

ADM 1/1553/150
Broke - Croker
July 30, 1812

filed ①

To from Wilson Croker Esq.
Admiralty London

His Majesty's Ship Shannon
at Sea 30th July 1812
In Lat^d 40° 44' N Long 62° 41' W

As it is probable that Vice Admiral Sawyer may not have had any recent opportunity of reporting the proceedings of his Squadron, I think it my duty to transmit you the following account for their Lordships' information;

Upon receiving the American declaration of War, a few days subsequent to the return of Belvidera from her skirmish with Commodore Rogers' Squadron, the Commander in Chief directed me to take the Ships named in the Margin under my Orders, to proceed in quest of the American Frigates, and to capture or destroy all such Vessels as we should meet with under their Flag, my instructions were first to Visit their Naval ports, particularly New York, as it was generally supposed the Enemy would not venture [to?] keep the Sea long, we sailed on the 5th Inst and on the 9th met the Guerriere which Ship I attached to the Squadron as the Vice Admiral had directed me to do! — the Variable winds and fog retarded our movements but we reconnoitred Rhode Island ~~Island~~ on the 14th we arrived off Sandy Hook on the 16th and captured the Nautilus United States Brig as mentioned in the accompanying Letter; — we were then in a most advantageous position for the destruction of the Enemy's trade, and for intercepting their Ships of War on their return to port, whether Chesapeake or New York; but having received undoubted information [that?] Commodore Rogers was gone upon the Grand bank of Newfoundland to lie wait for our West India Convoys, and considering [the?] vast injury his Squadron might do in that point as well to [the?] Trade, as to the supplies and reinforcements coming out to Halifax and Quebec, it appeared to me the more important Duty [to?] abandon the plan we had entered upon of distressing the [Enemy?]

Africa
Belvidera
Devils