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Whitehal, July 30. *This more particular Narrative of the late Great Action at Sea, as it came to our hands; we here give you in this following Journal.*

ON Monday, July 23. Our Fleet set sail from the Gunfleet with little wind Easterly, and variable, the Enemy plying Eastward before them. At eight at Night they came to an Anchor at *Orfordness*, being three Leagues and half off W. and by N. the enemy five Leagues S. E. and by E. from them.

July 24. The Night proving stormy, the *Forscy*, disabled by the Thunder, his Main Top-mast broken in pieces, and his Main mast split from the top almost to the bottom, was ordered into *Sheerness* to be repaired, and a Fireship receiving likewise some hurt, sent into *Harwich*. At six in Morning they weighed Anchor with a fresh gale at N. N. E. and N. E. and Anchored again at eight, it being hazy weather, that they could not see the Enemy. At two they weighed, and stood off; and at four discovered the Enemy standing with us, and had the wind, though not the courage to engage our Fleet, though at that time not in so perfect an order. In stirring to get a head, the *Rainbow* lost her Main Top-mast; and the *Happy Return* entangled with another ship, had her Main Sail torn in the middle: But the enemy tacked, and stood from our Fleet, which Anchored that Night at the Leeward Tide, as likewise did the Dutch.

July 25. This Morning it being a fine gale at N. N. E. our Fleet about 11 leagues off of *Orfordness*, weighed, and in two hours time discovered the Enemy four leagues S. E. by S. with whom they stood, intending to engage them Van to Van: By six of the Clock they got up within two leagues of them, the wind at N. and by W. The Dutch then drawing up their Fleet into the Form of an Half-Moon, their Ships at equal distance, partly to avoid our Fireships; but rather (as supposed) hoping to wear all, or a great part of our Fleet, with either the Van or Rear of theirs.

About half an hour after nine, the Vans on each side came near, the headmost of theirs fired at ours, which returned no shot till near half an hour after that they came close up with them, and then the *Anne* began to fire, and presently the whole Squadron of the White was engaged with their Van; within an hour after, the Red Squadron likewise engaged, and after them the Blew; so that by 12 a clock all the whole Fleet was in with them. Between 10 and 11 one of our Fireships going on board their headmost Admiral, was put off and burnt down with instant effect; and 11 the Van of their Fleet began a little to give way; and about one, their whole Van bore before the wind from ours: Near half an hour after, the *Royal Katherine*, the *St. George*, and another of the White, came out of the Line, and lay by to mend, as likewise did the *Rupert*; at which time, a ship in the enemies Line was observed to blow up.

About three, Sir *Robert Holmes* lay by to repair, both his Top-masts being disabled; between two and three, the *Resolution* was burnt by a Fireship sent aboard him by *Trump*. Captain *Hannam*, with much industry, clearing the Fire-ship, but could not quench the fire that was got into his ship, but himself, and most of his men, were happily saved by Boats sent from the next Ships. About the same time, one of *de Ruyters* Fireships was sunk by the *Sovereign*, and *de Ruyters* Top-mast shot down.

About three, the *Royal Charles* came out of the Line to meet, who with much bravery had within Market shoar, long

fought with *de Ruyter* hand to hand, leaving his place to the *Sovereign*; and after a little more than half an hours repairing, stood in again, engaging the second time so warmly with *de Ruyter*; that he forced him to give way; but was himself so disabled in his Tackle, that he had no Rope left him, and could not Reer, but was towed out of the Line by Boats. At this time a ship of theirs was observed to blow up about the middle of their Line; and not long after another near the *Royal Oak*.

About four, *de Ruyter* made all the sail he could, and ran for it; but made frequent Tacks to fetch off his maimed Ships, once hazarding himself very much in rescue of his second, who at last was so disabled, that he could not be got off, but then presently chopt to an Anchor, which brought ours to the Leeward of him, the Tide being so strong, that a Fireship could not come near him; and one that attempted to get up, was assailed by another from the Enemy, and both burnt; and now their whole Van began to give ground, and run for it; who were pursued by the Red and White Squadrons, who continued Chasing them till Night, the *Royal James* about seven at Night taking the *Tolou*, *Bankerts* ship of 60 Guns, a Vice-Admiral of *Zealand*, himself escaping aboard Captain *de Haes*; and soon after another, the *Snaek* of *Harlem* of 66 Guns, both new ships, which we afterwards burnt, leaving *Trump* with the Rear of their Fleet of 34 or 35 ships engaged with the Blew Squadron, who continued the Fight till the Night parted them.

This night the Wind Veering from N. N. E. round Westward to the S. W. at Four in the morning, July 26. The Dutch had the wind, which was but little, our ships not being able to get up with them; but the *Fansan*, a Sloop lately built at *Harwich* for Prince *Rupert*, made up with her Oars to *de Ruyter*, and bringing her two little Guns to one side, continued for near an hour, plying Broadside and Broadside, to the great laughter of our Men, and indignation of the Dutch; to see their Admiral so stoutly Chaced; who still shooting his Stern Guns, in the end gave her two or three shot between wind and water, with which she retired. Our Fleet continued the pursuit, Chasing them over many Flats and Banks, till they came so near the shore, that our great ships could not follow; but left the lesser Fregats to attend them, till they got into the *Darlow* Channel of *Zealand*. *de Ruyters* own ship was much battered in this Chace by our Fregats, and if there had been wind enough for our great ships to have come up, our Fleet had certainly taken him, and destroyed most of those that were with him: But they had this advantage of us for their security in their flight, That there being but little wind, their ships drawing less water, sailed better than ours, and so escaped. At two this day, the wind Veering round Westward to the N. E. the Generals discovered *Trump*, with the remainder of the Dutch; in the *Offen*, Chaced by the Blew Squadron, who had the wind; so as at eight at night, the *Royal Charles* Tacking, to keep between *Trump* and home, stood in with them, and at Twelve at Night came to an Anchor, finding a Leeward Tyde, in design to bring the Dutch to him the next morning; but the rest of our Fleet not Anchoring so close, fell more to the Leeward.

July 27. Early in the morning, the Dutch appeared to the Windward (Sir *Jeremy Smith*, it seems, having the Night before laid by, for fear of *Shoale ground*, the Enemy in the mean time stealing away from him) to as the Generals Squadron could not get up with them, though they gave them a close Chace, till they had but Six fathom water off the *Ile of Scawen*. At Two in the Afternoon the wind favoured the Enemy, who stole in to the *Weyling*, to the rest of their Fleet.

Fill

Fleet.