

With the Transport Ships he proceeded to *Algier*, whence he returned to *Port Mahon*, and arrived at *Barcelona* with the Supply of Corn the 28th of *September*, from which Port the *Dutch* Ships were gone to *Majorca* for Provisions, but their return being suddenly expected, he left a Letter for their Commadore to follow him to *Port Mahon*, whither with the Consent of the King of *Spain*, he was going to refit the Ships under his Command, but took care to have Cruisers on the *Barbary* Coast to intercept Supplies bound to the *French*.

*He proceeds to Algier, thence to Port Mahon, &c.*

The victualling Ships expected from *England* not being arrived the 23d of *October*, it was agreed at a Council of War to proceed to *Livorne* for what could be had there, and on the 11th of the next Month he sailed accordingly, leaving Rear-Admiral *Somersdyke* at *Port Mahon*, refitting the *Dutch* Ships under his Command. In his Passage he met with extreme bad Weather, and lying off of *Thoulon* eight Days, he took several Barks, in one of which were Letters, giving an Account of the great Straits the Enemy were driven to for want of Corn, and Trade; and now receiving Advice from Vice-Admiral *Baker* that he was arrived at *Port Mahon* with the Victualling Ships from *England*, he returned thither, and on the 1st of *December* it was agreed at a Council of War, upon reading a Letter from the King of *Spain*, to appoint a Convoy, and a Number of Transport Ships in Her Majesty's Pay, to bring Corn for the Army in *Catalonia* from *Tarento* in the Kingdom of *Naples*.

*The Squadron goes to Livorne for Provisions.*

*Vice-Admiral Baker arrives at Port Mahon.*

Proceeding to Sea in order to intercept the *French* Transports, he had Advice the 23d of *December*, that the said Vessels, bound to *Thoulon* and *Marseilles*, with six Ships of War, had passed through the *Bocca di Bonifacio* the 25th in the Evening, and that they were got into *St. Tropez*, *Antibes*, and *Villa Franca*; whereupon it was considered whether there might be any probability of attacking them with Success, but it was determined not to be practicable, since they were fortified Places, and that the six *French* Men of War were almost equal to the Strength of ours; besides, there were several Merchant Ships of Force, some of them of between 40 and 50 Guns; so that it was resolved to proceed to *Livorne*, or *Port Mahon*, according as the Winds would permit.

*Not practicable to attempt French Ships at Antibes, &c.*

In the Road of *Livorne* he arrived the beginning of *January*, where he found the *Dutch* Rear-Admiral with all his Ships; and here he received a Letter from Captain *Evans* of the *Defiance*, giving him an Account that on the 8th of *November* he, with the *Centurion*, commanded by Captain *Mibill*, met with two *French* Ships of War of about equal Strength, between *Almeria* and *Malaga*, with which they began to engage about Eight in the Morning, and continued so to do until Twelve at Noon. The Fight was bloody on both sides, for the *Defiance* had twenty five Men killed, and sixty six wounded, nor fared it better with the *Centurion*; besides their Rigging was so disabled, and their Masts and Yards so much gaul'd, that they were not in a sailing Condition. However, the *French* leaving them about twelve a Clock, they made the best

*English and Dutch Squadrons join at Livorne.*

*A warm Dispute between two English and two French ships.*

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