

Euc.

Barfleur upon the Coast of Virginia Sept. 6th 1781

Yesterday the British fleet had a rich and most
delightfull harvest of glory. presented to it, but
omitted to gather it, in more instances than one
First that the Enemy's Van was not very closely
attacked, as it came out of Lynnhaven Bay
Secondly when the Enemy's Van was greatly
extended beyond the Center & Rear, that it was
not attacked with the whole force of the British
fleet; had such an attack been made, several
of the Enemy's Ships must have been demolished
in half an hours action, had there was a full
hour and half to have engaged it, before any
of the Rear could have come up — and thirdly
when the Van of the two fleets got into action
and the Ships of the British Line seemed to be
hard pressed; one (the Thrusbury) totally
disabled very early from keeping her Station,

by

by having her fore & main topsail yard shot away
which left her second / the Intrepid / exposed to
the fire of two ships of superior force, which the
noble & spirited behaviour of Cap^t. Molloy, obliged
to turn their sterns to him; That the signal was
not thrown out for the Van Ships to make sail
to have enabled the center division to have
pushed on to their support, instead of engaging
at such an improper distance. / the London
being under her topsails only with the main
topsail to the mast, the whole time she was
firing, and the signal for close action, as
well as the signal for the line flying / that
the second ship a stern of the London received
but trifling damage, and the third a stern of
the London, received no damage at all, which
must clearly prove, how much the center
division

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division engaged, at too great a distance —
Now, had the center division gone to the support
to the support of the Van, and the signal for the
Line at half a cable's length, been hauled down
or the commander in chief had set the example
of close action, even with the signal for the
Line flying, the Van of the enemy must have
been cut up, and the Rear Division of the
British fleet, would have been opposed to those
ships of the enemy the center fired at, and at
the proper distance for engaging, or the Rear Admiral
who commanded it, would have had a great deal
to answer for. Instead of that, our center division
did the enemy but little damage, and our rear
ships, being barely within random shot, three
only fired a few guns. So soon as the signal
for

for the line was hauled down at 25 minutes after five, the Rear Division bore up, above half a mile; leeward of the Center Division, but the French ship bearing up also, it did not near them, and at twenty five minutes after six, the signal for the line at half a cable being again hoisted, and the signal for battle hauled down, R. A. Sir J. Hood, called to the Monarch, (his Leader) to keep her win as he dared not separate his Division just at dark the London not bearing up at all.

N.B. This forenoon Cap^t. Everset came on board the Monarch, with a message from R. A. Drake, to R. A. Sir J. Hood, desiring his opinion, whether he should renew the action, Sir Samuel's answer was - "I dare say Mr Graves will do what is right - I can send no opinion, but if he / Mr Graves / wishes to see me, I will wait upon him with great pleasure"