

THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE

Log of the BARFLEUR

Wednesday, 28 May 1794

PM—Fresh gales and squally. At 2, the Admiral made the signal for a general chase. Made all sail we could carry. At 3, our headmost ship fired on the enemy's rear. At 6, the *BELLEROPHON*, *RUSSELL*, and *MARLBOROUGH* engaged with the enemy's rear. At 8, the Admiral made the signal to call in the *MARLBOROUGH* and *BELLEROPHON*. At close of day several of our advanced ships were engaged closely with the enemy's rear. At 9, the firing ceased. All night carrying a still sail in chase of the French fleet.

Thursday, 29 May 1794

AM—At 4, the Admiral made the signal to form the order of battle ahead and astern of him as convenient. Found the *AUDACIOUS* was not in company. At 7, the signal to tack in succession. At ½ past 7, the signal to pass through the enemy's line and get the weather-gage. At eight, the rear of the enemy fired on our van in passing, the enemy's van wore and, running parallel to ours, continued a cannonade until noon. At ½ past 11, the Admiral made the signal for the fleet to tack, leading ships first. At 5 minutes after, annulled it.

PM—First part fresh gales and cloudy weather, latter moderate with a thick fog. At ½ past 12, the Admiral made the signal to tack in succession and pass through the enemy's line, which our van did, and in passing the enemy's line were engaged closely with them, by which two of the enemy's line lost their topmasts and others much damaged. At 3, we tacked, and fetching the enemy's rear ship engaged her in passing, on contrary tacks. At ¼ past 3, the signal for a general chase. At ½ past 3, to close with the Admiral. At 4, the enemy having wore and pointing their line for our disabled ships *QUEEN* and *INVINCIBLE*, wore ship in the wake of the *ROYAL SOVEREIGN*, and edging away, turned their van to leeward, engaging the 3 headmost ships of the enemy. At ¼ past 5, the signal to come to the wind in succession on the larboard tack. The enemy's fleet run to leeward and formed their line on the larboard tack.

Friday, 30 May 1794

AM—At ¼ past 9, the signal for the enemy's fleet being in sight. Employed repairing the shot holes in the sails. Foggy weather. The fleet under an easy sail.

Saturday, 31 May 1794

PM—Moderate and fair weather the most part. At ½ past 2, the fog cleared away, saw the French fleet bearing NNW and standing to the westward, and by signal altered course together towards them. At 4, the Admiral made the signal to form the line of battle on the larboard line of bearing. Made sail to take our station ahead of the Admiral. At ½ past 5, the Admiral made the signal for the van, centre, and rear of the fleet to prepare to engage respectively the van, centre, and rear of the enemy. The enemy forming their line to leeward, consisting of 26 sail of the line. At ½ past 8, we were formed in line of battle, and stood on all night with a moderate sail.

Sunday, 1 June 1794

AM—At daylight, the enemy's fleet having fallen considerably to leeward, bore down towards them. At ½ past 7, hauled to the wind and formed the line close and compact. At 8, the Admiral made the signal that he meant to pass through their line and engage them to leeward. At 9, the Admiral made the signal for each ship to steer for and engage the ship opposed to her in the enemy's line. At ½ past 9, to engage the enemy close. At 10, the action began. At ½ past 10, Rear-Admiral Bowyer was wounded. Both fleets continued very warmly engaged until ¼ past 11, when the enemy gave way and ran to leeward, leaving 7 ships dismasted, viz., the *SANS PAREIL*, *L'IMPÉTUEUX*, *LE JUSTE*, *NORTHUMBERLAND*, *ACHILLE*, *AMÉRIQUE*, and *VENGEUR*. Two others dismasted were towed off, and two more which lost their main and mizen masts. The *DEFENCE* and *MARLBOROUGH* were totally dismasted, the *ROYAL GEORGE* lost her fore mast, the *QUEEN* her main mast, and several of our ships their topmasts. The Admiral made the signal to form the line of battle ahead and astern of him. Moderate and cloudy weather.

PM—Employed repairing the material parts of the rigging, which was shot away, and taking possession of the captured ships. At 6, the *VENGEUR* sunk, and many of the people went down in her, notwithstanding every exertion to save them. Had nine men killed in the action and 25 wounded. The masts and yards a good deal shot, many of them rendered unserviceable.

Monday, 2 June 1794

AM—Employed exchanging the men from the ships captured.

T. Sturges Jackson, *Logs of the Great Sea Fights, 1794–1805*. (London:1899), I:64–66.