

Halifax July 1782

had been taken up for them & many let out on parole - desiring him to lay their situation before G^o Washington & to move him for a general & immediate exchange - To this Mr Ab. Skinner replies. "That he is induced to propose ~~begin~~ the exchange of as many of them as he can give for ^{for} ~~the~~ ^{British} Naval prisoners - leaving the balance already due ~~to be paid~~ to be paid when in our power - (That balance is 1300 men & upwards) - & He wishes this might be represented to Adm. Digby & that he would consent to it - The latter Clause of his letter is remarkable - here are his own words - & I will admit that we are unable at present to give you a Seaman for Seaman & there by relieve y^r prison ships of their dreadful burthen - but it ought to be remembered that there is a large balance of British Soldiers due to the United States since Feb^y last - & that as we leave it in our power - we may be disposed to place the British Soldiers who are now in

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U.N.B. ARCHIVES

our possession in as disagreeable a situation as those men on board your prison ships -
Ab Skinner

+ it was 250 men - ^{on} Mr Sprat offered to discharge if a general Exchange took place -

The poor fellows in the Prison Ships finding all the efforts they had been able to make in order to effect an exchange to be fruitless address'd the following to y^r Countrymen -

On board the Jersey prison ship N^y

June 11. 1782

Friends & fellow Country men of America

You may bid a final adieu to all your friends & relations who are now board the Jersey Prison ship in New York - unless you rouse the government to comply with just & honorable proposals which has already been done on the part of Britons but alas! 'tis with pain we inform you that our petition to his Ex^{ty} G^o Washington offering our