cartel with the ship’s company from Boston. He purchased a prize privateer and is to go to Quebec. (See Dec. 5, 1781.)

November 14, 1781. Quebec. General Haldimand to Brigadier Campbell.

- Haldimand received receipts for the shipment of provisions. The vessels containing these provisions have arrived safely. It has been difficult to communicate with New York and Haldimand is anxious to obtain intelligence that reaches Halifax. Expresses difficulty in sending expresses and that caution is to be used.

December 5, 1781. Halifax. Sir A.S Hamond to General Haldimand.

- The four sailors of the “Jack” have been taken to New York.

March 31, 1781. Fort Howe. Studholme to General Haldimand.

- Lieut. Rogers from Quebec has arrived and departed by vessel for Windsor. The people of New England are busy fitting out privateers and boats to plunder the coasts of Nova Scotia.

June 10, 1782. Halifax. Campbell to General Haldimand.

- “Jacques” (Jack) has been recaptured and was carried into Halifax.

**Letters to Governor of Nova Scotia and Officers Commanding at Halifax, 1779-1784.**  
[Volume 150. British Library Add. MSS. No. 21810. UNB Reel 73.](#)

March 2, 1779. Quebec. General Haldimand to Brigadier Maclean.

- A note of thanks for accommodating the troops on board of the “Nancy” and will reimburse any expenses. Small privateers are annoying. Precautions should be taken.

November 1, 1779. Quebec. General Haldimand to Lieut. Governor Hughes.

- A scout has returned with Lieut. Colonel Lowder and Capt. DeBadie who were seized on their way from Machias to Boston with letters from Col. Allen to Congress and other private letters some of which trace the connections of people in Hughes's neighborhood.

May 14, 1780. Halifax. Capt. Phil Cosby to the Senior Naval Officer, Quebec.

- Capt. Mason arrived to command the King's ships in Nova Scotia. There are rebel privateers along the coast. A force will be sent to warn them.

June 28, 1780. Quebec. General Haldimand to Sir Richard Hughes.

- Captain Alpine has arrived with convoy. Captain Young has a force sufficient enough for the Gulph against the privateers. A purchase of a new ship is to help him. He has captured a privateer of eighteen guns and a hundred men.

August, 1780. Quebec. General Haldimand to Sir Richard Hughes.

- The naval superiority is secured by the arrival of Admiral Graves. The trade fleet has arrived. Merchantmen were taken in the Gulph and some at sea by either a French or Spanish ship. Rebels encroaching on the Ohio have been checked.

September 9, 1780. Quebec. General Haldimand to Sir Richard Hughes.

- A report from Clinton states that DeTernay's fleet had sailed to attack Canada. Later news suggests that it was in Rhode Island and Admiral Graves blockaded them. Two-thirds of fleet are missing.

June 12, 1781. Quebec. General Haldimand to Sir Richard Hughes.

- The refusal of a convoy for the victuallers forces Haldimand to send off an armed vessel, the "Jack". They are in need of frigates because the "Hind" is only one available. It is recommended that a ship of force be sent with the vessel to Bic. There is a need for provisions for the French at Rhode Island so will probably lead to vessels being sent to intercept the victuallers from Halifax.

November 16, 1781. Quebec. General Haldimand to Sir Andrew S. Hamond.

- Haldimand asks Hamond to recover four seamen belonging to "jack" from H.M.S Chatham. They are wanted for lake service.

July 27, 1782. Quebec. General Haldimand to Brigadier Campbell.

- "Jack" has been recaptured. Haldimand is frustrated with the attempt of a fleet under de Grasse.