

such directions that their departure was delayed till the sixth of *April*, for want of men^{*}; Mr. *Byng* being directed to hasten the fitting up the *Sterling Castle*, and to complete her complement of men in preference to any other ship; and not to meddle with the men on board the *Nassau*, *Torbay*, *Essex*, *Prince Frederick*, and *Greyhound*, they being wanted, says Mr. *Cleveland*, on the most pressing service[†].

How they in power managed in regard to the motions of the *French* on the coast of the ocean and channel, though they were assured they had

^{*} As will more fully appear by these extracts from Admiral *Byng*'s letters to Mr. *Cleveland*.

April 1st, ready for sailing in every respect except want of men; will take 336 men, now the regiments are all on board, to complete them. My own ship wants 222, 183 of them being lent to the *Ludlow Castle*. The *Trident* had 78 lent to the *Hampton Court*, and *Tilbury*, which ships we are likely to meet with—will make a great hole in the *Trident*'s company. Expect hourly *Ludlow Castle* and *Intrepide*; when arrived hope we shall find men to complete.

April 3d, *Intrepid*, *Ludlow Castle*, and *Cambridge* came but yesterday to *Spithead*.—Ordered men immediately.—Hope to settle to day to be able to set sail to *St. Helen's*.

April 4th. Wind W.—Disappointed to find the *Intrepid* short of complement, though brought out 261 supernumeraries, she wanted 150 to complete her own complement."

[†] To cruise off *Cherburgh* to try if they could not intercept four frigates, and forty merchantmen drove in there from *Havre*, by the *Windser*: which could not be so pressing as the relief of *Minorca*.

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