

Lib. C. B. dutifully towards Us, shall be safe in their Persons & Estates.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's the twenty ninth day of March 1744 in the seventeenth year of Our Reign  
 God Save the King

His Majestys most Gracious Declaration For the Encouragement of his Ships of War and Privateers.

George R.

Whereas We are engaged in a just and necessary War against France and are resolved to prosecute the same with the utmost Vigour in which next to the Blessing of Almighty God, We rely upon the experienced Fidelity Zeal and Courage of Our Subjects; And being most Graciously inclined to give all Encouragement to our faithful Subjects serving on Board Our Ships of War or Privateers, We have thought fit by the Advice of Our Privy Council to publish and declare And do by this Our Royal Declaration grant, that the Flag Officers, Commanders and Officers, Seamen, Marines and Soldiers on Board every Ship or Vessel of War in our pay and on Board Privateers shall have the sole Interest and

p. 228 Property of and in all and every Ship Vessel Goods and Merchandizes and Effects which they shall take during the Continuance of this War against France, being first adjudged lawful Prize, in any of Our Courts of Admiralty of Great Britain or Ireland, or any of our Plantations in America, or other the Dominions of Great Britain, but Subject to the Payment of all such or the like Customs and Duties as the same are now, or would have been liable to, if the same were or might have been Imported as Merchandizes to be divided and distributed in such Proportion and after such manner, and on such Terms and Conditions as are herein after expressed concerning the same; that is to say, that the neat Produce of all such Prizes be divided into Eight equal Parts and be distributed as followeth viz. To the Captain or Captains of any of Our Ships of War, who shall be actually on Board at the taking of any Prize three Eighth Parts; but in Case any Prize shall be taken by any Ship or Ships of War under the Command of a Flag or Flags, the Flag Officer or Officers being actually on Board, and directing or assisting in the Captures, shall have one of the said three Eighth parts; To the Captains of Marines and Land Forces, Sea Lieutenants and Master on Board any such Ships, one Eighth part to be equally divided among them, To the Lieutenants and Quarter Masters of Marines and Lieutenants Ensigns and Quarter Masters of Land Forces, Boatswain Gunner, Purser, Carpenter, Masters