

ing of 24. Sail of the Line, at this Time about Four Miles to Windward. At Half past Seven Captain Sutherland, of the *Russel*, came on Board, whom I ordered, if he could possibly, by Exertion, keep the Ship above Water, to proceed to St. Eustatius, or any other Port he could make, and acquaint Sir George Rodney of all that passed: At 45 Minutes past Nine the *Lizard* came within Hail, to inform me, by the Desire of Captain Sutherland, that he had bore away.

On Monday April the 30th, at Day-light, found the Van and Center of the Squadron separated at some Distance from the *Barfleur* and Rear, owing to flattering Winds and Calms in the Night, which would not allow us to keep the *Barfleur's* Head the right Way, and she went round and round two or three Times, while the other Ships had light Airs; and finding the Enemy's advanced Ships steering for our Van, made all possible Sail towards them, and threw out the Signal for a close Line of Battle; the Enemy's Line a good deal extended and scattered. At Seven the Squadron under my Command being pretty well-formed, the Enemy's advanced Ships hauled off: At 56 Minutes past Seven made the Signal for the Rear to close the Center, as the Enemy seemed to shew a Disposition to attack it. At 35 Minutes past Eight, having very light Airs of Wind, the Squadron was thrown nearly into a Line abreast; made the Signal for continuing in that Form, least, by endeavouring to regain the Line ahead, it might become extended. At Eleven made the Signal for a Line ahead at Two Cables Length asunder; the Wind backing to the Eastward favoured my forming in that Order, the better to receive the Enemy, then about Three Miles to Windward. At 14 Minutes past Eleven made the Signal for the Rear to close the Center. At Twelve falling little Wind again, and all the Ships being thrown into a Line abreast, made a Signal for a Line abreast, to keep the Squadron as close together as possible. At 25 Minutes past Twelve, the Wind blowing steady at S. E. made the Signal for a general Chace to Windward, with a Design of weathering the Enemy, which I should certainly have succeeded in had the Breeze continued; but the Wind dying away at Four, I found it impracticable to weather the Enemy, and therefore made the Signal for a Line ahead; and having been informed that the *Intrepid* made so much Water they could scarce keep her free, and that the *Centaur* was in the same State, owing to the Number of Shot between Wind and Water, and that her lower Masts were very badly wounded, I judged it improper to dare the Enemy to Battle any longer; and therefore thought it my indispensable Duty to bear up, and made the Signal for it at Eight o'Clock. At Ten brought-to for the Squadron to close; at 40 Minutes past Ten made Sail; At Five A. M. the 1st Instant saw the Enemy's Fleet again, about Eight or Nine Miles distant. At 26 Minutes past Five brought-to for the *Torbay* and *Paccahunta* to come up, which were within Reach of the Enemy's Guns; and the former received a good deal of Damage in her Masts and Rigging. At 45 Minutes past Seven the Enemy ceased firing upon the *Torbay*; sent the *Amazon* to tow the *Paccahunta* up. At Eight made the Signal for a close Line bearing North and South of each other. At 29 Minutes past Twelve made the Signal, and brought-to upon the Larboard Tack, and made the Signal for the State and Condition of the Squadron; the Enemy bearing East, standing to the Northward; 33 Minutes past Three, made the Signal for a close Line North and South. At Four, the Enemy tacked to the Southward, and were standing that Way at Sunset. In the Evening, though it was almost calm, the Main-top mast of the *Intrepid* fell to Pieces over the Side. At Seven, made Sail to the Northward, it being the Opinion of the Officers of the Squadron acquainted with this Country, that it was the only Way of getting to Windward, as the Currents run very strong to Leeward to the Southward of St. Vincents.

I am very much concerned to acquaint you, that Captain Nott, of His Majesty's Ship *Centaur*, and her First Lieutenant, were killed in the Action. I put Captain Smith, of the *Paccahunta*, to command the *Centaur*, Lieutenant John Davall Burr to command the *Paccahunta*, and Mr. George Bowen to be Lieutenant of the *Centaur*.

I think it very much my Duty to say, that the Zeal and Exertion of Rear-Admiral Drake, and the Captains, Officers and Men I had the Honor to command were such, that if *Mons. de Grasse* had thought fit to have brought His Majesty's Squadron to close Action, and it should have pleased God to have given him the Victory, I trust he would not have found it an easy one, great as the Superiority of the Enemy was against us.

Herewith I transmit a List of the Killed and Wounded.

Mess. Murin and Vandrenel served under *Mons. de Grasse*, all with their Flags at the Main-top-mast-head.

LINE OF BATTLE.

The Alfred to lead on the Starboard, and *Shrewsbury* with her Larboard Tacks.

Rear-Admiral Sir Samuel HOOD's Division.

Lizard Frigate to repeat Signals.

Rates.	Ships of the Line.	Commanders.	Guns.	Men.
3d	<i>Alfred</i>	Capt. Bayne	74	600
—	<i>Belliqueux</i>	— Brine	64	500
—	<i>Alcide</i>	— Thompson	74	600
—	<i>Invincible</i>	— Bickerton	74	600
—	<i>Monarch</i>	— Reynolds	74	600
2d	<i>Barfleur</i>	{ Sir Samuel Hood, Bart.	90	767
3d	<i>Terrible</i>	{ Capt. Knight		
—	<i>Princessa</i>	— Ferguson	74	600
—	<i>Ajax</i>	Sir Tho. Rich. Bt. Capt. Symons	70	560
			74	550

Rear-Admiral DRAKE's Division.

Paccahunta Sloop to repeat Signals.

—	<i>Resolution</i>	Ld. Robert Manners	74	600
—	<i>Montague</i>	Capt. Houlton	74	600
—	<i>Gibraltar</i>	{ R. A. Drake	80	667
		{ Capt. Knatchbull		
—	<i>Centaur</i>	— Nott	74	650
—	<i>Russel</i>	— Sutherland	74	600
—	<i>Prince William</i>	— Douglas	64	500
—	<i>Torbay</i>	— Gidon	74	600
—	<i>Intrepid</i>	— Molloy	64	500
—	<i>Shrewsbury</i>	— Robinso	74	600

Given under my Hand, on Board the *Barfleur*, off Martinique, the 8th of April, 1781.

SAM. HOOD.

Memorandum. In case any Line of Battle Ship or Ships should be away, the Ship that would have followed the one absent is to take her Place.

A List of the Killed and Wounded in the Squadron under the Command of Sir Samuel Hood, Bart. Rear-Admiral of the Blue, &c. in the Action with the French Fleet, the 29th of April, 1781.

Ships Names.	Number of Men killed.	wounded.	Since dead of their Wounds.
<i>Barfleur</i>	—	4	—
<i>Gibraltar</i>	—	10	—
<i>Alfred</i>	—	2	—
<i>Shrewsbury</i>	—	14	—
<i>Centaur</i>	—	26	—
<i>Torbay</i>	—	27	2
<i>Montague</i>	—	4	—
<i>Monarch</i>	—	—	—
<i>Prince William</i>	—	6	—
<i>Terrible</i>	—	—	—
<i>Alcide</i>	—	4	—
<i>Ajax</i>	—	4	—
<i>Intrepid</i>	—	23	—
<i>Russel</i>	—	16	—
<i>Princessa</i>	—	3	—
<i>Belliqueux</i>	—	—	—
<i>Resolution</i>	—	8	4
<i>Invincible</i>	—	4	—
<i>Amazon</i>	—	—	—
<i>Lizard</i>	—	—	—
<i>Paccahunta</i>	—	—	—
Total	36	161	7

OFFICERS.

Centaur. Captain Nott, First-Lieutenant James Plowden, killed; Lieutenant of Marines wounded.

Russel. Robert Johnston, Maller, killed.

SAM. HOOD.

