

Bellerophon and Leviathan, at that Time near me, I was unable to obstruct.

The Enemy having succeeded in that Operation, wore round again, after some distant cannonading of the nearest British Ships, occasionally returned, and stood away in Order of Battle on the Larboard Tack, followed by the British Fleet in the same Order (but with the Weather Gage retained) as soon as the Ships coming forward to close with the Queen Charlotte were suitably arranged.

The Fleets remained separated some few Miles, in View at Times on the Intermission of a thick Fog, which lasted most Part of the Two next Days.

The Commander of a Fleet, their Lordships know, is unavoidably so confined in his View of the Occurrences in Time of Battle, as to be little capable of rendering personal Testimony to the meritorious Service of Officers who have profited, in a greater Extent, by the Opportunities to distinguish themselves on such Occasions.

To discharge this Part of my public Duty, Reports were called for from the Flag Officers of the Fleet, for supplying the Defects of my Observance, under the limited Circumstances above-mentioned. Those Officers, therefore, who have such particular Claim to my Attention, are the Admirals Graves and Sir Alexander Hood; the Rear-Admirals Bowyer, Gardner and Pasley; the Captains Lord Hugh Seymour, Pakenham, Berkeley, Gambier, John

Harvey, Payne, Parker, Henry Harvey, Pringle, Duckworth, and Elphinstone. Special Notice is also due of the Captains Nicholls of the Sovereign, and Hope of the Bellerophon, who became charged with, and well conducted those Ships, when the wounded Flag Officers, under whom they respectively served therein, were no longer able to remain at their Posts; and the Lieutenants Monckton of the Marlborough, and Donnelly of the Montagu, in similar Situations. These Selections, however, should not be construed to the Disadvantage of other Commanders, who may have been equally deserving of the Approbation of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, although I am not enabled to make a particular Statement of their Merits.

To the Reports from the Flag Officers are added those required from the several Captains of the Fleet; whereby their Lordships will become more particularly acquainted with the meritorious Services of the several Commanders, and animated Intrepidity of their subordinate Officers and Ships Companies; to which the Defeat of the Enemy, with every Advantage of Situation and Circumstance in their Favor, is truly to be ascribed. To the like Purport, I beg my Testimony, in Behalf of the Officers and Company of every Description in the Queen Charlotte, may be accepted.