

24 to 25 Vendemiaire Year 14

From midday to 6pm

At 2pm it rained, stormy weather, cold westerly wind windy at sunset there was still a squall to the west with wind and rain the enemies stood out to sea

From 6pm to midnight

the weather improved slightly, but lots of large clouds all over the stormy sky, the wind still a cold westerly, at 11pm the rain returned

From midnight to 4am

no change in the wind for the rest of the night at 2am the rain returned and continued until 4am weather continually stormy

From 4am to 8am

at daybreak the sky was completely overcast continual cold westerly wind, the weather brightened up a little above us we could not make out the enemies from the masthead it seems that [they] must have tacked towards the straits, because of the stormy, overcast weather today, we sighted 5 sail of which two were in full view to the south and three fairly close

From 8am to midday

during the morning the weather cleared up gentle cold west wind sunny, the admiral was on board the *Formidable*.

25 to 26 Vendemiaire year 14

From midday to 6pm

weather clear and hot, gentle WSW breeze, the enemy out to sea and nothing new among the fleet, the sky was overcast on the horizon two enemy frigates hove to near the town and lots of other sails in sight. Admiral Villeneuve left the ship *Indontable* [*Indomptable*] at 5pm, after dinner same wind and same weather

From 6pm to midnight

Clear, almost calm weather throughout the watch.

From midnight to 4am

Entire sky clear, and calm throughout the watch

From four to eight

clear and calm weather, at 5am hands were called to clean ship at 7.30 the admiral put his sails out to dry, as did we and several other ships in the fleet. The enemy appeared during the watch numbering five sails, and no movement in the harbour.

From eight am to midday

Clear weather, hot and calm for most of the watch, at 9.30 we sounded general quarters, sent every man to his post and exercised until 11.15, during the entire watch the enemy was visible numbering five sails during the watch the vessel *Rayo* was busy tripping her anchors no other movements in the fleet.

26 to 27 Vendemiaire year 14

From midday to 6pm

light westerly wind, good weather clear on all sides, at 5pm the admiral called the whole fleet to order a moment later for us to double anchor and call all the crew back aboard the enemies appeared numbering four frigates and a schooner one league from the town keeping to the west the wind constantly the same clear and bright weather at 5.30 order to bring the boats aboard and single anchor

from 6pm to midnight

at 11.30 a boat from the general's ship arrived and told us to raise the SE anchor and remain on the NW at the same time signal to turn at anchor, followed by one to turn on the SE anchor. And being at anchor we sent a boat over to the *Santisima Trinidad* to ask her which anchor she was going to raise first she replied that it was the NW and that then she would come on to her SE. This manoeuvre forced us to stay at anchor unable to unmoor without hitting this vessel. The current being strong and the wind in the NNE.

26 to 27 Vendemiaire year 14 continued

from 8 to midday

we waited our turn to get under sail but the weather stayed calm the tide against us those who were under sail made no headway, the admiral called us to order for the sick men the enemies took flight still firing cannon shots from time to time at 11am we called a boat from the *Fougueux* and from the *Aigle* for the sick coming from the admiral's ship at 11.30 a SW wind arose calm weather very clear on all sides and very hot

27 to 28 Vendemiaire year 14

from midday to 6pm

several vessels and frigates had passed the town they made short tacks to wait for us since a cold westerly wind had set in at 4pm the admiral signalled the vessels with wind behind them to get under sail we were almost all moving some to lengthen [?] others [?] without sails, the admiral called us to order several times, the first time for the sick, the second time for two more oxen that the second cutter had brought aboard, the weather very clear, the enemy always observing us, but from a great distance, forced away by our frigates that were [?keeping watch] at 5.30 the pinnace brought us some fresh bread, at the same time the admiral signalled to the boats under sail to anchor

From 6pm to midnight

wind changeable NNW to NW very cold, sunny a local boat brought us fresh bread, at 8pm we sheered off the wind coming and decreasing, varying continually towards the north, slight nearly calm

27 to 28 Vendemiaire year 14 continued

From midnight to four in the morning
calm the rest of the night a few small gusts
of wind from the SE weather overcast on the horizon

From 4am to 8am

a SE wind, veering towards the south weather
overcast on all sides by day the enemy appeared observing us
numbering 6 sails, but very distant, at 6.30
the general signalled the fleet to get under way
without another signal at 7.30 signal for general quarters
we turned at anchor and
tripped the anchor straight away but without setting the royals or topsails
and made to leave port at 8am we were all
under sail apart from the Spanish ship *Rayo* one
of the frigates she [?] had fired her broadside
without being able to distinguish the result of this precipitate misfortune

From 8am to midday

At 8.30 we were moving, De Porquer, the local pilot
left us stormy weather overcast in all directions
cold South wind we had hoisted the royals
making sail to the West by the compass the sea was calm
the general not having signalled any battle order
at 9.30 during a rainy squall with [?light] wind
Admiral Dumanoir signalled 'man overboard'
he turned as much as possible but it was all in vain
the man was lost as we were in the admiral's wake
we saw a hat and presumed it belonged to the
unfortunate man, the admiral signalled at the same time to the whole
fleet to take in a reef on each topsail then
finally gathered at 10 am the *Rayo* appeared leaving the bay
the end of the channel remained to the SE by E about two leagues distant
at 11am the wind changed to the SW with rainy squalls and wind
we took in two more reefs on the topsails signalled by the admiral

From midday on the 28 to midday on the 29 Vendemiaire

From midday to 6pm
an American Corvette passed us
very close by and was visited by
observers at 1pm the admiral signalled to make all
sail, regroup, and to advance in
three columns at 2 pm the columns were
formed, the weather brightened up the wind changed
to a moderate westerly we had a quartering breeze
at 3pm the admiral signalled to wear and hold the wind
the generals took the centre of each column
at 3.30 sighted Cadiz to the [?ESE]
about 5 leagues distant, we had 4 enemy
ships behind us to the SW we sent several
signals at sunset windy, foggy horizon

From 6 to midnight
at 8.30 in the evening after having seen several signals made
to the enemy we slowed to form
the line of battle and spent the
entire night executing this manoeuvre
the course during the watch was
SW by S on which we travelled 11 ¼
miles, with a light fresh WNW wind.

29-30

From midnight to 4am
the enemy stayed to windward and signalled several times
we had ?grouped together but were not in formation
brought to several times under topsails,
staysails, jib and flying jib, several vessels passed
close by us
[...]

28 - 29 Vendemiaire an 14 continued

The rest of the night light wind
calm weather without topsails or royals and
the enemy still making signals

From 4 am to 8 am

At 6.30 we sighted land
to the SE which we took to be Cadiz
and at sunrise we made out 31 sails
large and small at 7am the general gave
the signal to form a natural line of battle
the enemies were already approaching independently the west
wind was very light and we could barely ?steer.

From 8am to midday

changed heading to get ourselves
into line because
?hove to we could [not] steer

From 8 to midday

at 9am order to the fleet to turn about [?]
after this we could ?steer
the enemies still approaching us wind behind [them] but
in disarray [?] because of the lack of wind However they
were still gaining the enemy divided into
two columns, one came to take the tail
of our fleet and the other the head, the wind still
light impeding our ability to get into order

29-30 Vendemiaire

from midday to 6pm

at one the centre of the fleet opened
fire the weather overcast on the horizon the
wind still insufficient to port even under topsails [torn]
at 1.15 the head of the fleet started but we were too
far away, at 1.30 the whole fleet had
fired at the same moment we began to see a
three decker lose its
main topmast a moment after this a three
decked vessel lost all its masts the *Bu[centau]re*
lost its mainmast and
topmast at 2.30 Admiral Dumanoir
signalled the head to turn about the whole English
fleet had gone towards the centre there was so little
wind when going about that we were [page torn]
with the *Intrepide* but we could not [?get any wind in the sails apart
from a little on the bowsprit] at 3pm the *Trenité*
had lost all its masts the *Bu[centaure]* looked to be suffering the same fate.

29 – 30 Vendemiaire continued

continuation of midday to 6pm
at 3pm our topgallant mast was damaged
at 4pm we recommenced firing
at 4.30pm a vessel caught fire
whose nationality we assumed was English
Two english vessels were alongside at the same time
we were fighting each other in disorder
the two vessels mentioned were de-masted while boarding we saw
15 de-masted vessels including one on fire
at 5pm the battle ended, at 5.30 the sun set
saw Cape Trafalgar to the East by South 6 or 7
leagues distant, at 6 in the evening the vessel that was on fire
exploded General Dumanoir
signalled us to follow his manoeuvre to
starboard with topsails, mainsails and topgallants hoisted the weather
overcast with a westerly wind

From 6pm to midnight
Starboard under all sail variable
light SW wind, calm sea
overcast but mild
at midnight tacked into the wind on
General Dumanoir's orders who let us know
that he wanted us to follow his manoeuvres we were
four vessels separated from the fleet

From midnight to 4pm
After tacking we sheeted the mainsail, trimmed the topsails
and topgallants, to approach the general
at 1.30 we furled and raised the topsails and
topgallants and the furled mainsail
This sail setting brought us closer to the admiral
weather overcast and a cold wind

29-30 Vendemiaire continued

From 4 in the morning to 8
at 6 we sighted
Cape Espartel to the South/ESE 10 leagues distant
wind set SSW and SW, cold
weather overcast at 6 in the morning took in
two reefs on the fore topsail because the fore topmast
?was damaged at 6.30 the lookout
at the masthead sighted 27 sails to the NE
and one to the SW took in two reefs on the mizzen
topgallant signalled our ?situation to the general
rainy weather wind the same direction to port
[?] topsails

from 8am to midday
rainy weather, wind SSW
at 10am we were close behind the *Formidable*
and we held this position during
the entire watch with our courses and topsails
at 11.30 we took in a reef
on the general's orders at the same time he signalled 'to north'
we assumed he meant to say change to a northerly course.

EXCERPT

7-8 Brumaire year 14

From 8 to midday

At quarter to nine we were forced to reduce sail,
the general having broken his main topsail yard,
weather overcast and stormy, with occasional squalls.

With this manoeuvre we passed close astern of the admiral
Who asked us if we had a pilot from the
West Coast aboard, which we did not

8-9 Brumaire year 14
From Midday to 6 o'clock

At One O'Clock the *Duguay-Trouin* signalled a sail to NNE the general immediately signalled us to chase it, left the rest behind and set a course for him [time unclear] we were within range and hove to on the port side, lowered the boat and visited him, his name was the *Ondermerring* Cap[itai]n Robert Graf 120 T[ons] coming from Emden in Prussia, seven weeks out, heading to Guadeloupe [?] with a cargo of coal [?earth] and [?merchandise] he told us he had encountered three English ships of the line and a brig off Cape Finisterre heading towards the SW two weeks ago, weather foggy under all sail to rejoin the general, at Six O'Clock passed him our news...

11-12 Brumaire year 14

At half-past Midday the admiral ordered us to chase a ship which was holding to ESE of us, a frigate we put on all sail straight away and chased it. it held position for half an hour, signalling at 1pm she sailed away with the wind behind like us; at 2.30 the admiral signalled to ask if we were catching the ship, we replied that we were a moment later we sighted another sail to the ENE heading aft starboard, at 3.30 the admiral signalled us 'general rallying'; at the same time we reduced sail to meet up with the admiral at which point we sighted Cape Finisterre to SSE, at 4pm the admiral signalled us to pass astern at 5pm we were astern of the admiral, who told us he had decided to go and Reconnoitre Cape Priol which would occur during the night watch to pay attention to his manoeuvres and to follow and observe the course of the vessels who were following us

From 6pm to Midnight

Told the *Duguay-Trouin* of the order given to us by the admiral to cross his stern also during the night we realised that the ship seen in the day was an enemy by the signals that they made at each point of the watch, they were similar to ours [?] we could make out by moonlight at 10pm we changed course under the wind all sail on the port quarter, the enemy pursuing us always very closely, weather overcast and rainy.

From midnight to 2am we heard several cannon shots from the enemies pursuing us, for the duration of the watch light rain and a small Westerly wind always remaining near the general forcing sail

From 4am to 8 am

[?] raised and lowered to starboard wind SW gentle cold rain for the duration of the watch calm sea course to ENE of the compass, seeing ?making way less than our companions we sent all the crew aft to see if there was a problem with the trim

11-12 Brumaire continued
From Eight to Middy
foggy weather, calm sea, light wind
from the SW at 9.30 the [sky] cleared in
the WSW part; at the same time we
spotted four sails; at 10 am we saw
five also in the SW and at 11 am 8 in
the same wind, we still
continued our course forcing all sail.

from the 12 to the 13 Brumaire year 14
the enemies did not seem to be gaining
much on us they numbered 6
sails we were under sail to match
that of the general since he was the slowest of us all
weather overcast, good visibility, calm sea
at 4.30 the admiral signaled us to pass astern
of him, he told us of his plans, above all
if the enemies attack us during the night that we should
beat a retreat and the good sailers should station themselves
abeam of us and the *Duguay-Trouin* to facilitate this movement
he also told us that during the night we would make a
course ENE by the compass and to pass
what he had said above on to the *Duguay-Trouin*
he said several other things, but nothing of significance

From 6pm to midnight
Clear weather with moonlight, calm sea, and light
SSW breeze, all sails out
except the mainsail; the enemy being
always visible to our rear

From midnight to 4pm
A ship from the enemy fleet seemed
to have gained on us, the others did not
appear during the night the weather overcast
around the horizon good visibility light SSE wind
under all sail except the
mainsail heavy rain approaching
from the rear starboard quarter, very calm sea

12-13 Brumaire continued

From 4 to 8 am

clear weather, light SSE breeze

almost calm, at five am beat to

quarters, at 6.30 the admiral

signalled us to prepare ourselves, since an

enemy frigate had already fired

several cannon at us

at 7.30 the admiral and our Commander Villesgris

decided to attack the enemy at the

same time the admiral signalled the

Duguay-Trouin to turn into

the wind which was cancelled

at 8 a.m. the battle commenced

that is to say a frigate from the vanguard

of our enemy fired at us from time to time the ship

Duguay-Trouin began returning fire with a few

shots from its aft cannon the fleet

approached us little by little but not in formation

From 8 a.m. to midday

we [turned to] starboard as did the enemies without

all sail light SE wind weather overcast and cold

at 8.35 we began to open

fire, with our aft cannon, followed by the

Formidable at 9.30 the ship *Scipion* turned

on the admiral's orders to take the tail and advance

in a diamond formation which we formed immediately

at 10 discovered a sail to the north, we

had 8 in sight 5 very close and 3

far away a second frigate came to

fire at us, one from the starboard hawse hole

and one directly behind we took

[?course] from time to time to fire at it

from the batteries, at 10 signal to four

ships to repeat their signals

the enemy ships approached us they were

within two cannon shots at 11 order

to the fleet to keep the wind on the starboard quarter

as we were in formation we moved quickly

into line of battle, the enemies were

almost in range at 11.30 signal to the fleet

to turn into line.

From the 13th to the 14th Brumaire Year 14

At noon Signal for tacking in an adverse direction. The Enemy commenced firing Still the Frigates continued the Signals for tacking in that direction. At One Wind afore the whole squadron tacked The Enemy's fleet tacked also. at half past one the Enemy was reinforced by one ship had four line of Battle ships and four Frigates The Enemy's fire was most Violent to Leeward of us. Our Squadron lay to Windward. At two O'clock the *Scipion* lost her main top Mast.

At a quarter past two the *Formidable* struck. at half past two the *Scipion* did the same and at three quarters past three our Ship and the *Duguay Trouin* also Struck. The fire was most rapidly kept up on both sides. all our Rigging was cut to pieces Moderate Weather and a Calm Sea alone kept our Masts up.

Faithfully translated from the French Language [last page only] by me
the Undersigned in London the 2nd December 1805
Which I attest

Je de Pinna
Not.Pub: