

here were three ships of the enemy's at Carrickfergus. The same evening I sailed with his Majesty's ship under my command, together with the Pallas and Brilliant, in quest of them. I made the entrance of Carrickfergus, on the evening of the 26th, but could not get in, the wind being contrary, and very bad weather. On the 28th at four in the morning we got sight of them, and gave chase. About nine I got up along side their commodore, (off the isle of Man) and in a few minutes after the action became general, and lasted about an hour and half, when they all three struck their colours. They are, the Marshal Bellisle, of 44 Guns, and 545 men including troops, M. Thurot, commander, who is killed: the La Blonde, of 32 Guns, and 400 Men, commanded by captain La Kayce; and the Terpsichore of 26 Guns, and 300 men, commanded by captain Desfraudaudais. I put into this road to repair the ships, who are all much disabled in their masts and rigging, the Marshal Bellisle in particular, who lost her boltsprit, mizen mast, and main yard, in the action; and it was with great difficulty we prevented her sinking.

It is with the greatest pleasure I acquaint their Lordships, that the officers and men of his majesty's ships behaved remarkably well on this occasion.

I shall use the greatest dispatch in getting the ships refitted, and purpose returning to Plymouth, or some other port in England, as soon as possible, if I do not receive their Lordships directions before the ships are got ready.

Inclosed is an account of the killed and wounded on board his Majesty's ships.

I am, &c.

JOHN ELLIOT.

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