

Battle off Guadalupe April 13th 1782

Rejoice my dear General rejoice, and give God thanks
His Majesty's fleet has given such a beating, to that of
France, as no great fleet ever had before

On the 9th my division, had two separate actions
with the enemy's van & center, between the Islands
of Guadalupe & Dominigue, while the greatest part
of our center & all the Rear, were becalmed under
the latter Island. About 2 P.M. the enemy being to
windward hauled off, and our fleet joined. The
next morning the French ships were far to windward
Sir George Rodney carried a stiff sail all day, reared
them very much at sunset, and intended to have
carried a plain sail all night - but by some mistake
of Sir Charles Douglas, by making the signal for the
leading ship to shorten sail, which was under her topsails
only with her mizen topsail aback, the fleet unfortunately
lay too the whole night, and in the morning at day light
we could only see the leeward most part of the French
fleet from the mast head - we again worked to windward
and!

and the succeeding morning, we could weather a part of the
enemy's fleet, which brought the whole down, and they formed
on a contrary attack with our fleet - every ship on both
sides were engaged - Sir George Rodney cut through a
part of the french line: so soon as the Barfleur, my Division
being then the rear one had passed the sternmost of the enemy
which it took a considerable time to do, being almost calm
The signal for the line was hauled down; upon which
I got my Boats out, towed the ship about, and made all
the sail I could, and threw out the signal for every ship of
my Division to do the same, and took the Caesar, Ardent,
and Ville de Paris - observing the Ville de Paris, to edge
towards the Barfleur, I concluded the Count de Grasse had
a mind to yield to an old friend, and therefore met
his wishes by going towards him - so soon as I got
within range of shot, he began to fire, which I totally
disregarded, till I had proved by firing a single gun
from the Quarter Deck, that I was fairly within point blank
when I opened such a tremendous fire against him,
that he could only stand it for about ten minutes
and down came his Flag, at the main topmast head, and
ensign.

1782

Bataille du 12 avril
Le retour de la Flotte
à la Jamaïque