

conduct you in, direct you to the place where the army is, and assure you that it is a post of safety. I am sir your most obedient humble servant
(Copy)

John Robinson.

Private signals for knowing each other, to be observed by the ships and vessels under the command of the admiral commanding in chief in America.

By Day. The ship to Windward shall lower down her Foretopsail, which the ship to Leeward shall answer by lowering down the maintopsail, Then the ship to Windward shall hoist an english Jack at her maintopmast head which the ship to Leeward shall answer by hoisting an English Jack at her foretopmast head. Then both ships shall hoist their proper Colours. —

By Night. The ship to Windward shall hoist four lights where they can be best seen one over the other. The ship to Leeward to hoist four lights abreast of each other where they can be best seen, Then the ship to Windward to burn one false fire, and the other to burn two. These signals to be kept as private as possible.

Ph. Stephens. army office 22 Sept 1775. (Copy)

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Camp at Cambridge October 24 1775

Sir. My conjecture of the destination of the late squadron from Boston in my last has been unhappily verified by an outrage exceeding in barbarity and cruelty every hostile act practiced among civilized nations. I have enclosed the account given by Mr Jones a gentleman of the town of Falmouth of the destruction of that increasing & flourishing village. He is a very great sufferer and informs me that the time allowed for the removal of effects was so small that valuable property of all kinds and to a great amount has been destroyed. The orders shown by the Captain for this horrid procedure by which it appears that the same desolation is meditated upon all the towns on the coast made it my duty to communicate it as quickly and extensively as possible. As Portsmouth was the next place to which he proposed to go General Sullivan was permitted to go up and give them his assistance and advice to ward off the blow. I flatter myself the like event will not happen there as they have a fortification of some strength & a vessel has arrived at a place called Sheepscot with 1500th of Powder. The gentlemen of the congress have nearly finished their Business but as they write by this opportunity, I must beg leave to refer you to their letter for what concerns their Commission. We have had no occurrence of any consequence in the Camp since I had the honor of addressing you last. But expect every hour to hear that Newport has shared the fate of unhappy Falmouth. I have the honor to be with the most sincere respects. Sir

(Copy) Your most obedient & humble servt. Geo Washington

Falmouth Monday October 16. 1775. The Canoe and ship of sixteen guns, commanded by Capt Mowatt, a large ship, schooner and a sloop armed, anchored below the town. The 17th at 3 P.M. they weighed and came up and anchored within gunshot and immediately chose a committee of three gentlemen and sent them on board to know the reason of that towns being set on fire, he returned for answer that his orders were to set fire on all the seaport towns between Boston & Halifax.

(that)