

Danish Schooner *Betsy*, from Cape François to Port Royal, in Ballast, with Passengers on board : Surrendered by Capitulation at Cape François, to the *Bellerophon* and Squadron, November 30, 1803.—B. Waterhouse and Co. Agents.

J. T. DUCKWORTH.

N. B. There has been destroyed since last Return Thirty Sail of small Craft of various Descriptions off Cape François, Monte Chritte, and the Mole; &c. &c.

Downing-Street, February 7, 1804.

EXTRACT of a Dispatch from Governor the Honorable Frederick North, to the Right Honorable Lord Hobart, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, dated Columbo, 8th July 1803.

INCLOSE to you the Deposition of a Person, stating himself to be an Eye Witness of one of the most atrocious Acts of Perfidy and Cruelty ever committed.

Every Particular of the Narration may not be true, but it appears that Candi was attacked in the Midst of a Truce, by the first Adigaar, on the 23d (or I rather believe on the 24th) Ultimo; that Major Davie, commanding the Garrison there, capitulated on the following Day, and that after he left the Fort all the English Soldiers who accompanied him were treacherously murdered in cold Blood.

I cannot believe that Major Davie would have consented to evacuate, on any Terms less favourable than those stated in the Deposition, viz. of being allowed to proceed with Arms and Ammunition, and without Molestation, to Trincomalée, and that Care should be taken of the Sick whom he left behind : For the Fort was rendered, in the Opinion of most military Men, tenable against any Force that was likely to be brought against it, and large Supplies of Provisions had been sent thither, in Addition to those which Lieutenant Colonel Barbut declared to be sufficient for Six Months' Consumption, Two Months ago.

Lieutenant Huskisson was also on the Road from Trincomalée (as Major Davie must have known) with a Hundred Doolies, under an Escort of One Hundred and Fifty Malays; and when I heard of the Breach of the Truce, I ordered Lieutenant Colonel Hunter to proceed from Trincomalée with Two Hundred of His Majesty's 19th Regiment, and Fifty Malays, to secure the Evacuation which (had it been delayed for a Fortnight) would have been safely effected.

But what I can still less account for, is, that Major Davie, having obtained such Terms, should have consented to lay down his Arms, when he must have felt that the Person who insisted on such an Infraction of Agreement, could have no other Design but that of murdering him and his Men, and when he must, in common with all the Army, have known that a Corps of Forty Europeans in good Health, and of Two hundred Malays, might cut their Way through any Army of Candians to any Part of the Island.

Indeed Captain Mudge, late Commandant of Fort Macdowall, brought off his Men in Circumstances of as great Difficulty; and a small Detachment of Twenty-two invalid Malays, Fourteen Con-

valescents of the 19th Regiment from Candi, and Sixty Seapoys under Lieutenant Nixon, Ensign Grant, and Ensign Smellie, defended themselves in a miserable little Fort of Fascines at Dembadenia, for more than a Week, against an immense Multitude collected by the second Adigaar, after they had expended their Ammunition, till they were relieved by a Detachment of Fifty Europeans and as many Seapoys, whom I sent under the Command of Captain Blackall of the 5th to bring them down, in which he has succeeded without Loss.

Under the Oppression of so dreadful a Misfortune, it is satisfactory to me to state, that an Opinion formed of a Spirit of Defection in His Majesty's Malay Regiment is perfectly unfounded, some Individuals of that Corps had indeed deserted from Candi; but the great Majority, including all Officers of Influence and Respectability, were staunch to the End. Those who, after the English were separated from them, were forced into the Candian Service, are certainly not blameable, and of those Five have already escaped and arrived here, who say that all the others are ready to follow their Example.

The Princes of that Nation, who are settled at Columbo, waited on me, as soon as the melancholy Intelligence arrived, to assure me of their Regret, and Indignation at hearing that any Malays had deserted, and of their invariable Attachment to the British Government.

Deposition of the Lascoryn arrived from Kandi.

MILIHANAGE JOANNES, of the Reformed Religion, being duly sworn, deposes, That the 6th of last Month, he was sent, along with Twelve other Lascoryns, by the Town-Major to Kandi; that he passed at Negumbo, where Doolies were put under their Charge, and that he arrived at Kandi, after a Route of about Twelve Days, and that the Lascoryns delivered up the Doolies and other Stores which were under their Charge, to the English Gentlemen.

After remaining there Three Days, they were ordered to return to Columbo with Twelve Doolies, in Eleven of which were sick Europeans, and one which contained Baggage.

These Doolies, with Twelve European Soldiers, as an Escort, passed the River, and stopped upon the opposite Side; that the same Day he heard Firing at Candy; that a great many Coolies, upon hearing the firing, attempted to pass the River, but were stopped by a Malay Sentry.

Several Candians approached the Place where the Doolies and the Sick were, and fired upon them, which was returned by the Europeans and Twelve Malays who were posted there. They fired till their Ammunition was expended, when the Malays jumped into the River, and the European Officer who commanded the Detachment did the same. He does not know what became of all the European Soldiers, of whom he only saw Three cross the River, and one killed by the Candians. That the Lascars, who served the Cannon at that Post, threw the Cannon into the River, and passed to Candi, and that he followed their Example and escaped to Candi; that he does not know what became of the Sick who were in the Doolies.

He went first to the Mandore, where he had been before, but finding many Candians there, he got into the Palace, and remained in the Court where the

