

and left them at Mr. Coventry's lodging (he, though, not being there); and so I into the park to the King, and told him my Lord Generall was well the last night at 5 o'clock, and the Prince come with his fleet and joyned with his about 7. The King was mightily pleased with this news and so took me by the hand and talked a little of it – I giving him the best account I could; and then he bid me fetch the two seamen to him – he walking into the house. So I went and fetched the seamen into the Vane-room to him, and there he heard the whole account.

The Fight¹

How we found the Duch fleet at anchor on Friday, half-sea-over, between Dunkirke and Oastend, and made them let slip their Anchors – they about 90, and we less then 60. We fought them and put them to the run, till they met with about 16 sail of fresh ships and so bore up again. The fight continued till night, and then again the next morning from 5 till 7 at night – and so too, yesterday morning they begun again, and continued till about 4 a-clock – they chasing us for the most part of Saturday and yesterday; we fleeing from them. The Duke himself, then those people, were put into the ketch, and by and by spied the Prince's fleet coming – upon which, De Ruyter called a little council (being in chase at this time of us); and thereupon their fleet divided into two squadrons, 40 in one and about 30 in the other (the fleet being at first about 90, but by one accident or other supposed to be lessened to about 70); the bigger to fallow the Duke, the less to meet the Prince. But the Prince came up with the Generalls fleet, and the Dutch came together again and bore toward their own coast – and we with them. And now, what the consequence of this day will be, that we [hear] them fighting, we know not. The Duke was forced to come to Anchor on Friday, having lost his sails and rigging. No perticular person spoken of to be hurt but Sir W. Clerke, who hath lost his leg, and bore it bravely. The Duke himself had a little hurt in his thigh, but signified little. The King did pull out of his pocket about twenty pieces in gold, and did give it Daniel for himself and his companion. And so parted, mightily pleased with the account he did give him of the fight and the success it ended with – of the Prince's coming – though it seems the Duke did give way again and again. The King did give order for care to be had of Mr. Daniel and his companion; and so we parted

1. The Four Days Battle, 1–4 June.