

Barfleur at sea 9<sup>th</sup> May 1782

My dear General

With most eager expectation have I looked out, to no  
lost of purpose, for a ship from Sir George Rodney, from the  
5<sup>th</sup> instant to this hour, and am exceedingly at a loss to  
account for my disappointment.

The Prince William which I detached to cruise  
between Cape Tiberoon and the Isle d'Yeu, returned  
to me on the 7<sup>th</sup> at night, with certain intelligence  
that four of the french ships of the line, which were put  
to flight, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of last month, arrived in a most  
shattered condition on the 21<sup>st</sup> at Curacao, but not  
finding the means of refitting there, were getting under  
sail on thursday last (the 2<sup>d</sup>) supposed for Cape Francois  
and that two Dutch ships of war, one of 64, the other  
of 50 guns, with upwards of sixty sail under convoy,  
were reported to sail with them (and which had been  
ready some time) for Port a Prince, there, to wait till  
the french convoy was ready to proceed from Cape  
Francois - This immediately determined me, to  
divide His Majesty's ships under my command into  
three little squadrons, for the greater chance of  
intercepting the enemy - Rear adm<sup>l</sup> Drake is gone  
off

off the Iste. A Vache with six ships of the Line - Commodore  
Apleck with a similar force, through the Mozambique passage  
and to return off the east end of St. Domingo, in case  
the Dutch should be able to fetch the Mona Channel  
and then push to the northward for Europe, without  
stopping at St. Domingo, and I shall take my stand  
with the remaining seven ships, off Cape Nicola, so  
that I am in hopes, one or other of the squadrons  
will be lucky enough to fall in with the French  
crippled ships, and the valuable convoy.

Sir George Rodney having left a great number  
of Prisoners, in every ship of the Squadron he was pleased  
to put under my command, when he parted for  
Jamaica, I have detached the *Garnmouth* & *Montagu*  
with the greater part of them to Port Royal, in order  
that our water may hold out about three weeks longer;  
and by those ships I sent Sir George a copy of my  
order, to Mr. Drake & the Commodore, that he might  
make any alteration in, or addition to, the  
arrangement I have made for annoying the enemy  
to the best of my judgement, not having served in these  
seas before

Since

since Sir George Rodney left me, I have been obliged to send the Canada, Alfred, & Brothec, to Port Royal, being much disasted in their masts, & yards, and short of water, and from the same motives, exclusive of the necessity of getting rid of the prisoners, the Montagu & Yarmouth were sent away yesterday morning.

The Warrior has not joined since the 19<sup>th</sup> of last month, and the Belligence is supporting the frigates on the service of reconnoitering the harbour of Cape Francois.

C P M May 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Alarm has this moment found me with Sir Jervis's dispatches to go by the crier, which I shall dispatch immediately, can therefore only add, that I am with great affection

my dear General

Your most sincere  
and faithful

Saml Bosc