

evening, the signals were made of eleven ships, which were perceived from the mast-heads. They lay to the east-north-east, and were about six leagues distant from us. M. Hocquart made the signal to the Lys and the Dauphin Royal to crowd their sails, in order to endeavour to reconnoitre this Squadron before night, thinking it might be our own, from which we had been separated for several days; the wind fell at once, and the calm coming on at midnight, we lay to.

The 8th, at day-break, we found ourselves to leeward of this Squadron at the distance of about three leagues; M. Hocquart caused the private signals to be made; but these vessels crowding all their sails, and making no answer, we put up all ours; the Lys and the Dauphin Royal were soon a-head of us, the English vessels were visibly gaining ground on us. M. Hocquart gave orders to make ready for fighting: the Squadron being now within cannon-shot and half, we hoisted our flag and the streamer, which was followed by a cannon-shot with powder. Upon this, the English vessels hoisted their flags and streamers; the general set up a red flag on his fore-top-mast.

Between ten and eleven in the morning the Dunkirk, a ship of 60 guns, was within hearing. M. Hocquart desired messrs. de Rostaing, a colonel of foot, de Rigaud, governor of the three rivers in Canada, de Crancé,