

London off the East end
of Jamaica the 26th October
1782

On Tuesday the 17th Instant
His Majesty's Ship Torbay & Badger stood
in company, and the Island of Luchio bearing
SbE 6 or 7 Leagues, at 9 in the morning we
made the signal for two sail in the NW &
chased 10th signal - they were on the Starboard
Tack, standing towards us, and soon perceived
them to be a Line of Battle Ship & a Frigate of the
Enemy's; who Tacked & made all the sail they
could from us, going large with the Wind on the
Starboard quarter; and seem'd to draw from
us in light Airs; We cleared Ship for Action
at 25th 2 P.M. the Line of Battle Ship
hoisted French Colours, and fired her Stern
chairs, which she continued to do as well as
the frigate; finding their shot went over us,
we bore up and fired the Starboard Guns at
the Line of Battle Ship, At 40th 2 P.M. repeated
it, the Enemy continuing to fire their Stern
chairs, At 8 we were close up with the Line
of Battle Ship, hauled up the Mainsail and

Rear Adm^l Rowley
Commander in Chief

10th

took in the fore Studding sail; at 15⁰⁰ past
a close action commenced, with a very heavy
fire, which continued for near 40 minutes,
the frigate being on the Starboard Bow / the
Line of Battle ship attempting to bear up,
we put our Helm about in order to cross her
Bows, or lay him athwart Stern, but being
so closely engaged, we boarded each other Bow
& quarter, the Enemy's Starboard Boat head
abreast of our Starboard Gangway, and the
action continued as hot as ever, when the
Enemy backed clear of our quarter, our Main
& Mizzen topsail aback - We instantly attempted
to wear to close with him on the Starboard
Bow; but in this we were greatly disappointed,
the leading Block of the Weather Tiller Rope
being shot away, with part of the sweep, and
the ship coming with her head to the Wind,
before we could get the Helm aweather by the
assistance of the Relieving Tackles; The Enemy
in this time passed to Leward, under our Stern
and raked us with his Starboard Guns - The ship
being worn as soon as possible we renewed
the action, leading down on the Enemy's Starboard
Bow, and the frigate ahead of him firing her broad-
side, till 20⁰⁰ / 10 when the Line of Battle ship
ceased her fire and her Colours down, We concluded
she had struck, as the frigate had quitted her, &
hauled

hauled her Wind, on the Starboard Tack, at
40^m 10, the Line of Battle Ship being
nearly ahead, we perceived her to bear up
and make from us, when we hauled up, to
bring some of our Bow Guns to bear, & fired three
Shot, he then Hauled up his Mainsail & seem'd
to bring too, his Mainsail half down & his
Toppallant sheets flying - The Torbay coming
within hail, I inform'd Captain Gidoin that
I supposed the Enemy had struck & requested
he would go down to her, as our Situation
Prevented us from making all the sail we
could wish / the Starboard Fore yard arm being
shot away, all our sails much cut with some
of our Oraces, Running Rigging & Tiller Rope;
the Mizzen Mast very much wounded, the Mizzen
yard & Tiller partly shot through, and all
the Boats but one rendered unseaworthy, that
I would follow him, with all the sail I could
possibly make, & get the ship under Command;
Captain Gidoin inform'd me he would instantly
go down, and made sail accordingly, the Enemy
was then making off, and setting all the sail he
could, We reeved the Tiller Rope & Oraces and set
all our Starboard Studding sails & hauled in the
Starboard; At 12 at night the Enemy right ahead,
about a mile & half distance under all the sail he
could croud, the light Air during the remainder
of the Night, and the next morning enabled him
to pursue his distance, without the reach of shot,
and

and steer'd for the shore, which we saw at day
light of the morning of the 18th the East End of
Hispaniola south distance 4 or 5 Leagues, At 10
it became almost calm, and being so near the
shore, I haul'd off to the N^o.ward to prevent us
driving in on the shore where there was no anchor-
-age, and the Enemy close in with the Breakers,
standing along shore towards Samana Bay: I
sent an officer to inform Captain Gidoir of my
reason for hauling off. The Torbay continued the
chase; At 1 PM spoke the Badger who sent us
two pilots, but neither would take charge of the ship,
to stand further in to the Bay, after the Enemy
from the state they found her in; We then lowered
our Fore Yard to reduce the yard arm, and shifted the
Rigging; bent the Main top sail for a Fore sail, &
shipped anew filler, the people employed securing
the lower Rigging Back stays &^o that were shot
away, at 1/2 past 3 the Torbay got up with the
Enemy, and began to fire his Broad side, when
the Enemy put large and run for the shore;
Captain Gidoir can best inform you in what
state he left her, as we were at too great a distance
to give you a just account, nor had we an
opportunity to speak with him since, as the
Wind blew fresh on the shore & swell rising &
Running in, we made all the sail we could to
get out of the Bay;

The

The Officers and Ships Company exerted themselves to the utmost of my wishes and have a just claim to my most grateful, Acknowledgements, I hope their good Conduct will be found to merit the Honour of Your attention

Inclosed I send you a list of the Killed and Wounded;

I have the Honour to be —

Sir

Your most obedient
Humble Servant

/signed/ James KemPTHORNE

/Copy/

A List of Men Killed & Wounded onboard Her Majesty's Ship London, on the 17th October 1782

Killed 9 Seamen

Wounded { Lieutenants Burgess, Hankey & Triggs
M^r John Moriate — Master's Mate
M^r James McFiggart — Clerk &
70 Seamen —

Since dead of their Wounds { M^r John Moriate — Master's Mate
& Six Seamen —

Copy of Capt^m Kempton
Letter respecting the
London's Action

N^o 2^m