

to pass to *la Rochelle* to receive new Orders, which the King himself talks of giving upon the place, intending a voyag to *Chambor*, and thence to *La Rochelle*. Monsieur *Colbert* is pretty well recovered, and returned to *Fountainbleau*.

Dover, July 4. The Boat employed with the *Flanders* Paquet, has been three times under the hands of several French Privateers; in it were three Holland Merchants, who had a Pass from the States, to come into *England*, which neither of the three Capers much considered; the first plundering them, the next stript them, and the third carried them back to *Dunkirk*. Seven of those barbarous Pickarouns lye before *Ostend*, and two in *Newport* Harbor.

Ditto, July 4. Our Scouts bring us word that the *Guincy*, that lay at the *Gunfleet*, was by the enemies Scouts forced to change their station, and come to the *Middleground*. Some of the others that came up as far as the *Spiss*, but as the Tide of Flood was down, stood away again to the Fleet, and came to an anchor at *Long-Sind-Head*, and that after six in the morning, most part of the Fleet was got under sail, and stood to the Northward.

Norwich, July 4. Yesterday the Lord-Lieutenant and his Deputies met at *East-Deerham*, in order to the selling of the Militia of this Countrey, which appears eminently zealous for the defence and honour of the Kingdom in this occasion. The account of our Bill of Mortality, from the 27 of *June*, to the 4 of *July* runs thus, Buried in all 52, or the Plague 38. at the *Peitthouse* 2.

Weymouth, July 4. The *Nensuch* Ketch is here arrived from *Guernsey*, who says, those Islands are in very great readines to receive any enemy that shall attempt upon them. Yesterday 15 sail of great Ships were seen to the Southwest of the *Isle of Portland*.

West-Comes, July 4. On Saturday night last was brought in hither, a Prize, taken by the *Drake* Fregat, the ship *Guic-limeite*, *Salomon de Pont* Master, belonging to *Nantes*, and from thence laden with French Wines, Brandy and Figs the Master and company all French, upon examination they pretend bound for *London*, and produced a Pass. On Monday last the *Eagle* Ketch brought in hither a ship called the *St. Peter of Ostend*, bound, as is pretended from *Ostend* to *Bilbao* with Coals.

Yesterday were cleared out of this Harbor, three ships, the *St. Clare* of *Newport*, the *St. Martin* of *St. Sebastien*, and the *St. Peter* of *Bruges*, who are now in the Road, ready to set sail.

Land-guard Point, July 4. On Tuesday in the afternoon the Dutch Fleet weighed, and stood off for the Southward, but the same night came to an anchor at or near the same place where they still ride. Their number of all sorts were judged 100. and ride about 9 Leagues from the Fort, and betwixt 4 and 5 from the *North-Foreland*. This morning the Spy brought in a small Vessel belonging to them, that seems to be deep laden, but with what we yet know not. On Tuesday we heard many great Guns; but know not yet the meaning of it.

Ipswich, July 5. The Dutch Fleet continue still betwixt *Hofely* and *Harwich*, in the *Gunfleet* and *Stedway*, in all about 100 whereof 60 Men of War. Yesterday about 30 of *de Ruyters* men in his Boat came on shore, and went into the Marshes about *Bardsley*, for fresh meat for their General, but their Boat and Men were all taken and secured, some Wines were also taken at Sea, going to him, and brought into *Alborough*, with Sugar and Brandy.

Buoy of the Nore, July 5. The Fleet (God be thanked) is in very good condition and health, all mens hearts being full of desire to meet the Enemy; and are about 86 good men of War well fitted, besides Fireships. Sir *Tho. Allen* with the *White* Squadron is already fallen down nearer the Enemy, to the *Owze Edge*, and the rest will suddenly follow. Yesterday were executed two persons out of eight, that were condemned by a Court-Martial on Tuesday last. One of them a Mutineer, the other by the lot of the Dice, executed for running away; the other six had mercy.

Canterbury, July 6. The last night five of the Enemies men of War sailed close up by the shore at the *North-foreland*, which gave an alarm to the County adjacent, supposing they might have a design to come on shore at *Broad-*

flaves; and accordingly several Troops and Companies were immediately upon their march from these parts, to entertain them, but found the Enemy standing off again to Sea, and taking their course to the North-East; they sailed with *English* Colours, and by that Art surprized three small Ketches, which they took along with them.

Dover, July 6. Those ships which lay E. S. E. off the *Fur-long* yesterday, are now in eight fathom water near *Margate*, being five Men of War, two Galliot Hoyes, and one Ketch, with *English* Colours: and confidently thought Enemies: The *Sorlings*, and a *Pink* bound to the Fleet, were going up to them; but by Express from *Margates*, and warning from our Castles, are secured here.

Harwich, July 7. The Dutch continue their station, the Body of them lying along the *Stedway*, and 12 or 14 of them about the *Gunfleet*, as the Vauitguard or forelorn of their Fleet. One *Huzee* a Frenchman that was employed in Transporting the *Scotch* Regiment, had liberty to lade home with such goods as wer not Counterbanded, met with a Dutch Cruiser, by whom he was brought the second instant aboard *de Ruyter*; who seeing the *Duke of York* Pass, granted him another under his own hand, and so discharged him. On the 5 instant he was taken by one of our Doggers, & brought in hither; who reports upon Examination, That there were in the Dutch Fleet, about 124 ships, great and small: That *De Ruyter* told him he had 76 ships of War and 15 Fireships, *De Ruyters* ship had 80 brads Guns, and 522 Men on board; some of them Land-men, and that more daily came in to them 30 of their ships had each of them 500 Men, but that they had not Provisions for above six weeks.

Southwold, July 7. Yesterday morning our Seamen discovered Twenty five sail of Ships to the South-East of this Town, and supposed them Dutch; and this morning some Guns were heard, much like the setting and discharging the Watch, which gives us cause to think their Fleet, or at least, part of it, not to be far off: the coasts hereabout are very well guarded. Sir *John Rous* his Company being in this Town, the other Companies of his Regiment at *Alborough*, and other places upon the coast where need requires.

Whitehal, July 8. The *Flanders* Males being newly arrived, bring fresh news from those parts, of the continual complaints repeated to us of the ill usage our Prisoners are under in *Holland*, where they are so crowded in the Common Prisons, and places of durance, that they have not room to lye down, or so much as to sit for their ease, a Dutch invention of torment for this season of the year. Among other instances of cruelty, take that of Captain *Reeves*, Captain of the *Essex*, as it is written from his own hand, and with the earnestness & seriousness in the whole, that the circumstances are not to be doubted of. The sum is, That he having received a Musket shot below his right Temple, which plac'd it self in his Throat, on the left side, fell into such a bleeding inwardly, that he was taken speechless, and consequently rendred incapable of Command, and the rest of his Officers unserviceable, by reason of their wounds; That the Ship having received several Shors under water, those that undertook the command of her, brought her by the Lee to stop her Leaks; at which time the *Bull*, being in the same condition, fell foul on her, which added to the misfortune of losing the ship; that he and his Gunner went hand in hand to have blown up the Ship, but when they came to the Powder-room, the Enemy had secured it.

That they laid him upon the Deck, and seeing him wounded, immediately stripped him to his skin; that he was then conveyed into a Dutch Boat, and brought aboard a man of War, who refused to give him the assistance of his Chirurgion, in which ship he was forced to lye several hours, covered only with a Rugg: the next day he was sent to *Flushing*, without any care taken of him, or allowance made to him; in which passage he flung himself over-board, but was again recovered by their Boat-hooks; and notwithstanding his ill condition, clapt into Irons, in three days space receiving no sustenance; till at the last, being nigh perishing, they removed him to a Provosts house, where by the care of Chirurgions, he is now, contrary to all expectation, in great hopes of recovery, but continues still in chains and nakedness.