

Resuming the Direct Mail Communication between Great Britain and Holland December 1801 after it had been closed down since 1795

In 1801 France made peace with continental Europe. Great Britain and France negotiated peace in Amiens. The treaty was signed 26 marts 1802, yet, the mails began three months earlier.

Morning Post - Wednesday 16 December 1801

The General Post-office has given notice, that the communication by post between this country and France will be re-opened by packet-boats from Dover and Calais on Friday nex^t, the 18th instant, and the Mails will continue to be dispatched from this Office every Tuesday and Friday as formerly—that measures are taking to accelerate the re-establishment of packets between this country and Holland, by the way of Harwich and Helvoetsluys—and that the communication between Harwich and Cuxhaven will be still continued.

The communications with France began 18 December 1801. The Holland duty via Harwich and Hellevoetsluis was soon to begin. The Cuxhaven duty continued, yet, from Harwich.

Morning Post - Tuesday 29 December 1801

It is now understood, that nine Packets are to form the establishment at Harwich, viz. five to continue the communication between this country and Hamburg, by way of Cuxhaven, and four to sail between Harwich and Helvoetsluys. The first mail for Holland will be forwarded from Harwich to Helvoetsluys on Tuesday next.

A Mail will be made up at the General Post Office this day, with the letters for Holland and other parts of the Dutch Netherlands, to be forwarded by Packet boats by way of Harwich and Helvoetsluys; and a Mail will continue to be made up every Friday and Tuesday following.

Nine packets became stationed at Harwich. Yarmouth lost all her post vessels. Five boats should serve the tour to Hamburg via Cuxhaven. Four others should serve the Holland duty via Hellevoetsluis.

Caledonian Mercury - Thursday 31 December 1801

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
Edinburgh, Dec. 30, 1801.

NOTICE is hereby given, That the Communication between this Country and Holland was re-opened, by means of Packet Boats, from Harwich and Helvoetsluys upon Tuesday the 29th instant; and the Mails will continue to be made up at the General Post Office, London, every Tuesday and Friday nights, as formerly.

All letters sent to Holland and other parts of the Dutch Netherlandis, must *be first paid for, viz.* Fourpence for each Single Letter, over and above the Internal Postage from the Post Office where such letters are put in, to Harwich.

The Postage from Holland is *Fourteen Pence* each Single Letter to London, to which will be added the Postage from London to the place where such letters are directed.

By order of the Postmaster General,
WILLIAM KERR, Secretary.

The first mail to Holland via Hellevoetsluis was made up in London Tuesday 29 Dec 1801

Morning Chronicle - Saturday 02 January 1802

HARWICH, DEC. 31. This morning sailed for Helvoetsluys the Diana packet, Captain Osborn, with the first Dutch Mail; also the Diana packet, Captain Stewart, for Cuxhaven, with the Hamburg and Bremen Mails of yesterday.

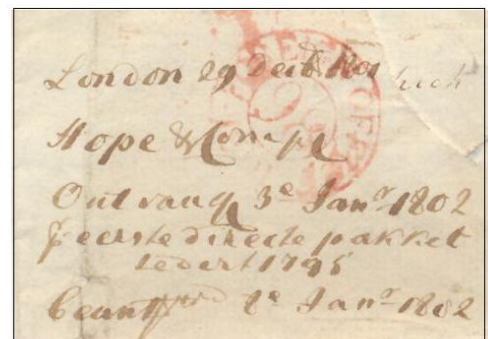
Arrived this afternoon, the Express packet, Captain Dell, from Cuxhaven, with Mails and several passengers. When the Diana sailed, the Elbe was nearly cleared of the ice, which had for several days obstructed the navigation. The Prince of Orange packet, Captain Bridge, is hourly expected to arrive from Cuxhaven.

The packet of *Diana*/Capt. Osborne departed from Harwich Thursday morning 31. Dec 1801, delayed by one day

Groninger courant 08-01-1802

ROTTERDAM den 5 January. Den 1 deezer is te Helvoetfluis gearriveerd de Engelsche Paketboot *Diana*, Kapt. Osborne, met de Brieven van den 29 December van Harwich; dezelve behelzen geen Nieuws van aanbelang. — Voorts is van wegen het generaal Postbestuur geadverteerd, dat de Brieven naar Engeland, nu weder als voor den Oorlog worden geëxpedieerd; zynde de Hollandsche Brieven Heden verzonden.

The first packet arrived in Hellevoetsluis 1 Jan 1802



London Tuesday 29 Dec 1801 to Amsterdam, arrival on 3 Jan 1802.

The letter was endorsed: *Received 3. Jan 1802 pr first direct packet since 1795*

Belongs to Willy Vande Wiele, Belgium.

Rotterdamse courant 09-01-1802

ROTTERDAM den 3 January. Den 6, des namiddags, arriveerde te Helvoetfluis T. Garrels, uit de Maas na Rouaan bestemd, als Bylegger, en is op de Haven gekomen; destyds zeilde in Zee G. Martensen na Dramme, en D. Claase is op de Haven gekomen; den 7 zeilde in Zee Kaptein Osborne, met de Brieven van den 5 dezer, na Harwich: de Wind Oost.

The packet started the return voyage on 7 Jan 1802

Morning Post - Monday 11 January 1802

HARWICH, *Jan. 8.*—This morning arrived the Diana packet, Capt. Osborne, from Helvoetsluys, with a Dutch mail, being the first mail that has been received in this country since the commencement of the late war. The Express packet, Dell, with two mails for Holland on board; and the Prince of Wales packet, with last Tuesday's mails for Hamburgh on board, are both waiting a wind to sail.—Wind E.

The packet landed in Harwich with “the first mail” 8 Jan 1802

Europe was now at peace until May 1803.