

*Whitehall, June 9.* We must beg pardon that we doe not yet at once give the full Narrative of the late Happy Victory against the Dutch: Some of the Particulars in that order they came to our hands, we now insert: The following is from on Board the *Royal James* the 5. instant.

The third instant, about 6, or 7 in the Evening, his Highness Prince *Rupert*, with the Squadron under his Command, drew near the Bodies of the Fleet, and then we could distinctly perceive our Fleet upon the Leeward bow, and the Dutch Fleet to the Windward; and a Squadron consisting of between 20, and 30 Sail came off from the Body of the Dutch Fleet, and seemed to stand right upon us: whereupon the Prince sent to the *Royal Charles* to the General, to let him know, That if he were approving of it, he would immediately keep the Windward, and engage that Squadron from the rest of the Fleet; but before the Messenger returned, the *Royal Charles* fired two guns, and made a waite to us of her Ancient; but immediately the Messenger returned with caution from the General, That we should not bear up to that Squadron of the Dutch, there being a Ship called the *Gallopier* or *Gaber* which was in lead of us; and that the *Royal Prince* was run aground and lost at one end of it; and that he supposed that Squadron was sent out only as a Decoy to draw his Highness, and his fresh Squadron upon that Bank: Whereupon the Prince drew up towards the Body of the Fleet, and the Duke then came on board the *Royal James* to the Prince, and gave him an account of what had hapned in the three days action before; and it was then resolved by them, there being present Sir *Tho. Allen*, Sir *Christopher Minns*, and Sir *Edward Spragge*, to set upon the enemy the next morning; and his Highness having the best sailing Fregats, it was resolved he should lead on. This night the Dutch set fire to the *Royal Prince*: she lay stranded, and burnt her down.

*Munday, June the Fourth.* By the morning light, the Dutch Fleet got out of sight; but we standing a Course after them with a wind at S. S. W. quickly made their Fleet, which was about five leagues from us upon the weather bow, and by Eight a clock we came up with them; and they having the weather-gage, put their Fleet in order, and came into a Line, all to the Windward of us. Our Fregats then which were on head, made sail, and when they came within a convenient distance, lay by; and the *Hollands* Fleet having put themselves into order, we also did the like: Sir *Christopher Minns*, Vice-Admiral, with his Division led the Van, next the Prince with his Division followed, and then Sir *Edward Spragge*; and so staid for the rest of the Fleet, which came up in very good order.

By such time as the Fleet was come up, we made sail close by a wind, having a Starboard tacks aboard, the wind S. W. and the enemy bore up presently to fall into the middle of our Line with part of their Fleet; of which, as soon as Sir *Christopher Minns* had the wake, he tacked, and stood in with them, and then the whole Line tacked in the wake of him, and stood on till (Sir *Christopher Minns* being in fighting, put to Leeward) the Prince thought fit to keep the wind, and so led the whole Line through the middle of the Enemy, the General with the rest of the Fleet following in order. As soon as the Prince came on the other side, and stood out, so as he could weather the end of their Fleet, he tacked, and the General tacked at the same time, and bore up to the Ships to the Leeward, and the Prince followed him, and so we stood along, the enemy being some to Leeward, some to Windward of us backward and forward; which course was four times repeated, the Enemy always keeping the greatest part of his Fleet to the Windward: And the fourth time, we plying them very sharply with our Leeward Guns, in passing gave an occasion, that their windward Ships having past us, bore up to Leeward to relieve their Leeward party: Upon which, his Highness tacked the fifth time, being about five a clock in the Evening, and with some eight or ten Frigors got to the windward of the Enemies whole Fleet, and thinking at once to bear in upon them, and to compleat the total Victory, our Main-stay, and our Main Top-Mast, being terribly shaken, they came all by the board.

The General then with that part of the Fleet which was to Leeward with him, got their Larboard tacks aboard,

keeping their wind close to make the Leeward's; the Prince and we bore down to them, seeing the Enemy making what sail they could to come 'twixt us; and when they saw that could not be, they bore away before the wind with all the sail they could make for their own Ports; we pursuing them as far as our Powder lasted, or the night and thick weather would well suffer us.

In this daies Engagements, we five times passed the whole Body of the Enemies Fleet, every Pass ending with a good advantage upon our side, we having fired several of the Enemies ships, and they not one of ours. But finding that part of our Fleet under the Lord General, much torne and shattered in the heat of the three former daies, they gave it no breath at all, however his Grace in this, as in all the other daies, by his excellent conduct, and unconquerable magnanimity and courage, so managed the remains of his Squadron by vigorously improving the force of such of his ships as were yet in any degree of strength, and sheltering those that wanted it, that he still gained upon the Enemy: And at last when the Enemy was now fought so low, that the better half of them were seeking how to save themselves by running, and *de Ruyter* among the rest, making still as if he would have tacked again, whereby the better to secure the retreat; his Grace intending to fall in, and with his Highness to compleat the Victory of the day, gives order immediately to tack, but having received on the Pass before two shots in his Powder-room, between Wind and Water, they could not possibly be stopped, but by standing upon the same course, besides his Main Top-mast, was so disabled by a shot through him, that he was forced to lower his Main Topp, and the Fore-mast at the same time had received so many shots, that it was the general opinion, there was danger of bringing it by the board, in tacking, so as his Excellency was forced to stand the same course, and to joyn with the Prince. In which time the Enemy made the best of their way, and escaped much faster, then otherwise they could have done.

This is part of what passed on *Munday* the 4. instant: the particulars of the three preceding days we yet want: but so much we have certain, That there never was an Action of greater Gallantry, and that speaks more in all his circumstances the Magnanimity and Prudence, in the Attack and Cutting of a General, nor the invincible Courage and Obstinacy of the English Seamen, then did the Engagement of these daies. Most of the private Captains, and other Officers had their share in the Honor of this Day, and among the Valiantest of Quality, in a principal place, the Lord *Cavendish* eldest son to the Earl of *Devonshire*, who was Companion to the Earl of *Osborn*, and Sir *Tho. Clifford*, in all the honorable dangers of that Engagement; expressing every where a courage and Resolution, such as is becoming his Rank and Quality.

*Whitehall, June 10.* Letters of yesterday morning from on board the *Royal Charles* at the Buoy in the *Nore*, tell us our Generals remain there on board, using all diligence possible to repair the Fleet, which will in few days be in a condition to take the Sea again, scarce any of the Ships, how sharp soever the late Engagement was upon them, needing to put into Dock. Their number there is sixty seven, at *Harwich* twenty three, and in the River nine; all which, with those now coming from the Westward, a few days will see joyned in a Body, in order to a further design.

*Whitehall, Ditto.* Letters now arrived from *Amsterdam* of the fourth confets, That the ships in which *Tromp*, *Gent*, and *Nes* were; the first of eighty two Guns, the second of seventy, and the third of eighty Guns; and one other great Ship of theirs were come into *Gorcke*, miserably torn and lamed in the first days fight.

Letters of the 17th from *Ossend*, say, they have the Report, That a part of the *Hollands* Fleet had put into *Zeland* the fifteenth, early in the morning, infinitely shattered: That one of *Bruges* had been on board a Ship of fifty Guns, in which were not found fifty found men, and this strangely mis-hapens, and sad in their Looks, and refused to answer any questions. They report Vice-Admiral *Everson*, and his Son, and Captain *Blocke*, were all lost. But the certainty of these, and all other particulars, must be expected by the next.