

not be understood by a council of war there, and was not obeyed. See Byng's *Tryal and Defence*.

THAT Admiral *Osborne* with thirteen ships of the line and one frigate, who failed to convoy a fleet of merchantmen the 30th of *January* and returned the 16th of *February* 1756, might and ought to have gone to *Minorca*, considering the expos'd situation it was in, and the forwardness of the enemy's preparations at *Toulon*, and that *Great Britain*, in sparing these ships, for this service, could not be insulted nor injured by the sixteen ships then fitting out at *Brest* or *Rockfort* (part of which by the intelligence the government had, could not be ready till *May*) because, exclusive of Mr. *Osborne's* fleet, there were ready to put to sea eight ships of the line, and twenty three frigates, and thirty two of the line, and five frigates fitting, and very near ready; nor should we in the least degree have provoked an invasion, by sending of this fleet to the *Mediterranean*, as the enemy had not at that time made any preparations to execute such a scheme; except marching troops to the sea-coast; and by all the intelligence, received to this time, the *French* court had rejected every plan for that purpose as impracticable, and meant only to alarm and distress *England*, by ordering troops to the sea-coasts.

THAT