

Sir George Byng's Proceedings after the Pretender to the Coast of Scotland, and before he got out of Dunkirk.

solved to proceed immediately with all the Ships into *Gravelin Pits*, or off of *Dunkirk*, to take the best View, or gain the best Intelligence that possibly might be of the Enemy; and not knowing whether any Ships were joined from *Brest*, he desired to be strengthened, especially with some of Force.

It falling calm on the Ebb in the Evening, he was obliged to anchor within the *South Foreland*, but next Morning, at four a Clock, he weighed again, with very little Wind at South, and stretched over to *Gravelin Pits*, where he got Advice of the Enemy's Strength by the Men of a Fishing-Boat taken near the Shore, and that the 27th in the Evening, after he came to an Anchor, the King of *England* (as they called him) came to *Gravelin* with two Post Chaises, in his way to *Dunkirk*, where they daily expected Ships from *Brest*.

Upon consulting the Flag-Officers with him, who were Sir *John Jennings*, Vice-Admiral of the Red, the Lord *Dursley*, Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and *John Baker* Esq; Rear-Admiral of the White, it was judged advicable, while the Winds were Westerly, and likely to blow, to ride in *Gravelin Pits*, both for the Security of the Squadron, and that they might lie in the way of the Ships from *Brest*, mean while to send a Frigate to *Holland*, with notice to the Deputies of the States that he was there, if they should think it proper to send any Ships to join him.

With a small Frigate he went within two Miles of *Flemish Road*, and had a good Sight of the Enemy's Ships, which he counted to be twenty seven in all, small and great, one of which he took to be a Ship of 60 Guns, and three of about 50, the rest smaller, all lying with their Topails loose, the usual Sign of their being ready to sail; besides which he saw between forty and fifty within the Heads above the Forts, two or three of which seemed to be pretty large Ships, but discovered not more in the *Basin* than three, one of them unrigg'd, and another with a White Flag at her Main-top-mast Head.

If not any of the Enemy's Ships appeared from the Westward, and the Weather was favourable, he had thoughts of shifting Roads, and to lie for a Day or two off of *Dunkirk*, in the fair way for the other Channel, to observe their Motions should they come out, which if they did not attempt in that time, the Spring was so far over, that he judged they could not do any thing until the next, inasmuch that he then intended to proceed to the *Downs*, a Road of much greater Security; but in this, and all other Movements he made, he resolved to take the Opinion of the Flag Officers; and since the Enemy were not joined by any Ships from *Brest*, (at least he judged so from their Strength at *Dunkirk*) he had not yet sent to *Holland* for a Re-inforcement.

The 1st of *March* the Wind coming more Westerly, and it seeming as if it would be dirty Weather, he, pursuant to the Opinion of the Flag Officers, plied out of *Gravelin Roads* to the Westward, and the next Day stood over to the *Downs*; for as the Squadron was fitted out in a Hurry, and consequently wanted Provisions, Stores, Water,

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