

## From the The Kentish Gazette 20th July 1804

*We have seen several letters from persons on board the different squadrons now blockading or observing the enemy's fleets or flotillas, all agreeing, that Bonaparte's plan is to take advantage of the calms this season of the year, rather to surprise and overpower by number some of our becalmed cruisers near the French shores, than to cross the Channel and visit our own.*

*At every harbour, where any armed vessels are collected, a certain number have come out, and remain outside the protection of the batteries; and when they see any fair chance to attack some of our isolated cruisers, forced by tides or winds near the coast they never neglect to do so. This is the cause of all the firing heard in different directions, in the Channel within the last six or seven days. and will probably be continued until the grand armada shall make the grand attempt.*

*All neutral ships from France confirm our former suppositions, that the invasion, or rather invasions, will be undertaken very soon, and from several places. A Prussian ship left Cherbourg last Wednesday, the master of which states, that Bonaparte, immediately after the feast of the 14th July, was expected arrival would be the signal for the attempt; this he heard from the commander, with whom he dined, the day before he sailed. On the 7th, [General] Angercau had returned to the army near Brest, and made dispositions to embark, expecting every moment orders by the telegraph.*

*Advices from the coast continue to announce the increased activity of the enemy in his preparations to invade this country. The hostile at the coast, and that his flotillas are now regularly formed in divisions; and the manoeuvres, which, in immense numbers, they daily practise in sight of our squadrons, prove at once the discipline they have attained and the confidence they have acquired. According to letters from the coast, they were out again from Boulogne on Tuesday last, when the firing was more violent and incessant than on any former occasion. About nine it seemed to cease, but at eleven it was renewed with augmented fury, and continued without intermission till near two.*

*From Brighton and Portsmouth we have received accounts of a similar nature, from which circumstance it is evident that the active preparations of the enemy are not confined to any particular port; they are now obviously become general, and, to all appearance, the daring attempt will not be much longer delayed. The necessary precautions, for the purpose of alarm, have been taken. Patroles, signal posts, beacons, flags & c. are everywhere used to spread the alarm; and in the course of twenty-four hours, more troops could be assembled on the coast than an enemy could possibly land in the same given time.*