

The Second Day of January, 1762, in the Second Year of Our Reign.

Alt Text: 18th century printed declaration of war against Spain by the British. Edges are badly frayed and burnt with portions of page missing, due to fire damage.

Transcription

British declaration of war against Spain

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His Majesty's Declaration Of War against the King of *Spain*.

The constant Object of Our Attention, since Our Accession to the Throne has been, if Possible, to put at End to the Calamities of War, and to settle the public Tranquility upon a solid and lasting Foundation. To prevent those Calamities from being extended still farther; and because the most perfect Harmony between *Great Britain* and *Spain* is, at all Times, the mutual Interests of both Nations; it has been Our earnest Desire to maintain [the] strictest Amity with the King of *Spain*, and to accommodate the Disputes between Us and that [missing text] in the most amicable Manner [missing text] Object - We have steatlily. pursued, notwithstanding the many Partialities thewh by the *Span*[missing text] inconsitent with their Neutrality: And most essential Proof[missing text] given of the friendship [missing text]*Great Britain* for the King of *Spain* and his Family. After a Conduct [missing text]to. [obscured] or good Faith, on Our[missing text] it w[missing text]Memorial delivered on the Twenty-third Day of *July* last. [missing text] . But [the] Minister Plenipotentiary [of?] *France*, to[missing text]ies of State, expressly relating to the Disputes between Us and the[missing text] [obsecured text] declaring, that if [missing text] Objects should[missing/obscured text] the *French* King would be obliged to take Part therein. Our Surprise was incr[missing text] when afterwards, this unprecedented and often[missing text] made by a Power in open War with Us, was avowed by the Spanish Minister to Our Ambassador [at] *Madrid*, to have been taken with the full Appropriation and Consent of the King of *Spain*. But as this Avowal was accompanied with the most becoming. Apologies the Part of the King of *Spain*, and with Assurances that such Memorial would never have been delivered, if it had been foreseen that We should have looked upon it in an offensive Light; and that the King of *Spain* was at Liberty, and ready to adjust

all his Differences with *Great Britain*, without the Intervention or Knowledge of. [missing text] and soon after, We had the Satisfaction to be informed by Our Ambassador at *Madrid*, that the *Spanish*. [missing/obscured text] Reports [missing text] of [missing text] approaching Rupture had acquainted him; that the King of *Spain* had, at the Time [missing text]tent on cultivating a good Correspo[ndence] with Us; and as the *Spanish* Ambassador at Our Court made repeated Declarations to the [missing text] thought ourselves Bound in Justif[obscured text].[Pr]udence, to forebear coming to Extremities,

But the same tender Concern for the Welfare of Our Subjects, which prevented Our accelerating precipitously a War with *Spain*, if it could poll[missing text] avoided made it necessary for Us to endeavor to know with Certainty, what were the Engagements, and real Intentions of the Court of *Spain*. Therefore as We had Information that Engagements had been likely contracted between the Courts of *Madrid* and *Versailles*; and it was soon after industriously [missing text] throughout all *Europe*, by the Ministers of *France*, that the Purport of those Engagements was hostile to *Great Britain*, and that *Spain* was on the. Point [of] entering into the War; We directed Our Ambassador to desire, in the most friendly Terms, a Communication of Treaties lately concluded between *France* and *Spain*; or of such Articles ther[obscured text] immediately related to the Interests of *Great Britain*, if any such there were; or, at least, an Assurance that there were none incompatible with [the F]riendship subsisting between Us and the Crown of *Spain*. Our Astonishment and Concern was great, where we learned that so far from giving Satisfaction upon so reasonable an Application, the *Spanish* Minister had declined answering, with Reasoning and Insinuation of a very hostile Tendency. And as at the same Time, We had Intelligence, that great Armaments were making in *Spain*, by Sea and Land, We thought it absolutely necessary to try, once more, if a Rupture could be avoided: We therefore directed Our Ambassador to [t]alk, in a firm, but friendly Manner. Whether the Court of *Madrid* intended to join the *French*, our Enemies, to act hostilely against *Great Britain*, or depart from Its Neutrality; and [missing text] found the *Spanish* Minister avoided to give a clear Answer, to insinuate, in the most decent Manner, that the Refusing or Avoiding to answer a[missing text] so reasonable, could only arise from the King of *Spain*'s having already engaged or resolved to take Part against us, and must be looked upon [missing text]wal of such hostile Intention, and equivalent to a Declaration of War; and that He had

Orders immediately to leave the Court of *Madrid* [missing text] Refusal by the Court of *Spain*, to give the least Satisfaction, with Regard to any of those reasonable Demands on Our Part, and the sole [missing text] same Time made by the *Spanish* Minister that they considered the War as then actually declared, prove to a Demonstration, that the [missing text] entsively, was so absolutely and irrevocably taken, that it could not be any longer dissembled or denied.

[missing text] having been Indu [obscured text] without any Provocation on Our Part, to consider the War has already con [missing text] ared at *Madrid*: We trust, that by the Blessing of GOD, on the Justice of Our Cause, and by the [missing text] all be able to defeat the ambitious Designs, which have formed this Union between two Branches of the House of Bo [missing text] ar; and portend the most dangerous Consequences to all *Europe*. Therefore We have thought fit to declare and do hereby declare [missing text] aid King of *Spain*: And We will, in Pursuance of such Declaration, vigorously prosecute the said War wherein the Honour of Our [missing text] of Our Subject, and the Prosperity of this Nation, which We are determined at all Times, with Our utmost Power to preserve and supp [missing text] greatly concerned. And We do hereby Will and Require Our Generals, and Commanders of Our Forces, Our Commissioners for executing the Office. [missing text] ur High Admiral of Great Britain, Our Lieutenants of Our several Counties, Governors of Our Forts and Garrison, and all other Officers and Soldiers under them, by Sea and Land, to do an execute, all Acts of Hostility, in the Prosecution of this War, against the said King of *Spain*, his Vassals and [S]ubjects, and to oppose their Att [missing text] willing and requiring all Our Subjects to take Notice of the same; whom We henceforth strictly forbid to hold. [missing text] Correspondence or Communi [cation]] with the said King of Spain, or his Subjects: And we do hereby command Our own Subjects, and advertise al [missing text] [P]ersons, of what Nation [missing text] to transport, or carry any Soldiers, Arms, Powder, Ammunition, or other contraband Goods, to any of the Te [missing text] ands, Plantations; [missing text] of the said King of *Spain*, declaring that whatsoever Ship or Vessel shall be met withal, transporting, or car [missing text] rs, Arms, [missing text] or other contraband Goods, to any of the Territories, Lands, Plantations, or Countries of the said 62

King of [missing text] good and lawful Prize. And whereas there may be remaining in Our Kingdoms divers of the Subjects o[missing text] Royal Intention to be, that all the *Spanish* Subjects, who shall demean themselves dutifully towards Us, that. [missing text]

[missing text]*the Second Day* of January, 1762, in the Second Year of Our Reign.

Save The King.