

cumstances, was confirmed by letters from Consul *Birtles* of *Genoa*, dated the 17th and 26th of *January*, and received by Mr. *Fox* on the 4th and 11th of *February*, and by all the following advices from all parts relative to the destination of the armaments in the southern provinces of *France*.

THAT notwithstanding these advices after hostilities had commenced even in *Europe*; there being but four incomplete regiments and one company of the artillery in *Minorca*, forty two officers of which were absent; there being but two men of war of the line and five frigates, under Mr. *Edgecombe* in the *Mediterranean*, and the garrison short of provisions for a siege; neither stores, ammunition, provisions, officers belonging to the garrison, recruits, for the four regiments ready raised, or miners, or any additional troops were sent to the island, nor our squadron in the *Mediterranean* augmented, until Admiral *Byng* sailed on the 6th of *April* 1756, with no more ships of the line, than, by the most early and authentick intelligence, the government were sure would sail from *Toulon*, even if Mr. *Edgecombe's* squadron joined Mr. *Byng*; which was quite uncertain; and without any more troops than what belonged to the four regiments of the garrison, except one regiment, who were to serve as marines in the fleet, and an order for a battalion to be taken on board at *Gibraltar*, which could

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