

where every Individual appeared an Hero, on whom the Glory of his Country depended; the Attack was irresistible, and the Issue of it adds to the Page of Naval Annals a brilliant Instance of what Britons can do, when their King and their Country need their Service.

To the Right Honorable Rear Admiral the Earl of Northesk, to the Captains, Officers, and Seamen, and to the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Privates of the Royal Marines, I beg to give my sincere and hearty Thanks for their highly meritorious Conduct, both in the Action, and in their Zeal and Activity in bringing the captured Ships out from the perilous Situation in which they were, after their Surrender, among the Shoals of Trafalgar, in boisterous Weather.

And I desire that the respective Captains will be pleased to communicate to the Officers, Seamen, and Royal Marines this public Testimony of my high Approbation of their Conduct, and my Thanks for it.

(Signed) C. COLLINGWOOD.

To the Right Honorable Rear-Admiral
the Earl of Northesk, and the respective
Captains and Commanders.

GENERAL ORDER.

THE Almighty God, whose Arm is Strength, having of his great Mercy been pleased to crown the Exertion of His Majesty's Fleet with Success, in giving them a complete Victory over their Enemies, on 21st of this Month; and that all Praise and Thanksgiving may be offered up to the Throne of Grace for the great Benefits to our Country and to Mankind:

I have thought proper, that as Day should be appointed, of general Humiliation before God, and Thanksgiving for this his merciful Goodness, imploring Forgiveness of Sins, a Continuation of his Divine Mercy, and his constant Aid to us, in the Defence of our Country's Liberties and Laws, without which the utmost Efforts of Man are nought, and direct therefore that be appointed for this holy Purpose.

Given on board the Euryalus, off Cape Trafalgar,
22d Oct. 1805.

(Signed) C. COLLINGWOOD.

To the respective Captains and Commanders.

N. B. The Fleet having been dispersed by a Gale of Wind, no Day has yet been able to be appointed for the above Purpose.

SIR, Euryalus, off Cadix, Oct. 24, 1805.

IN my Letter of the 22d I detailed to you, for the Information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the Proceedings of His Majesty's Squadron on the Day of the Action, and that preceding it, since which I have had a continued Series of Misfortunes, but they are of a Kind that human Prudence could not possibly provide against, or my Skill prevent.

On the 22d in the Morning, a strong southerly Wind blew, with equally Weather, which however did not prevent the Activity of the Officers and Seamen of such Ships as were manageable from getting hold of many of the Prizes (Thirteen or Fourteen), and towing them off to the Westward, where I ordered them to rendezvous round the Royal Sovereign, in Tow by the Neptune; but on the 23d, the Gale increased, and the Sea ran so high, that many of them broke the Tow Rope, and drifted far to Leeward, before they were got hold of again, and some of them taking Advantage in the dark and boisterous Night, got before the Wind, and have perhaps drifted upon the Shore and sunk; on the Afternoon of that Day the Remnant of the Combined Fleet, Ten Sail of Ships, who had not been much engaged, stood up to Leeward of my shattered and straggled Charge, as if meaning to attack them, which obliged me to collect a Force out of the least injured Ships, and form to Leeward for their Defence; all this retarded the Progress of the Hulks, and the bad Weather continuing, determined me to destroy all the Leeward most that could be cleared of the Men, considering that keeping Possession of the Ships was a Matter of little Consequence compared with the Chance of their falling again into the Hands of the Enemy; but even this was an arduous Task in the high Sea which was running. I hope, however, it has been accomplished to a considerable Extent; I entrusted it to skilful Officers, who would spare no Pains to execute what was possible. The Captains of the Prince and Neptune cleared the Trinidad and sunk her. Captain Hope, Bayntun, and Malcolm, who joined the Fleet this Moment from Gibraltar, had the Charge of destroying four others. The Redoubtable sunk astern of the Swiftsure while in Tow. The Santa Anna, I have no doubt, is sunk, as her Side was almost entirely beat in; and such is the shattered Condition of the Whole of them, that unless the Weather moderates, I doubt whether I shall be able to carry a Ship of them into Port. I hope their Lordships will approve of what I (having only in consideration the Destruction of the Enemy's Fleet) have thought a Measure of absolute Necessity.

I have taken Admiral Villeneuve into this Ship; Vice-Admiral Don Aliva is dead. Whenever the Temper of the Weather will permit, and I can spare a Frigate (for there were only Four in the Action with the Fleet, Euryalus, Sirius, Phoebe, and Naiad; the Melpomene joined the 22d, and the Eurydice and Scout the 23d) I shall collect the other Flag-Officers, and send them to England with their Flags, (if they do not go to the Bottom,) to be laid at His Majesty's Feet.

There were Four Thousand Troops embarked, under the Command of General Coutamin, who was taken with Admiral Villeneuve in the Bucentaure.

I am, Sir, &c.

(Signed) C. COLLINGWOOD.

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