

about Two P. M. from the *Sirius*, of all the Troops embarked on board of her, at a Part of the Beach called Grande Chaloupe, Six Miles to the Westward of the Town, where the Enemy were totally unprepared for an Attack.

The Riviere des Pluies, about Three Miles to the East of St. Denis, was intended for the other Point of Descent.

The remaining Four Frigates (when it was supposed the first Landing was secured) immediately pushed for the Anchorage, and were followed by the Transports, as they arrived. The Weather, which till now had been favourable, began to change; the Beach on this Side of the Island being steep, and composed of large Shingles, is generally of difficult Access, but it was supposed, on reconnoitring it, that the Landing was practicable, and Captain Willoughby, who undertook to superintend it, pushed off in a small Prize Schooner, captured by the Nereide, with a Party of Seamen and a Detachment of Light Troops, and with some of the Boats which followed effected a partial Landing, but the Surf still increasing several were drove on the Beach; it being, however, considered by Lieutenant-Colonel Keating of much Importance to effect the Landing on this Point, a light Transport was placed with great Judgment by Lieutenant Lloyd of the *Boadicea*, in order to act as a Break-Water, but the Stern Cable parting she only formed a momentary Cover for a few Boats, and notwithstanding every Exertion of the Skill and Experience of Captain Willoughby, the Officers and Seamen, it was found necessary on the Close of the Day to relinquish any further Attempts at this Point for the present. I am concerned to state that Two Seamen and Two Soldiers were drowned on this Occasion; the Party, however, maintained their Ground, and took Possession of the Battery and Post of St. Marie during the Night.

The *Magicienne*, with Two Transports, were now detached to support the Brigade landed at Grande Chaloupe, but Captain Curtis alone gained the Anchorage and landed the Troops embarked in her. In the Morning of the 8th the Beach still appearing unfavourable, I weighed, at the Desire of Lieutenant-Colonel Keating, and proceeded to the Anchorage off Grande Chaloupe, where we landed the Remainder of the Troops, Guns, &c. The Transports had been left in Charge of the *Iphigenia*, and Captain Lambert with much Activity and Exertion landed the Troops embarked in her.

I directed Captain Pym to proceed with the *Sirius* and *Magicienne* to be ready to act with the Troops off St. Denis, when at 10 P. M. I received a Message from Lieutenant-Colonel Keating, that he had entered into a Capitulation with the Enemy, and at his Desire landed next Morning in Company with Mr. Farquhar, appointed to the Government of the Island, (who had done me the Honour to embark in the *Boadicea*) when we signed the annexed Terms of Capitulation*.

I had previously directed Captain Pym by Signal to take Possession of the Shipping, at St. Paul's; in effecting which Lieutenant Norman, in the Barge of the *Sirius*, captured a French Brig (that had sailed with Dispatches for the Isle of France) in a Style

* For the Capitulation, see Lieutenant-Colonel Keating's Dispatch.

which does that Officer much Credit; I beg leave to transmit Captain Pym's Report of the Affair.

For a Detail of the Operations of the Troops on shore, which led to the Surrender of the Island, I beg leave to refer to Lieutenant-Colonel Keating's Dispatches; his Plan of Attack was so ably concerted, and executed with so much Decision, as to occasion the speedy Termination of a Contest which, if protracted, must from the Nature of the Country have occasioned much Loss.

It now, Sir, becomes a pleasing Part of my Duty to notice the cordial Unanimity and Zeal that prevailed between all Ranks of the Army and Navy on the Service we have been engaged in. To Captains Pym, Lambert, Curtis, and Willoughby, I feel particularly indebted, for the prompt Assistance and Support I received from them on every Occasion; and the active Exertions of the Officers and Men on this short but fatiguing Service could not be surpassed.

Lieutenant-Colonel Keating has mentioned, in high Terms of Approbation, the Conduct of Captain Willoughby, the Officers and Seamen employed on shore with the Troops, and Lieutenant Cottell, with the Brigades of Marines under his Orders.

As the superior Force of the Enemy, stationed at the Isle of France, will not allow me to detach any Part of the Squadron, I have directed Lieutenant Robb, First of the *Boadicea*, to proceed with the Dispatches in the *Anna*, the fastest-sailing Transport of those destined to proceed to the Cape; the Merits of this Officer are well known, Sir, to you, and I cannot mention in too strong Terms of Commendation the unremitting Zeal and Assiduity to which I feel so highly indebted.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

JOS. ROWLEY,

Vice-Admiral Bertie, &c. &c. &c.

His Majesty's Ship Sirius, at Anchor at St. Paul's, 11th July 1810.

SIR, In putting your Order in force to anchor at St. Paul's, I was fired at by all the Batteries, and on shewing a Truce, they repeated it with many Shells; however, during my Stay in the Bay, I clearly saw that a Brig was getting ready to sail that Night.

At Eleven o'Clock I dispatched Lieutenant Norman in the Barge, to bring her out or cut her off; he found, by boarding the other Vessels in the Bay, that she sailed about Nine o'Clock; he pushed on, and, after a hard Row of nearly Twelve Hours, came up with and, in a most gallant Manner, rowed through her Fire, boarded, and took her. She is the *Edward*, of Nantz, pierced for Sixteen Guns, has only Four Twelve-Pounders, and Thirty Men on board, was charged with Dispatches for the Isle of France. I am happy to say, we have only Three Men wounded, and not dangerously.

I am, &c.

(Signed) S. PYM

To Commodore Rowley, &c. &c. &c.

P. S. She is Sixteen Months old, Two Hundred and Forty-five Tons, coppered, and Copper-fastened, and, in my Opinion, a very fit Vessel for a Packet.