

**TRANSCRIPTION** of the last letter from Captain James Robert Mosse RN, written in HMS Monarch four days before the Battle of Copenhagen, in which battle he lost his life.

*March 29, 1801*

*My dearest love,*

*The Fleet being anchored conventionally for forcing a passage by Cronenberg Castle, as soon as the wind favours a little more; and as I judge there may be a Cutter dispatch'd as soon as We are through I embrace the leisure moment to tele you I am well, (at a later date), and that We are all in high spirits in having the Honour of leading the Van Division under L<sup>d</sup> Nelson into the Sound – and I hope afterwards up to Copenhagen Roads.*

*The Danes at present not entirely on the defensive – and have strengthened Copenhagen much, both by Sea and Land. They also expect very soon 12 sail of Russian Line, under our Old Acquaintance Adm<sup>e</sup> Hennikoff; who on this occasion has been received into favour by the Emporor. – There will likewise be some Swedish Men-of-War, but know not how many to join the Russians. However, whatever We can do, must be done immediately, and I am persuaded that no time will be lost, on our Part's, by making a most vigorous Attack against Copenhagen, before the Combined Forces can beat (?) against us. – “Such is the Object We have to surmount”! And I hope in my next to give you a favourable account of.*

*The Van consists of Monarch, (to lead), Bellona, Elephant (bearing V. Admiral L<sup>d</sup> Nelson's Flag), Ardent, Isis, Agamemnon, Polyphemus, Defiance, Russel & Glatton – the other ships follow under Admiral Smith Parker.*

*The above is our situation and State, & all I can speak to and state at present. – I have given a letter into the propulsion of my friend, Wallace, should any Accident happen to me, and I hope you will duly receive my last Letter, by the Kite.*

*If any Man of War comes out, send me ½ hund<sup>d</sup> Sugar & 6 or 8 lbs more Tea; which I fear We shall soon turn short in. – Mr Wallace writes to Mr Taylor to get a Quarter of Beef salted down, which Mr Harvey can get as a Charge to the Ship – and you must use your influence with any Captain to bring it out – for as We are to fight hard, We must live Well!*

*We have Col. Hutchinson with near 100 of the 49<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> on board which gives Us more mouths to feed – The Colonel is vastly well, & desires his best Comp<sup>ts</sup> to You – also to Dr Snipe in which I cordially join likewise to other enquiring friends.*

*30<sup>th</sup> March.*

*We yesterday entered the Sound, passing the Castle of Bronenberg, without there striking a single ship; an what was still favourable, the Sweeds' did not fire a Shot, but from what cause We know not. (“This circumstance we hope will lead to keep up the natural Aversion they have to each other & may disunite them”) – So that the Van division proceeded under L<sup>d</sup> Nelson, to the Anchorage near Copenhagen; and Adm<sup>e</sup> Sir Hyde's Anchored about 2 miles below Us.*

*Ap<sup>l</sup>. 1<sup>st</sup>*

*These two Days has been employed reconnoitring the Enemy's force – A council has since been held & the Mode of Attack fixed. – The Enemy are very strong, far beyond expectation, and will, I fear, make the success of our*

*Attack doubtful – at all events, there is full Work enough for  
“All our Force”.*

*Tomorrow it is likely, We shall approach  
nearer, in readiness for the most serious Battle; - which induces  
me to Write while I can Write – confirming all my affections on  
You & the dear Children, hoping they will resolutely fix to live  
after God’s Commandments, which will ensure em His Grace at  
the last. – So God bless you, should it be my Lot to fall – “God’s  
Will must be done”!!!*