

# THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE

## Log of the ROYAL SOVEREIGN

29 May 1794

AM—Fresh gales. 7.10 Repeated signal No. 78 with preparative. 7.30 Repeated signal No. 34. 7.35 Repeated signal No. 28. Tacked ship. 8.10 The CÆSAR began to fire on the enemy's rear; the van of the enemy wore in succession to leeward of their line. Up mainsail. 10.s Made signal No. 67 with the MARLBOROUGH's pennant. Set the mainsail. 10.49 The van of the enemy began to engage the van of our fleet, but at a great distance. 11.32 Repeated signal No. 78. 11.42 Repeated the annulling flag. 11.45 The Admiral made the signal to tack, with a gun. At noon the van of the enemy and ours still engaged. The body of the French fleet S by W. A three-decked ship, the fourth from the enemy's rear, carried away her fore topsail yard and fore topmast.

PM—Fresh gales and hazy. 12.25 Repeated signal No. 78. 1.52 Observed the Admiral of the rear division of the French fleet had carried away his fore topmast and topsail yard. 1. Tacked. 1.15 Repeated signal No. 34. 2. Began to engage the enemy's ships then lying to on the larboard tack. 2.43 The QUEEN made tabular signal No. 35. 2.54 Repeated signal No. 7. Wore and stood towards the enemy, they coming out in a line on the starboard tack. 3.20 Signal No. 5 with the ORION's pennant. 3.51 The Admiral made the signal to haul on the wind on the starboard tack, but as the enemy's ships were then standing for the QUEEN and she only having a jib set, we bore up for her and repeated the GIBRALTAR's, BARFLEUR's and IMPREGNABLE's signals to come into our wake. 3.55 Repeated signal No. 80. 4.4 Signal No. 55. 4.17 Signal No. 87. 4.46 Made signal No. 87 with the BARFLEUR's and IMPREGNABLE's pennants. 5. Made signal No. 87 with IMPREGNABLE's and GIBRALTAR's pennants. 5.6 Repeated signal No. 87. 5.10 The headmost of the enemy's ships bore up and we left off firing, the enemy out of gun shot. Found our main mast, main topmast, bowsprit and main yard were all wounded. Main shrouds, running rigging and sails much cut. 8 men killed and 22 wounded. Got the main topgallant mast and yard on deck. Several of the enemy's ships lost their topmasts and lower yards. 5.15 Repeated signal No. 83. 5.35 Signal 49, with the starboard and larboard divisional flags. At 6, repeated signal No. 49. Wore ship. 8. The enemy's fleet from N ½ W to NW ½ W, 7 or 8 miles. Saw two ships to the SW appearing to be of the line. Sent the AQUILON to inform the Admiral of it. She returned and desired Admiral Graves would keep a look out on them, but we did not see them after 8.45; they were then on the larboard tack. 9. Set the foresail. 9.30 Up foresail. 12. QUEEN CHARLOTTE north 2 miles.

30 May 1794

AM—4. QUEEN CHARLOTTE N by E 1 ½ miles. 6. Clewed up the foresail to mend the shot hole. Clewed up the main topsail. Sailmakers employed repairing sails. Ship's company knotting and splicing the rigging. 21 sail in sight. 8.20 Repeated signal No. 9. 8.30 Set the mainsail. The enemy's fleet NW 3 or 4 leagues. 10. Found that the AUDACIOUS had parted company in the night. Up mainsail, set close reefed topsails. 8.40 Repeated signal No. 9 and tabular signal No. 93 with the VALIANT's pennants. 9.25 Signal No. 1. 9.40 Repeated signal No. 55. 9.59 Repeated signal No. 68. 10.9 Repeated signal No. 54 with INVINCIBLE's pennants. 10.28 Made signal No. 61 with a blue pennant at the main topgallant masthead with the VALIANT's pennants. At 10.42, repeated signal No. 74. 10.51 Repeated signal No. 86 with the starboard divisional flag. 10.59 Made private ship's signal No. 11. At 11.20 repeated signal No. 83 with preparative. 11.39 Repeated signal No. 61 with a blue pennant at the main topgallant masthead. Set the mainsail, close reefed the mizen topsail. At noon up mainsail.

31 May 1794

PM—Moderate and hazy. 1. The BELLEROPHON made the signal for seeing the enemy bearing N by W. 1.50 Repeated signal No. 18 with preparative and compass signal N by W. Repeated compass signal NW by N. 2. Bore up, set the foresail and fore topgallant sail. 2.6 Repeated signal No. 19 with compass signal NW. 2.8 Repeated signal No. 19 with compass signal WNW. 2.30 Set the mainsail. 3.30 Repeated signal No. 84 with preparative. 3.49 Hauled down the preparative and fired a gun. 3.50 Repeated signal No. 49. 4. Repeated signal No. 61 with a blue pennant at the main topgallant masthead. 4.4 The enemy's fleet from North to NW by N, 6 or 7 miles. The enemy's fleet wore in succession. 4.8 Signal No. 4 with IMPREGNABLE's and DEFENCE's pennants. 4.12 Made signal No. 18 with larboard divisional flag and compass signal NNW. 4.18 Made signal No. 88 with DEFENCE's pennant. 4.43 Made signal No. 17 with IMPREGNABLE's pennants. At 4.48, repeated signal No. 19. 5.16 Repeated signal No. 40 with preparative and van divisional flag. 5.26 Repeated signal No. 39 with preparative and centre divisional flag. 5.32 Repeated signal No. 19 with compass signal NW ½ W. 5.39 Made signal No. 86 with DEFENCE's pennants. 5.40 Repeated signal No. 41 with preparative and van divisional flag. 6.13 Repeated signal No. 139. 6.26 Repeated signal No. 83. 6.56 Repeated signal No. 68. 7.45 Showed a red pennant at the bowsprit end. 8.30 The extremes of the French fleet from NW ½ N to NE, their van about 7 miles distant, centre about 4 miles, and rear about 6 miles, steering W by N,

under an easy sail. At 10, the PHAËTON spoke us and informed that the Admiral would stand on during the night under single reefed topsails, foresail, jib and main topmast staysail, and that we were to keep our reefs out if possible.

1 June 1794

AM—4. Repeated signal No. 61 with a blue pennant at the main topgallant masthead. 5. Saw the French fleet bearing N by E. 5.50 Repeated signal No. 18 with preparative and compass signal NW. Up mainsail. 6.30 Repeated signal No. 18 with preparative and compass signal North. Up foresail. 6.35 Repeated signal No. 161 with preparative and van divisional flag. 7.8 Made signal No. 4 with van divisional flag. 7.10 Repeated signal No. 84 with preparative. 7.17 Repeated signal No. 49. 7.26 Repeated signal No. 64. 7.35 Made signal No. 4 with the IMPREGNABLE's pennant. 7.46 Made signal No. 61 with van divisional flag and white pennant at the main topgallant masthead. Furlled the mainsail. 8. Signal No. 53 with ROYAL SOVEREIGN's and MARLBOROUGH's pennants. 8.2 Signal No. 61 with white pennant main topgallant masthead and van divisional flag. 8.7 Made signal No. 53 with ROYAL SOVEREIGN's and MARLBOROUGH's pennants. 8.11 Repeated signal No. 73. At 8.19, made signal No. 4 with the LEVIATHAN's pennant. 8.35 Made the CÆSAR's and RUSSELL's pennants, No. 36 still flying. 8.37 Made signal no. 4 with CÆSAR's and LEVIATHAN's pennants. 8.38 Made signal No. 36 with the same pennants flying. Hauled down No. 4. 8.42 Made signal No. 63 with the MARLBOROUGH's pennant. 9.8 Made signal No. 73 with van divisional flag. The enemy began to fire on us. 9.15 The van division began to engage. Sometimes lying to, sometimes standing on, and sometimes going large, governed by the movements of the ship we were opposed to and following her, when another 3-deck ship and a 74 came to her assistance, which we engaged some time, and then they bore up before the wind. At noon left off firing, the enemy all out of gunshot.

PM—Moderate and cloudy. The fore and fore topmast stays all been shot away, and fore mast and fore topmast badly wounded as to make us apprehensive of them going over the side; got down the topgallant yard and mast, lowered the fore topsail on the cap, got up the fish tackle and the runners and tackles, and secured the fore mast. At 1, hauled towards one of the enemy's ships dismasted, running before the wind, with her spritsail and a sail on the stump of her fore mast. 1.30 After firing 3 shot at her she hauled down her colours, and brought to. Out barge, sent an officer to take possession of her. She proved to be the AMERICA of 74 guns. Out all boats that could swim and brought on board the officers and 300 men prisoners. At 3, sent the 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant and men to take charge of the prize.

All our stays fore and aft and most of our standing rigging and running rigging shot away. Employed splicing the standing and running rigging. Bent new course and main stopsail; reeving running rigging. 6.5 Made signal No. 47 with NIGER's pennant. 7.23 Repeated signal No. 15. 8. The AQUILON made private signal No. 30 with compass signal NE. In boats. Moderate and cloudy. QUEEN CHARLOTTE NW 4 or 5 miles.

2 June 1794

AM—39 sail, hulks included, in sight. 4.43 Made the NIGER's signal for a lieutenant. 5.53 Made the NIGER's signal to wear. 6.40 Answered our signal for a lieutenant. All the fleet and 6 or the taken ships in company. 8.30 Made signals Nos. 47 and 64 with NIGER's pennant. 8.50 Signal No. 47 with MONTAGU's pennant. 9. Repeated signal No. 101. 9.15 Repeated signal No. 47 with MONTAGU's pennant, with a gun. 9.30 Answered the signal for all lieutenants. 9.55 Made signal No. 47 with a gun and MONTAGU's pennant. 10.15 Made the MONTAGU's signal for a lieutenant. 10.40 Made signal No. 15 with NIGER's pennant. Employed splicing the standing rigging and reeving running rigging, hoisting up salt water out of the fore and main holds, and starting it to make room for the prisoners. Sailmakers repairing sails, carpenters making fishes for the fore mast. Shook all the empty casks to make room for the prisoners.

T. Sturges Jackson, *Logs of the Great Sea Fights, 1794–1805*. (London:1899), I:58–63.