

# DECLARATION OF TOULON

*On 31 May 1793, the National Convention ordered the arrest of its Girondin Deputies, leading to insurrections in towns across southern France. In Toulon, the primary Mediterranean port of the French Navy, the Royalists seized power and called for international aid. The English dispatched a fleet under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir Samuel Hood (1724–1816), and Toulon's leaders greeted Hood with the following declaration.*

Toulon, 24 August 1793

The General Committee of the Sections of Toulon,

Having read the proclamation of Admiral Hood, Commander-in-Chief of His Britannic Majesty's squadron, together with his preliminary declaration, and after having communicated these two papers first to the Committee of General Security and then to all the citizens of the town of Toulon, meeting in sections;

Considering that France is torn by anarchy, and that it is impossible to remain any longer a prey to the factions which agitate it without its total destruction;

Considering that the southern departements of the Midi, after having long made efforts to resist the oppression of a party of factious men who have conspired to ruin them, find themselves drained and deprived of all resources to annihilate this coalition of the wicked formed against them;

Considering, in short, that determined not to submit to the tyranny of a Convention that has sworn to ruin the nation, the people of Toulon and those of Marseilles would rather have recourse to the generosity of a loyal people, who have manifested the desire of protecting true Frenchmen against the anarchists who wish to ruin them;

Declare to Admiral Hood,

1. That the unanimous wish of the inhabitants of Toulon is to reject a constitution which does not promote their happiness; to adopt a monarchic government, such as it originally was by the Constituent Assembly of 1789; and in consequence they have proclaimed Louis XVII, son of Louis XVI, King and have sworn to acknowledge him, and no longer suffer the despotism of the tyrants who at this time govern France.
2. That the white flag shall be hoisted the instant the English squadron anchors in the road of Toulon, and it will there meet with the most friendly reception.
3. That the ships of war now in the road will be disarmed according to Admiral Hood's wishes.
4. That the citadel and the forts on the coast shall be provisionally at the disposal of the said admiral. But for the better establishing the union which ought to exist between the two nations, it is requested that the garrison shall be composed of an equal number of French and English, yet that nevertheless the command shall devolve on the English.
5. The people of Toulon trust the English nation will furnish speedily a force sufficient to assist in repelling the attacks, with which they are at this moment threatened by the Army of Italy, which marches towards Toulon, and by that of General Carteaux, who directs his forces against Marseilles.
6. That the people of Toulon, full of confidence in the generous offers of Admiral Hood, trust that all those who hold civil and military employments shall be continued in their places and shall not be annoyed in their respective occupations.
7. That the subsistence and succours of every kind, of which Toulon stands so much in need, shall be ensured to the inhabitants by the combined fleet of the powers coalesced.

8. That when peace shall have been established in France, the ships and forts which will be put into the hands of the English shall be restored to the French nation in the same state they were in when the inventory was delivered.
9. It is according to this declaration, if approved by Admiral Hood, that the Toulonnais will consider themselves united in heart and spirit to the English and the other Coalition powers, and with their aid they will finally achieve that peace for which they have panted so long.

Signed

- Jean-Joseph Baudeuf, *President*
- Pierre Reynaud, *Secretary*
- François Reboul, *Vice-President*

*Departmental Officials*

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- Louis-Armand, Marquis de la Poype de Vertrieux (1721–1801)
- César-Esprit de Vialis (1741–)
- Louis-Deydier de Pierrefeu (1740–1794)
- César-Pierre Andrieu
- Claude-César Barthélemy (1730–)

*Municipal Officials*

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- Joseph-Marie Fournier-la-Poussière
- Augustin Grival (1761–)
- Jean-Baptiste Porte (1735–1814)
- Louis-Lazare Cadière (–)
- François Richaud (1725–1794)
- Joseph-Antoine-Martin de Possel (1769–1841)
- François-Armand d'Evant (1747–1837)
- Joseph Saffre
- Antoine Gambert
- Claude Laurent Burgues

*Commandants des Armes*

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- Rear-Admiral Martin-Benoît de Chaussegros (1737–)
- Lieutenant-Colonel Charles-Marin Boullement de la Chenaye (1734–1804)
- Joseph-Augustin Ferrand (1727–), *Naval Commissioner*
- César Garibou (1737–1793)
- Pierre-Joseph Meiffrund, *Président de la Municipalité*
- Jean-Siméon Bertrand, *Procureur*
- Victor Sicard, *Trésorier des Invalides*

Zénon Pons, *Mémoires pour Servir à l'Histoire de la Ville de Toulon en 1793* (Paris: C.J. Trouvé, 1825):268–271.