

was cleaning as fast as possible, that so they might cruise against the Enemy, who had taken the *Faulcon*, a Ship of 32 Guns, off of Cape de Gates in her Passage to *Lisbon*, from whence he had ordered Sir *John Jennings* to join him with the Ships under his Command, who was off of *Gibraltar* the 21st of *May*, with sixteen Men of War, *English* and *Dutch*, and about forty Transports, loaden with Corn, as also Provisions and Stores for the Fleet in the *Mediterranean*, and arrived at *Port Mahon* the 28th, from whence he guarded the Corn Ships to *Barcelona*, and was joined the 8th of *June* by Sir *George Byng*, with the rest of the *English* and *Dutch* Men of War, and there Sir *Edward Whitaker* arrived with his Squadron from *Italy*, and above two thousand Recruits for the Army in *Catalonia*.

1709.

All the Fleet join at Barcelona.

A Council of War being called, it was determined, that since the King of *Spain*, as the Posture of Affairs then were, could not come to any Resolution relating to the Fleet's assisting in the Reduction of those Parts of *Spain* still in the Possession of the Enemy, to sail to a Station ten Leagues South of Cape *Thoulon*, not only for intercepting their Trade, but to alarm them all that might be; but since it was necessary that a Squadron should be on the Coast of *Portugal*, Sir *John Jennings* was sent thither with one Ship of the Second Rate, four of the Third, five of the Fourth, and three of the Fifth.

Sir John Jennings sent back to Lisbon.

They both sailed together from *Barcelona* Road, and Sir *George Byng* arrived before *Thoulon* the 21st of *June*, in which Harbour he saw only eight Ships, which were rigged, and their Sails bent, and one large Man of War on the Careen, the rest being disarmed, which confirmed the Accounts he had before, that they did not intend to come to Sea with a Fleet, but only to guard their Transports for Corn with small Squadrons; so that after cruising there some time longer, he returned to *Barcelona* Road, where he found most of the Ships arrived from the Services whereon he had sent them, and the *Dunkirk* and *Centurion* were come from the Coast of *Barbary*, being obliged to leave twelve Prizes, loaden with Corn, which the former and the *Defiance* had taken, in *Porto Farina*, for want of Men to sail them.

Sir George Byng comes before Thoulon.

He returns to Barcelona.

Upon his Arrival at *Barcelona*, he found the Court of *Spain*, at the Instance of Cardinal *Grimani*, very desirous to have the Reduction of *Sicily* attempted, and was informed by General *Stanhope*, that it was Her Majesty's Pleasure part of the Fleet should assist in the Design upon *Cadiz*; but the *Dutch* Ships having been separated in bad Weather, and ours being too few to answer these, and many other Services the Court proposed, he suspended for some time the coming to any Resolution, being every Day in Expectation of the Ships of the States-General; but at length he formed a Disposition of Her Majesty's Ships, and appointed Sir *Edward Whitaker* for the Service of *Sicily*, while he himself designed to proceed on the other with General *Stanhope*.

Some Thoughts of attempting Sicily, and attacking Cadiz.

The 26th of *July* the Court of *Spain* having notice of the Enemy's penetrating into the *Ampourdan*, with Intention, as was apprehended,