

**HISTORY OF THE  
HIGHLANDS & OF THE  
HIGHLAND CLANS, VOL.  
III- PART I. PP 1-261**

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**JAMES BROWNE**

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# HISTORY OF THE HIGHLANDS

AND OF

## THE HIGHLAND CLANS,

BY

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# HISTORY OF THE HIGHLANDS.

## CHAPTER I.

Warlike attitude of Great Britain and France—Prince Charles Stuart resolves to proceed to Scotland—Secrecy of his preparations—Departure of the Expedition—Naval Action—Other occurrences at Sea—Charles arrives off the Long Island—Lands in Eriska—Interview between him and Macdonald of Boisfale—Arrives in Lochnagair—Interview with young Claurnaid, who is sent on a mission to Sir Alexander Macdonald and the Laird of Macleod—Kintochoidart, Dr Cameron, and others, visit the Prince—Charles lands at Borodale—His reception there—Character of Cameron, younger of Lechlief—His interview with the Prince—Charles resolves to raise his Standard at Glenfinnan—Arrives at Kintochoidart—Commencement of hostilities—Arrival of Charles and the Camerons at Glenfinnan—Raises his Standard—Joined by the Macdonalds of Keppoch.

FROM mere auxiliaries in the war of the Austrian succession, Great Britain and France at last entered the field as principals; and in the spring of seventeen hundred and forty-five, both parties were prepared to decide their respective differences by force of arms. The Jacobites, who looked upon war as the harbinger to a speedy realization of their wishes and their hopes, awaited the result with anxiety; though, from the policy of France, it was not difficult to perceive, that the issue, whether favourable or unfavourable to France, would in reality neither advance nor retard the long looked for restoration. France, if defeated in the field, almost on her own frontiers, would require all her forces to protect herself; and could not, therefore, be expected to make a diversion on the shores of Britain. And, on the other hand, if successful in the campaign about to open in Flanders, she was likely to accomplish the objects for which the war had been undertaken, without continuing an expensive and dubious struggle in support of the Stuarts.

Charles Edward Stuart, the aspirant to the British throne, seems to have viewed matters much in the same light on receiving intelligence of the victory obtained by the French over the allies at Fontenoy.\* In writing to one of his father's agents at Paris, † who had sent him infor-

\* This battle was fought on the 11th May, 1745.

† Letter to Colonel O'Bryen, 16th June, 1745, Appendix, No. I.

mation of the battle, Charles observes that it was not easy to form an opinion as to whether the result would "prove good or bad" for his affairs. He had, however, taken his resolution to go to Scotland, though unaccompanied even by a single company of soldiers; and the event which had just occurred made him determine to put that resolution into immediate execution. At Fontenoy, the British troops maintained by their bravery the national reputation, but they were obliged to yield to numbers; yet, to use the words of a French historian, "they left the field of battle without tumult, without confusion, and were defeated with honour."\* The flower of the British army was, however, destroyed; and as Great Britain had been almost drained of troops, Charles considered the conjuncture as favourable, and made such preparations for his departure as the shortness of the time would allow.

The French government was apprized of Charles's intentions, and though the French ministers were not disposed openly to sanction an enterprise which they were not at the time in a condition to support, they secretly favoured a design, which, whatever might be its result, would operate as a diversion in favour of France. Accordingly, Lord Clare, (afterwards Marshal Thomond) then a lieutenant-general in the French service, was pitched upon to open a negotiation with two merchants of Irish extraction, named Rutledge and Walsh, who had made some money by trading to the West Indies. They had, since the war, been concerned in privateering; and with the view of extending their operations, had lately obtained from the French government a grant of the *Elizabeth*, an old man-of-war of sixty-six guns, and they had purchased a small frigate of sixteen guns named the *Doutelle*, both of which ships were in the course of being fitted out for a cruize in the north seas. Lord Clare having introduced Charles to Rutledge and Walsh, explained the prince's design, and proposed that they should lend him their ships. This proposal was at once acceded to by the owners, who also offered to supply the prince with money and such arms as they could procure, in fulfilment of which offer they afterwards placed in his hands the sum of three thousand eight hundred pounds.

While the preparations for the expedition were going on, Charles resided at Navarre, a seat of the duke of Bouillon, and occupied himself in hunting, fishing, and shooting. A few persons only in his own confidence were aware of his intentions; and so desirous was he of concealing his movements from his father's agents at Paris, that he gave out, shortly before his departure, that he intended to visit the monastery of La Trappe, in the vicinity of Rouen, and would return to Paris in a few days.† The prince ordered the few followers who were to accompany him to assemble at Nantes, near the mouth of the Loire; and the better

\* *Lettres et Mémoires du Maréchal de Saxe*, Paris, 1794.

† Letter to Colonel O'Bryan, 20th June, 1745, *Appendix*, No. 41. See also Sempil's letter to the Chevalier, *Appendix*, No. 111.



to conceal their design, they arrived there singly, took up their residence in different parts of the town, and when they met on the streets did not seem to recognise one another.\*

When informed that every thing was in readiness for his departure, Charles went to Nantes in disguise, and having descended the Loire in a fishing boat on the twentieth of June, (O. S.) seventeen hundred and forty-five, embarked on the twenty-first on board the *Doutelle* at St Nazaire, whence he proceeded on the following day to Belleisle, where he was joined on the fourth of July by the *Elizabeth*, which had on board one hundred marines raised by Lord Clare, about two thousand muskets, and five or six hundred French broad-swords. The persons who accompanied Charles were the marquis of Talibardine,† elder brother of James, duke of Athole, Sir Thomas Sheridan, who had been tutor to Charles; Sir John Macdonald, an officer in the Spanish service; Francis Strickland, an English gentleman; George Kelly, a clergyman, who had been confined in the Tower for being concerned in the bishop of Rochester's plot; Æneas or Angus Macdonald, a banker in Paris, brother to Kinlochmoidart; and O'Sullivan, an officer in the service of France. There were also some persons of inferior note, among whom were one Buchanan, who had been employed as a messenger to Rome by Cardinal Tencin, and Duncan Cameron, formerly a servant of old Lochiel at Boulogne, who was hired for the expedition, for the purpose, as he informs us, of desecrating the "Long Isle."‡

The expedition sailed from Belleisle on the fifth of July with a fair wind, which continued favourable till the eighth, when a dead calm ensued. On the following day, when in the latitude of 47° 57' north, and thirty-nine leagues west from the meridian of the Lizard, a sail was descried to windward, which proved to be the *Lion*, a British man-of-war of sixty guns, commanded by Captain Brett. When the *Lion* hove in sight, the prince, for better accommodation, was preparing to go on board the *Elizabeth*; but he laid aside his design on the appearance of the *Lion*, which happening at the time it did, was considered a lucky circumstance by his friends. While the *Lion* was bearing down on the French ships, M. D'Oe, or D'Eau, the captain of the *Elizabeth*, went on board the *Doutelle*, where a council of war was immediately held, at which it was determined, if possible, to avoid an action; but if an action became inevitable, that the *Elizabeth* should receive the first broadside, and should thereupon endeavour to board her adversary. While this conference lasted, both ships kept running before the wind; but the *Lion* being a fast sailing vessel soon neared the *Elizabeth*, and, when within

\* Forbes Papers, or Jacobite Memoirs of the Rebellion of 1745, edited by Mr R. Chambers, p. 2.

† He was styled Duke of Athole by the Jacobites, from being the eldest son of the preceding duke. The marquis had been attainted for the share he took in the insurrection of 1715; and the title and estates were, in consequence of his attainder, now enjoyed by his immediate younger brother.

‡ Forbes Papers, note, p. 1.

nearly a mile of her, hove to for the purpose of reconnoitring the French ships and preparing for action. Judging an action now unavoidable, Captain D'Oe proposed to Walsh, one of the proprietors of the two vessels, and who acted as commander of the *Doutelle*, that while the *Elizabeth* and *Lion* were engaged, the *Doutelle* should assist the *Elizabeth* by playing upon the *Lion* at a distance; but Walsh declined to interfere in any shape. The Captain of the *Elizabeth* thereupon drew his sword, and taking leave, went back to his ship, with his drawn sword in his hand, to prepare for action.<sup>4</sup>

Captain D'Oe had scarcely reached the *Elizabeth* when the *Lion* was observed to bear down upon her.† Contrary to the plan laid down on board the *Doutelle*, the *Elizabeth* gave the first broadside, which was instantly returned by the *Lion*; and before the *Elizabeth* could get her other side to bear upon her opponent, the latter tacked about and poured in another broadside into the *Elizabeth*, which raked her fore and aft, and killed a great number of her men, including the captain and his brother, the second in command. Notwithstanding this untoward begiming, the *Elizabeth* maintained the fight nearly five hours, when night put an end to one of the most bloody and obstinate naval actions which had ever taken place between two single ships. Both vessels were a complete wreck, and not being able to pursue each other or renew the action, they parted as if by mutual consent. The prince, in the *Doutelle*, viewed the battle with great anxiety, and, it is said, importuned the captain to assist the *Elizabeth*, but Walsh positively refused to engage, and intimated to the prince, that if he continued his soliciations, he would order him down to the cabin.‡

After the action was over, Captain Walsh bore up to the *Elizabeth* to ascertain the state of matters, and was informed by a lieutenant, of the severe loss she had sustained in officers and men, and the crippled state she was in. He, however, offered to pursue the voyage if supplied with a main-mast and some rigging, but Walsh had no spare materials; and after intimating that he would endeavour to finish the voyage himself, and advising the commander of the *Elizabeth* to return to France, both ships parted, the *Elizabeth* on her way back to France, and the *Doutelle* on her voyage to the Western Highlands.§

On the eleventh of July a sail was discovered, which gave chase to the *Doutelle*; but being a swift-sailing vessel she outran her pursuer. She encountered a rough sea and tempestuous weather on the fifteenth and sixteenth, after which the weather became fine till the midnight of the twentieth, when a violent storm arose. She stood out the gale,

\* Kirkeconel MS.

† Cameron, Old Lochiel's servant, is made to say, (Jacobite Memoirs, p. 7.) that the *Elizabeth* bore down upon the *Lion*; but this must be incorrect, as the *Lion* was to windward. The Kirkeconel MS., which is here followed, is certainly correct on this point.

‡ Kirkeconel MS. Jacobite Memoirs, p. 7.

§ Jacobite Memoirs, p. 8.

however, and on the twenty-second came within sight of land, which was discovered to be the southern extremity of Long Island, a name by which, from their appearing at a distance, and in a particular direction, to form one island, the islands of Lewis, the Uists, Barra, and others, are distinguished. On approaching the land, a large ship, which appeared to be an English man-of-war, was descried between the Doutelle and the island. On perceiving this vessel, Walsh changed the course of the Doutelle, and stretching along the east side of Barra, reached the strait between South Uist and Eriska, the largest of a cluster of little rocky islands that lie off South Uist. When near the land, Duncan Cameron, before mentioned, was sent on shore in the long-boat to bring off a proper pilot, and having accidentally met the piper of Maeneil of Barra, with whom Cameron was acquainted, he took him on board. In the strait alluded to, the Doutelle cast anchor on the twenty-third of July, having been eighteen days at sea.\*

Accompanied by his attendants, the prince immediately landed in Eriska, and was conducted to the house of Angus Macdonald, the tacksman, or principal tenant thereof and of the small islands adjoining. To anticipate that prying curiosity and speculation which the inhabitants of the western isles always display on the arrival of strangers, the prince's companions represented him as a young Irish priest, a species of visiter by no means uncommon in these islands, whither priests from the opposite coast of Ireland had been long accustomed to resort, for the purpose of giving the islanders that religious instruction and consolation of which, by the change in the national religion, they had been almost debarred from receiving from the hands of native priests. From the tacksman of Eriska, the party learned, that Macdonald, chief of Clanranald, and Macdonald of Boisdale, his brother, were upon the island of South Uist, and that young Clanranald, the son of the chief, was at Moikart upon the mainland. As Boisdale was understood to have great influence with his brother, a messenger was immediately despatched to South Uist, requesting his attendance on board the Doutelle.

Charles and his companions passed the night in the house of the tacksman, but the accommodation was very indifferent. They had not a sufficiency of beds, but the prince, regardless of his own ease, declined to occupy one.† Next morning they returned to the ship. Boisdale soon thereafter made his appearance. As his brother, Clanranald, was un-

\* Kirkcubright MS. *Jacobite Memoirs*, p. 9.

† Charles is said to have taken particular care of Sir Thomas Sheridan on this occasion. He "went to examine his bed, and to see that the sheets were well aired. The landlord observing him to search the bed so narrowly, and at the same time hearing him declare he would sit up all night, called out to him, and said, that it was so good a bed, and the sheets were so good, that a prince needed not be ashamed to lie on them. The prince not being accustomed to such fires in the middle of the room, and there being no other chimney than a hole in the roof, was almost choked, and was obliged to go often to the door for fresh air. This at last made the landlord, Angus Macdonald, call out, 'What a plague is the matter with that fellow, that he can neither sit nor stand still, and neither keep within nor without doors?'"—*Jacobite Memoirs*, p. 11.