

expected from *France*, with a considerable Number of Men and Arms, which his Holiness was then in great want of, as also to countenance the Negotiations of the said Marquis de *Prie* at the Court of *Rome*, it was determined at a Council of War, held in *Livorne* Road the 30th of *October* 1708, to remain in those Seas a Month longer, if the Service should require it, and that Ships should be kept cruising in the *Bocca of Piombino*, or thereabouts, to intercept the aforementioned Gallies.

*Agreed to appoint some Ships to intercept the Pope's Gallies.*

Notwithstanding three of our Ships had been employed off of *Porto Longone*, on the Island of *Elba*, ever since Sir *Edward Whitaker* arrived at *Livorne*, the German General had not made any Attempt against it, nor so much as embarked any Troops for that Service; but the Ships obliged the Enemy to retire from *Orbitello*, which they were bombarding, and had taken three Towers, which very much annoyed the Place; during which time four of the Pope's Gallies passing by *Livorne*, the *Tork* and *Firme* pursued them, but there being little Wind, they got away by the help of their Oars.

*Some of the Pope's Gallies pursued.*

The Imperial Troops were on their March about the middle of *November*, within forty Miles of *Rome*, so that there was hopes of a speedy Accommodation at the Pope's Court; but at this time the Imperialists had nothing so much at heart as the Reduction of *Sicily*, so that it was likely the King of *Spain* would be disappointed of the promised Troops from *Italy* for Service in *Catalonia*; but during Sir *Edward's* stay at *Livorne*, he received a Letter from his Majesty, giving him an Account that the Enemy had not only besieged *Denia* in *Valencia*, but given out that they would, after that, attack *Alicant*, having fifteen Ships of the Line of Battel to favour their Designs; for which reason, and lest they should block up the King in *Catalonia*, his Majesty earnestly pressed him not to pass the *Streights*, as required by Orders left him by Sir *John Leake*, but to remain on the Coasts of *Spain*, for that otherwise he would charge to him all the Misfortunes which might happen to his Affairs. The King also acquainted him that four of the Ships left with his Majesty were sailed to *Final*, to bring the Troops from the *Milanese*, and desired that in his return he would call at that Port, and accompany them, for their greater Safety.

*The Enemy besiege Denia.*

This Letter of the King of *Spain's* was enforced by one from General *Stanhope*, who let him know the great Misfortunes which might attend his leaving the Coasts of *Spain* unguarded, since the *French* by returning might prevent all Communication, and thereby expose the Army in *Catalonia* to a total want of Provisions, that Country being so far exhausted as not to be able to furnish sufficient for a Fortnight, so that, in such case, they should be obliged to give up the Country to any who would demand it.

*General Stanhope presses the Squadron remaining in the Streights.*

Upon these two pressing Letters it was determined, notwithstanding the late Resolutions taken at a Council of War, that as soon as the Squadron could be furnished with Provisions and Necessaries at *Livorne*, it should immediately proceed and join the Ships at *Va-*

*Results of a Council of War.*

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Enemy