

*Mortain*, and the Marshal d' *Aumonts* army quartered round about us. Our *Volunteers* have fill'd up all our prisons with *French*, which they daily bring in, 40 or 50 in a company, with very considerable booties. Yesterday a party of 150 *Spanish* horse went out upon a party, and near *Tournay* fell upon the King of *France's* Guards, where they killed about 300 upon the place, and took the Kings standard; but in their retreat were met by a party of 2000 *French* coming from *Douay*, who cut off about 40 of their number, the rest saving themselves in this town.

This week a party going out from this Garrison for booty, between *Arras* and *Amiens* fell on a Courier, and a slight guard of *French*, and with them on a *Paquet* sent from the King to his Council of great importance, being an account of the Kings affairs drawn up under several heads by *Monsieur Colbert*, and with some replies sent back again for farther approbation; discovering the intentions of the King in relation to the Princes his Neighbours.

A party of fifty *Spaniards* of *St. Omers*, have taken a considerable booty of *Plate*, belonging to the Duke of *Enguien*, which with a Convoy, much exceeding their numbers, was passing into *France*: upon their retreat towards their garrison, about four Leagues from thence they discovered another party of about 100 horse, and sent out four of their number to take a nearer view of them, who meeting with six of the *French* Scouts, they briskly charged them, killing three of the *French*, and taking two prisoners, the other got off to his party, who immediately retired in much haste, giving the *Spaniards* leave to return with their *Plate* in safety to *St. Omers*. The Lieutenant who commanded them is liberally rewarded by the *Marquis de Castel Rodrigo*, and preferred to a great command.

*Middleburgh*, July 29. On Friday last arrived in *Zealand* a *Caper* from *S. Christophers*, who upon his Examination taken by the Magistrates of *Flushing*, affirms, that at his coming from thence a Squadron of *English* appeared before that Island, where there were 8 *French*, and 4 *Dutch* Men of war, who immediately agreed to fight, and accordingly the *French* being to head, fought through the *English* without making one Tack; the *Dutch* ships with full sail making away and steering another course; and that the *English* made all the sail they could after the *French*, but with what success he knows not, being wholly intent upon the security of his own Vessel, and with us any further occurrences came home through the Channel.

*Hague*, July 24. The *D. parties* for the Signing of the Treaty are going hence for *Breda*. The Alliance between the King of *Sweden* and the States being fully concluded, is now Engrossed, and will in little time be signed by both parties, and the *Cour de Donna* at liberty to return to *Breda*.

*Breda*, July 29. On Tuesday last arrived here his Excellency the Lord Ambassador *Conventry*, where he received the Visits of all the rest of the Ambassadors. This morning they had a Meeting at the Castle, where they mutually communicated their Reports, but will not proceed to the completing of the Work till the arrival of *Cour de Donna*, who is daily expected.

*Kingsale*, July 14. The 11th instant arrived in the Bay of *Tinacrag*, Westward to the Old Head of this place, a Fleet of 20 ships, which gave a strong Alarm to this place and *Cadiz*, which appeared with great cheerfulness and courage to defend the Coasts, but in little time an Express arriving here, brought us certain intelligence that it was the Squadron of *Sir Jeremy Smith* with his prizes, who the same day came safely into this Harbour.

*Edinburgh*, July 18. Here is newly brought up by *Captain Kays* a Privateer, a rich *Dutch* prize laden with *Silk*, *Broadcloth*, *Silks*, and other things of value; Two other prizes are also brought up by another Privateer, laden with *Silk*, *Oyls*, and *Cheeks* of *Sugar*.

*Portsmouth*, July 23. On Sunday last in the evening the *Dutch* Fleet appeared to the Southeast of the Isle of *Wight*, and sailing up within 3 or 4 leagues from *Sandham-Bay*, came there to an Anchor, where they continued the next day: the last night they weighed, and standing out to the Sea went away to the Southwards.

*Whitehal*, July 24. On Saturday and Sunday last several ships came in to the *Dutch* Fleet riding before *Harwich*, supposed to be *Victuallers*. The 22. they all weighed from the *Sledway*, and stood into the *Gunfleets*, sailing for the *Buoy* in the *Nose*; and between 3, and 4 that afternoon were discovered plying with all the sayl they were able for the *Thames*: Only 17 of them (of the lesser sort) were observed standing from the Fleet towards the *Downs*, who were afterwards followed by three larger ships. The 23, between 6 and 7 in the Morning, the *Success* and *Cygnets* discovering the Enemy off the Mouth of the River, retired; and by their frequent discharges, gave notice of their approach. About 9 of the clock about 24 or 25 sail of them began to appear in *Tilbury-Hope*, eight of them advancing as far as *Hull-Haven*.

About 11, or 12. the *Success*, being then with 18 other of his Majesty's Men of war and *Fireships* in the *Hope*, exchanged several guns with the headmost of the Enemy; when their first Squadron of 8 ships coming to an anchor within shot, a sharp fight began between them, and one *Fireship* was seen flaming, but it was hard to distinguish to what side she belonged, by reason of the smoke. The shot continuing between both Fleets, one of our *Fireships* wrought up to one of theirs, and grappling together, both of them burnt down, but so close to another ship of the Enemies, that she fell likewise on fire and blew up with a great noise, by which we judge her to have been a man of war. In little time after another of their ships took fire and burnt down, but at such a distance as could not prejudice us. After this, one of our *Fireships* grappling with another of theirs, were both fired. All the time of this fight, *Sir Edward Spragg* who commanded our ships, bravely made good his place, drawing his ships up in an excellent order, his *Fireships* being windward of his Men of war, the wind being most Southward, though sometimes a little varying; and with his Men of war securing his *Fireships*. A little Ketch was observed to have done excellent service this day, in plying boldly and nimbly to defend the Boats belonging to our *Fireships*.

A *Fireship* of the Enemy was then observed to come up very near to one of ours; but firing too soon, burnt down without effect: A little after a Ship of theirs fell on fire, but her men got off; she supposed she had so much covered the wind, that she was so far engaged on the shore, that she could not get off, and therefore chose rather to set fire to her self: this was a *Fireship* of ours bore up to another of the *Dutch*, but fired too soon; but upon the apprehension of her approach, the Enemy also fired theirs, the men on both sides getting off in their Long Boats. About four or five in the afternoon the *Dutch* began to draw off, only four *Fireships*, and one Man of War bore up to us, till the foremost of them being our Long Boats and Ketch lying ready to cut off her self; her men fairly left her, and ours took possession of her; whereupon the three other *Fireships*, though at distance enough to have gotten off, set themselves on fire, the men making their escapes in their Boats to their Man of War, who immediately stood off to the rest of their Fleet: Then *Sir Edward Spragg* with his Ship stoutly bore up towards the whole Fleet of the Enemy, and sent out a *Fireship*, who had wrought herself very near one of their greatest Men of War, being lustily seconded by *Sir Edward Spragg* in his Flag Ship, but being galled by the shot of the whole Fleet, they thought it convenient to come off; whereupon the *Dutch* again tacked about, ours making but a gentle retreat, but presently slackening their sails, they came to an anchor in the *Hope*, our Fleet falling down gently towards *Gravesend*, the *Dutch* not offering to move from their anchors, though both Wind and Tyde served them: The *Dutch* are now from 24 or 25 sail, reduced by this Engagement to 14 only, and ours from 19 to 15.

This morning before three the *Dutch* fired a Gun, the wind turning South-west, by which ours imagined the *Dutch* intended to weigh Anchor, and set sail, which as soon as it grew light, proved true; whereupon *Sir Edward Spragg* by a Gun ordered his Ships also to weigh and follow them; which the Enemy perceiving, came to an anchor about the middle of the *Hope*, till perceiving our Fleet still made up to engage them, they fired three Guns, and set sail, the wind at North-west.