

# MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1797.

PHILADELPHIA, December 21.

By the Dublin packet, Green, from Liverpool, arrived at New-York.

LONDON, October 15.

At four o'clock yesterday morning lieutenant Brodie arrived at the admiralty, with a short letter from admiral Duncan, announcing the event [defeat of the Dutch] with which lord Spencer immediately set off to the king at Kew. At ten o'clock the park and tower guns were fired; and in the afternoon the following brief notice was published in a

LONDON GAZETTE, EXTRAORDINARY.

Admiralty-office, October 13.

Lieutenant Brodie, of the Rose cutter, arrived early this morning with a letter from admiral Duncan, commander in chief of his majesty's ships, &c. employed in the North Sea, to Evan Nepean, Esq; of which the following is a copy:

Venerable, off the coast of Holland, the 12th of October, by log (11th) three P. M. Camperdown E. S. E. eight miles, wind N. by E.

SIR,

I have the pleasure to acquaint you, for the information of the lords commissioners of the admiralty, that at nine o'clock this morning I got sight of the Dutch fleet, at half past twelve I passed through their line, and the action commenced, which has been very severe. The admiral's ship is dismasted, and has struck, as have several others and one is on fire.

I shall send captain Fairfax with particulars, the moment I can spare him.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient,  
Humble servant,

ADAM DUNCAN.

The following communication was transmitted by lord Spencer, to the lord mayor, for the information of the merchants.

Admiralty-office, October 13.

My Lord,

I have the satisfaction to inform your lordship, that an officer has arrived from admiral Duncan with an account of his having fallen in with the Dutch fleet off the coast of Holland, on Wednesday last, and that after a severe action, the ship having the Dutch admiral on board, had been dismasted and had struck, as had also several other of the enemies ships.

When the officer left the admiral at four o'clock in the afternoon, he was then preparing to take possession of the ships which had struck, and to pursue the remainder.

I most heartily congratulate your lordship on this important event, and have the honour to be, with great regard,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,  
And humble servant,

SPENCER.

To the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor.

The following particulars though not official, are considered as authentic: On Wednesday morning early, admiral Duncan fell in with the grand Batavian fleet, close in with the Dutch coast, to the leeward of the Texel, returning into port. Seeing there was no possibility of escape, admiral de Winter commander in chief of the Dutch forces, made a signal of forming the line. The gallant admiral Duncan gave but two signals, one for each ship to get close to his opponent, and the other signal to break the line. His orders were obeyed in the most perfect manner, and the Dutch line was broken in two parts; by himself near the centre, and by admiral Onslow in the rear, who thereby cut off and took five ships and one frigate. As soon as admiral Duncan had passed through, a severe action took place with the van and part of the centre of the Dutch fleet, and their commander, admiral de Winter, displayed great gallantry. He maintained a hard fought action for two hours and a half, and though he had lost all his masts, and that his ship was utterly unmanageable, he refused to strike until the Venerable came up when he yielded. Mr. Brodie counted eight ships with their colours struck, one of which had been on fire, but the flames were extinguished by the exertions of our people; and a ninth ship he saw lying almost a wreck, and the Ruffel close up with her; so that he has no doubt, but that nine ships of the line (including two 50's) and one frigate were taken, of these, two were flag ships. Admiral Duncan had sent boats to take possession of those ships; and at the same time as the centre division of the enemy, which had suffered the least, were forming a line to facilitate their escape, and prevent stragglers from being picked up, he had given orders for a general chase; most (scarcely) for the purpose; the Formidable and two other ships joined him immediately after

the action, and there was every reason to hope that the fleet would be able to destroy, if not to take, all the rest of the Dutch ships.

The battle was fought off Scheveling, and so near to the coast, that thousands of people were on the shore to view it. It is thought that they were so near to the shallow water that they must flee to all Wednesday night and that by this means their retreat into the Texel, or even into Helvoetlijs, would be prevented.

It appears that admiral Duncan had very good intelligence from captain Trollope on the preceding day, of the situation of the Dutch fleet. Captain T's letter to the admiral contained the following remarkable words:—"When you see the Dutch fleet, you will see the Ruffel." He had never quitted the Dutch fleet from the moment he came in sight of it on Monday, and his ship led the fleet into action.

Admiral Duncan's letter to the admiralty published in the London Gazette extraordinary, contains no details whatever. It was written in great haste, to give ministers the earliest advice of the result, as he purposed sending home captain Fairfax with the details of this famous action, which rivals in glory the memorable 1st of June 1794, and the 14th of February, 1797.

The following is a pretty correct account of the forces on each side.

The Dutch fleet consisted of

- 3 Ships of 76 guns.
- 8 Ships of 64 to 68.
- 4 Ships of 54 to 58 guns.
- 1 Ship of 48 guns.

The British fleet consisted of

SHIPS.	GUNS.	
Powerful	74	Capt. Drury
Bedford	74	Sir T. Beard
Montague	74	Knight
Monarch	74	{ Vice-Ad. Onslow
Ruffel	74	{ Capt. O'Brien
Belliqueux	74	Trollope
Triumph	74	J. Inglis
Ardent	68	W. Biffington
		R. R. Burgefs
Venerable	74	{ Adm. Duncan
Director	64	{ Capt. Fairfax
Glanton	64	W. Bligh
Nassau	64	C. Cobb
Lancaster	64	W. Hargood
Inflexible	64	J. Wells
Veteran	64	S. Ferris
Monmouth	64	Gregory
Agincourt	64	Lord Northesk
Adamant	50	Williamston
Iris	50	Hotham
Naiad	38	
Atrea	32	{ Repeaters
Champion	24	

Swan sloop, Tiphone fire-ship, brigs, cutters, &c.

Besides the above ships, the following sailed from the Nore on Tuesday, to reinforce admiral Duncan; and although they had not joined at the moment of the general action, yet we think they will have reached him in time to be of service in picking up some of the enemy's ships in their flight:

Ships	guns	Com.
Warrior	74	Capt. Savage
Agamemnon	64	Pancourt.
Braakel [prize]	54	R. Mose

To these we may add, the Formidable of 98, capt. G. Gerkely, which failed from the Downs on Wednesday morning to join admiral Duncan.

October 16.

Admiralty Office, October 16, 1797.

Captain Fairfax, of the Venerable, arrived early this morning with dispatches from Adam Duncan, Esq; admiral of the blue, commander in chief of his majesty's ships, &c. employed in the North Sea, to Evan Nepean, Esq; secretary of the admiralty, of which the following are copies:

Venerable, at Sea, 13th Oct. 1797, off the coast of Holland.

SIR,

Be pleased to acquaint the lords commissioners of the admiralty, that, judging it of consequence their lordships should have as early information as possible of the defeat of the Dutch fleet under the command of admiral de Winter, I dispatched the Rose cutter at three P. M. on the 12th [11th] inst. with a short letter to you immediately after the action was ended.

I have now further to acquaint you, for their lordship's information, that in the night of the 10th inst. after I had sent away my letter to you of that date, I placed my squadron in such a situation as to prevent the enemy from returning to the Texel without my falling in with them.

At nine o'clock in the morning of the 11th I got sight of captain Trollope's squadron, with signals flying

for an enemy to leeward; I immediately bore up, and made the signal for a general chase, and soon got sight of them, forming in a line on the larboard tack to receive us, the wind at N. W. As we approached near, I made the signal for the squadron to shorten sail, in order to connect them; soon after I saw the land between Camperdown and Egmont, about 9 miles to leeward of the enemy, and finding there was no time to be lost in making the attack, I made the signal to bear up, break the enemy's line, and engage them to leeward, each ship her opponent, by which I got between them and the land whither they were fast approaching. My signals were obeyed with great promptitude, and vice-admiral Onslow, in the Monarch, bore down on the enemy's rear in the most gallant manner, his division following his example, and the action commenced about forty minutes past twelve o'clock.

The Venerable soon got through the enemy's line, and I began a close action, with my division on their van, which lasted for near two hours and a half, when I observed all the masts of the Dutch admiral's ship to go by the board; she was, however, defended for some time in a most gallant manner—but being over-pressed by numbers her colours were struck, and admiral de Winter was soon brought on board the Venerable. On looking around me, I observed the ship bearing the vice-admiral's flag was also dismasted, and had surrendered to vice-admiral Onslow; and that many others had likewise struck. Finding we were in nine fathoms water, and not farther than five miles from the land, my attention was so much taken up in getting the heads of the different ships off shore, that I was not able to distinguish the number of ships captured; and the wind having been constantly on the land since, we have unavoidably been much dispersed, so that I have not been able to gain an exact account of them, but we have taken possession of eight or nine; more of them had struck, but taking advantage of the night, and being so near their own coast, they succeeded in getting off, and some of them were seen going into the Texel next morning.

It is with the greatest pleasure and satisfaction I have made known to their lordships the very gallant behaviour of vice-admiral Onslow, the captains, officers, seamen and marines of the squadron, who all appeared actuated with the truly British spirit, at least those that I had an opportunity of seeing.

One of the enemy's ships caught fire in the action, and drove very near the Venerable; but I have the pleasure to say it was extinguished, and she is one of the ships in our possession. The squadron has suffered much in their masts, yards, and rigging, and many of them have lost a number of men; however, in no proportion to that of the enemy.

The carnage on board the two ships that bore the admiral's flags has been beyond all description, they have had no less than 250 killed and wounded on board of each ship; and here I have to lament the loss of captain Burgefs, of his majesty's ship the Ardent, who brought that ship into action in the most gallant and masterly manner, but was unfortunately killed soon after. However, the ship continued the action close, until quite disabled. The public have lost a good and gallant officer in captain Burgefs, and I, with others, a sincere friend.

Captain Trollope's exertions and active good conduct in keeping fight of the enemy's fleet until I came up, have been truly meritorious, and, I trust, will meet a just reward.

I send this by captain Fairfax, by whose able advice I profited much during the action, and who will give their lordships any further particulars they may wish to know.

As most of the ships of the squadron are much disabled, and several of the prizes dismasted, I shall make the best of my way with them to the Nore.

I herewith transmit you a list of killed and wounded on board such of the squadron as I have been able to collect; a list of the enemy's fleet opposed to my squadron, and my line of battle on the day of action.

I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

ADAM DUNCAN.

[Here follows a list of killed and wounded on board the British fleet. We publish the totals on board each ship:]

Venerable	77
Monarch	136
Bedford	71
Powerful	88
Iris	23
Ardent	148
Agincourt	NONE
Belliqueux	103
Lancaster	21
Triumph	84

751 Killed and wounded.

[Here follows in the English paper a list of officers killed and wounded, and then the disposition of the fleet.]