

Barfleur at Sea 22^d April 1782

Sir

In Obedience to Your Commands, expressed in the Letter You did me the honor to write me on the 17th to make Sail with my Squadron and submitting it to my judgement, whether to stop upon my getting hull down from your fleet, and go on at that distance, till we got off Attavala, which is midway of the Island of St Domingo, on the South side, or to push on till I reached the length of Attavala, and there wait your coming

I immediately made all the sail I could, and judging the only chance I had of intercepting any Straglers of the flying Enemy, was to be off the Mona passage, as soon as possible, I carried steering sails, below and aloft, Night and Day, and on the 19th at daylight made the West end of the Island of Porto Rico, soon after which the Slecto Fire Ship which was some distance ahead made the signal for a fleet in the North West. I immediately threw out the signal for a general Chace, and at Sun rise five sail were seen from the Mast head of the Barfleur, about five hours after we

Sir George Brydges Rodney Bart. &c. &c.
 Y^e Obedient Servant
 G. R.

got

got so near them, as plainly to discover, they were French Ships, and two if not three of them, of the Line, and as they then saw what we were, they steered for the very narrow and unfrequented Channel between Porto Rico, and the little Island of Zachio; in which four were overtaken.

Between two and three in the Afternoon, the Monarch began an Action with the nearest Ship of the Enemy, and the Belliqueux was close after her when they were taken aback, and by baffling Winds fell astern, while the French Ship though within point Blank shot carried a little Bruise, but the Valiant attacking her she soon struck, and Capt. Gosdall immediately pushed after another of the Line, not far from her which made a gallant defence for an hour, and then struck, her Commander finding he could not succeed in his endeavours of running her on Shore. About this time the Magnificent took L'Amable, a very fine large coppered Frigate whose Captain resisted full half an hour, and almost at the same moment the Champion took the Ceres a very elegant little coppered Ship, late His Majestys Sloop Ceres close to the Shore - The fifth separated in the forenoon, and steered to the Westward, which the Warrior was directed to pursue,

and

and she was afterwards followed by the Prince William, so soon as the Prizes were taken possession of, and the Prisoners partly shifted, I made the signal and bore away out of the Narrow Channel.

It is a very mortifying circumstance to relate to you, Sir, that the French fleet which you put to flight on the 12th (twenty six in number, including Frigates) went through the Mona Channel, on the 10th only the day before I was in it.

Herewith is an account of the Killed and wounded on the part of His Majesty, as well as that of the Enemy, with the Names and force of the Ships taken, and the Number of Men each had on board, every one of them was loaded with Shells, and other Ordnance Stores, amongst which are Sarges complete for red hott balls at a Siege.

The Laton and Jason are very fine Ships, almost new, were built at Toulon which last twice as long as those built at Brest.

The Valiant as well as the last Ship she took were much hurt in their Masts, Yards, Sails and Rigging but both are now to rights and fit for immediate Service.

I have the honor to be
with great respect

Sir your most Obedient
and most humble servant
(Signed) Sam^r Hood