

the earliest Opportunity afforded me, the Operations of the Troops and Seamen employed under my Command, in the Attack upon the Enemy's Out Posts on the 16th Instant.

The Force destined for this Service, composed of the Number of Men named in the Margin \*, having landed about Two o'Clock P. M. agreeably to your Orders, and being formed, according to Instructions I had previously given, the advanced Party under Captain Phillips, consisting of Thirty Rank and File of the 2d Battalion of Artillery under Lieutenant Stewart, the Detachment of Royal Marines from His Majesty's Ship *Dover* under Lieutenant Higginson, and a Detachment of one Company of the Madras European Regiment, with a Party of Seamen from His Majesty's Ship *Dover*, under Lieutenant Jeffries, in all about One Hundred and Eighty Men, was directed to attack the Battery at Wannetoo, situated on the Top of a small Hill, of a most commanding Height and Position, and defended by Five Iron Twelve-Pounders, Two Iron Eight-Pounders, Two Iron Six-Pounders, and Two Five and an Half Inch Brass Howitzers.

This, the most advanced Post of the Enemy, and commanding the Shore at Portuguese Bay, was attacked with that Gallantry, Promptitude, and Judgment which were to be expected from the Exertions and Talents of that distinguished Officer Captain Phillips, of the Madras European Regiment, and was immediately carried, notwithstanding the determined Opposition of the Enemy, who had Two Officers killed and one desperately wounded after the Entrance of our Party into the Battery.

Under the able Directions of Lieutenant Duncan Stewart (who, though wounded, continued at his Post) three of the Guns were immediately brought to bear upon the Enemy in his Retreat, and subsequently upon the Enemy's Post at Batter Gantong, which had opened a Fire upon our Troops at Wannetoo on their taking Possession thereof.

With the remaining Force † I proceeded along the Heights to turn the Enemy's Position at Batter Gantong, situated about One Thousand Five Hundred Yards distant from, and nearly on the same Level with that at Wannetoo, and which commanded the Town of Amboyna and Fort Victoria. This Party endured with the greatest Spirit and Patience a most fatiguing and troublesome March, ascending and descending Hills over which there was no Road, and many of them so extremely steep as to require the Assistance of the Bushes for the Men to get up and down by. Their Toils were, however, rewarded by our reaching, a little after Sunset, an Eminence which effectually commanded the Enemy, and by the Satisfaction we experienced on finding that we had pursued the only Mode of Attack against this Post (so strong by the Nature of the Ground) which admitted a Probability of Success, otherwise than by a great Sacrifice of Lives.

\* Detachment of Artillery, 46; Madras European Regiment, 130; Seamen and Marines from the *Dover*, 85; Seamen and Marines from the *Cornwallis*, 105; Seamen from His Majesty's Ship *Samarang*, 35.—Total of all Descriptions, including Officers, 401.

† One Company of the Madras European Regiment, Cap. Forbes; the Seamen and Marines from His Majesty's Ship *Cornwallis*; the Seamen from the *Samarang*; 15 Artillery-Men.—This Body was under the immediate Orders of Captain Forbes, who fulfilled the Duties of this Charge to my greatest Satisfaction.

The Enemy, who was collected in some Numbers, retired immediately we were perceived on the Heights above them, and we entered the Battery without Opposition, where we found Four Iron Twelve-Pounders, and One Iron Nine-Pounder.

The Consequences of our Successes in obtaining Possession of Wannetoo and Batter Gantong, were observed by the Desertion, on the Part of the Enemy, of Two Batteries which had annoyed the Ships, and which became exposed to our commanding Fire. One of them, called the Wogoo Battery, is situated on the Shore. The other is erected upon Piles, some Distance in the Sea; they were both well calculated for Defence against a naval Attack, and were covered by a very thick Parapet. The Ordnance found in them are expressed in the Margin \*.

During the Night of the 16th Instant, Two Twelve Pounders and One Nine-Pounder were relieved of the Spikes, in the Batter Gantong Battery, which on the following Day were brought to fire on the Fort. The Enemy returned our Fire (which continued until your Summons for the Surrender of the Town) with Shells, but without Effect.

Our Loss † in obtaining our Advantages was trifling, in comparison with the Importance of their Consequences, and considering the Obstacles the Troops had to surmount.

In expressing my Sentiments of the Conduct of the Officers and Men employed on this Occasion, I cannot speak too highly of their Exertions; to which and the formidable Fire, the Enemy had experienced from the Ships, must be attributed the early Surrender of this important Colony.

I have already I hope done Justice to the military Conduct of Captain Phillips, to whom I am likewise under the greatest Obligations for his Advice. You are aware, Sir, how much the Service is indebted to that Officer for the very important Assistance derived from his Knowledge of the Malay Language.

To Captain Forbes of the Madras European Regiment, I owe every Acknowledgement for the Benefit of his Judgement and his Advice.

Lieutenant Duncan Stewart, attached to the Artillery, to whose Lot it fell to head the Party against Wannetoo, acted most nobly up to his Station. He was the First that entered the Battery, and gave the Dutch Officers an Opportunity to surrender, which generous Offer was on their Part declined. He continued to perform his Duty throughout the Service, notwithstanding a severe Cut he received in the Hand.

Lieutenant Jeffries of the Royal Navy received a Concussion in the Breast, from a spent Grape Shot, but I am happy to say, the Service was at no Period deprived of his valuable Assistance.

It is but Justice due to the Royal Marines, Troops and Seamen, to make known to you, the Steadiness with which they advanced against Wannetoo, under a heavy Fire of Grape and Musketry, not a Shot

\* Wogoo Battery—4 Iron Twelve-Pounders; 1 ditto Eight-Pounder; 2 ditto Six-Pounders; and 1 Brass Thirty-two-Pounder Carronade.

Battery in the Sea—9 Iron Twelve-Pounders and 1 Brass Thirty-two-Pounder Carronade.

† 1 Corporal of Marines belonging to the *Samarang*, 2 Privates of the Madras European Regiment, and 1 Seaman of the *Dover*, killed; 1 Lieutenant and 1 Corporal of the 2d Detachment of the British Artillery, 4 Privates of the Madras European Regiment, and 4 Seamen of the *Dover*, wounded.