

great Ferry for upwards of six Hours. So great was the Congestion of the Inhabitants, that they all forsook the Town. A few days after the Bombardments the Admiral returned with some Ships to Spithead, as well to rest as for further Instructions, and then returned to his Station off Havre, where he continued, off and on, along the Coasts for several Months, as well to keep the Enemy in constant Alarm, as to block up their Ships in their Harbour.

We return now to Admiral Hawke, whom we left in the Bay of Biscay, watching the Motions of the French Fleet, till the latter End of November, when he was forced from his Station by Strong Gulls of Wind, which obliged him to return to Torbay. M. Conflant took that Opportunity to get to Sea, with 21 Ships of the Line, besides Frigates, and made the best of his Way to Guiboran Harbour, which he knew was blocked up by Commodore Duff. Sir Edward being informed of his Sailing, immediately put to Sea, and soon came up with his Fleet upon which an Action ensued; and tho' the Weather was very tempestuous, he attacked the French Fleet with such Vigour, that the *Formidable*, 80 Gun Ship was taken, three burnt, and two sunk, seven or eight drove up the River *Faillance*, two split on the Rocks, and the rest made off to Sea; but with the Loss of the *Essex* and *Resolution*, which pursuing too eagerly, fell on the Rocks, and were lost.

By a private Letter the Public was inform'd of these further Particulars: That upon Discovery of the Enemy, every Ship was directed to make the best of their Way towards them. Sir Edward Hawke told his Officers, he was for the old Way of fighting, to make downright Work with them. We approached M. Conflant fast, and soon found he was in Chace of Capt. Duff's little Squadron of Frigates and Bombs, with 21 Ships of the Line and three Frigates; but on a distincter View of our Ships, they gave over the Chace. Upon our advancing the French Admiral changed his Plan, and stood right afore the Wind for the Shore. About Two in the Afternoon the *War-spire* and *Durseybire* began to fire; soon after, several others came into Action. The Firing now became very alert on both Sides, and there was no distinguishing between English Colours and French. The Enemy's Rear Admiral, the *Formidable*, bore a very hot Cannonade from the *Resolution*; but on the *Royal George's* coming up they hauled down their Flag, and struck to Sir Edward Hawke; this was only a Point of Honour with the French. Sir Edward order'd the Master of the *Royal George* to carry him close along Side the *Soleil Royal*. M. Conflant, the French Admiral, seem'd to have the same Intention. The *Torrey* was now closely engaged with the *Thetis* of 74 Guns, and presently sent her to the Bottom. The *Magnanime* kept an incessant