

**BIOGRAPHIA NAVALIS;**

OR,

*IMPARTIAL MEMOIRS*

OF THE

LIVES AND CHARACTERS

OF

OFFICERS OF THE NAVY OF GREAT BRITAIN,

*FROM THE YEAR 1660 TO THE PRESENT TIME;*

DRAWN FROM THE MOST AUTHENTIC SOURCES, AND DISPOSED IN A  
CHRONOLOGICAL ARRANGEMENT.

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By JOHN CHARNOCK, Esq.

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WITH PORTRAITS, AND OTHER ENGRAVINGS,  
By BARTOLOZZI, &c.

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Nautæque, per omne  
Audaces inare qui currunt, hæc mente laborem  
Sese ferre, fenes ut in otia tuta recedant.  
HORACE, Sat. 1. Lib. 1.

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VOL. V.

BEING THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE CONTINUATION.

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casually met with at sea. We do not find any mention \* made of him in the service after his appointment to the Rochester, and believe him not to have held any command for some years previous to his decease. In the latter part of his life he was much distinguished as a very active and upright magistrate, he having, most probably on his retirement from the navy, been put into the commission of the peace, not merely, we believe, as is the common compliment paid to private gentlemen of fortune, but from an high opinion of the service he was capable of rendering the community in a civic department. He died on the 22d of October, 1756.

NORBURY, Conningsby, — nephew to captain Con. Norbury, whom we have already noticed, vol. iv. p. 12. He was appointed captain of the Gibraltar frigate on the 17th of November, 1744. In 1748 he was captain of the Loo, a fifth rate of forty-four guns, on the Virginia station, which, we are sorry to say, is all the information we have been able to collect concerning him, till, in 1757, when we find him commander of the Hampshire, of fifty guns. He retained this command some years, and in 1760 was on the Jamaica station, under the orders of rear-admiral Holmes. He distinguished himself very much in the month of October, in the attack of the French frigates † off Cape François, two of them, the Prince Edward and the Fleur-de-lys, of thirty-two guns each, being destroyed by captain Norbury. This gentleman appears to have closed his naval career with this action, not being mentioned as holding any command after his return to England before the close of the last-mentioned year.

He retired about the year 1763 totally from the service, and was consequently not even put on the superannuated list as a rear-admiral, having declined making any application for that purpose. We believe him to have died in the year 1786.

O'HARA, Patrick.—We are almost in the same predicament with regard to this gentleman as we were respecting the former. He was promoted on the 16th of November, 1744, from the rank of lieutenant to be cap-

\* In the course of the month he is particularly mentioned as having captured eighteen small vessels, laden with provisions and other necessaries for the use of the enemy's Italian army.

† See page 202.

tain of the Gosport. This, notwithstanding we entertain not the smallest doubt of his having held many intervening commands\*, is the only information we have been able to collect concerning him, till the month of October 1759, when he was made captain of the Loo, a forty-gun ship. At the latter end of the year 1762 he was put on the superannuated list with the rank and half-pay of a rear-admiral. He died at his house in Park-street, on September 18, 1774, having been many years extremely infirm.

OSBORNE, James,—was, in the very beginning of the year 1744, promoted from the rank of lieutenant to be commander of the Merlin sloop. On the 28th of September following he was advanced to be captain of the Shoreham frigate. He continued a long time in this vessel, which was principally, if not wholly employed during that period as a cruiser, a service in which he met with no inconsiderable success, having captured several small privateers belonging to the enemy, which, though of inconsiderable force, were nevertheless capable of effecting great mischief against the British commerce. He is not again mentioned till the year 1749, when he was captain of the Bristol, and one of the members of the court-martial which was held on board the Invincible, for the trial of lieutenant Couchman and others, the mutineers on board the Chesterfield. Captain Osborne quitted the Bristol at the end of the year 1751, and was appointed not long afterwards, as it is said, † to a guardship, a second rate. He died, not improbably in this very command, on the 14th of December, 1754.

PARRY, William,—was the descendant of a very ancient and noble Welch family. In 1732 and the following year he served as midshipman on board the Torrington, a fifth rate, on the Mediterranean station. We find him to have been, in 1739, second lieutenant of the Ruby, a 50-gun ship, then commanded by the unhappy capt. Goodere. The unfortunate conduct of his commander, contrasted, as we have already shewn in our account of him, with those good qualities, and, indeed, virtues, which, till his last

\* Particularly one in the Mediterranean, but we do not know the ship's name.

† Some accounts say the Duke, but these are erroneous, there being no ship of that name then in commission.

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