

tween Long Island and the Gunners Coin, the Men of War to lead in Line of Battle, and the India Ships to follow them, Orders were given accordingly, and the greatest Part of the Fleet anchored the same Night in a Place called Turtle Bay, between the River of that Name and Tomb River, about two Leagues to the Eastward of the Harbour, and the rest got in the next Day, having been fired at in their Passage from two Fascine Batteries of about six Guns each, but without receiving any Damage.

At Day-light the Enemy began to fire from two other Fascine Batteries they had raised on each Side of the Entrance of the two aforesaid Rivers, and they were perceived to be hard at Work in the Wood fronting where the Squadron lay, in throwing up Intrenchments and raising other Batteries, and several large Ships were seen lying in the Harbour.

Hereupon the Pembroke, which was nearest in, was ordered to fire and disturb them at their Work, and the Swallow Sloop was sent with Captain Lloyd of the Eltham, the two principal Engineers, and an Artillery Officer, to run along the Shore and reconnoitre the Coast, in order to discover what Place would be most convenient for landing the Troops; who, on their Return, reported, that the Enemy had fired on them in their Passage from eight different Batteries, as well as from the Forts at the Entrance of the Harbour; that a large Ship of two Tier of Guns lay with her Broadside across the Mouth of the Harbour; that there were 13 other Ships in the Harbour, (several of them large ones) fitted or fitting for the Sea; and that they thought it impracticable to land any where to the Eastward of the Harbour, on Account of the Thickness of the Woods which came down close to the Waterside; it was therefore judged most feasible to attempt to land beyond the great River, to the Westward of the Town. So soon as it was dark, the Masters of the Six Line of Battle Ships were ordered to go in the Barges, and sound all along the Shore to try the Depths of Water, and see particularly whether it was practicable to land at the Place proposed; but they, on their Return, having declared that there was a Reef of Rocks run all along about twenty Yards from the Shore, which made it impossible for Boats to land, except at the River's Mouth, right against where the Fleet lay, and at the Harbour, where the Channel was not above an hundred Fathoms wide, and very difficult to get in, as the Wind blows always right out; this determined the Admiral to call a Council of War, composed of the principal Sea and Land Officers, to lay before them these Reports, and his Instructions, so far as they related to the Attack of Mauritius, and to consult with them what was best to be done. It was agreed, as they were unacquainted with the Strength of the Enemy on the Island, to send three Ten-ear Boats, under the Command of Major Cuming, to endeavour to surprize and get a Prisoner from the Shore; which was accordingly attempted, but in vain; and the Council being met again next Morning, and it appearing to them, that the Reduction of the Island of Mauritius was not the principal Design of the Expedition, and as there was such a Strength of Ships in the Harbour, and the Preparations which the Enemy had made all along the Coast, made it certain that the Attack must be attended with considerable Loss; they were

of Opinion, that upon these Considerations, no Attempt should be made at this Place, but that the Squadron should proceed with the utmost Expedition to the Coast of Coromandel, so as to begin the Operations there before the Monsoons shift.

It was two Days before the Fleet could leave this Island, several of them being so short of Bread, Fire-wood, and Water, as to make it necessary to take from one to give to another; and just as they were under Sail, one of the Dutch Ships that had parted Company joined them, but the other two were not heard of. When the Fleet was under Sail, the Dutch Ships took their Leave, and stretched away to the Southward, and the Admiral being desirous, in pursuance of the Resolution of the Council of War, to make the shortest Cut possible to the Coast of Coromandel, passed through the Islands and Sands to the Northward of Mauritius, and on the 29th of July the whole Squadron arrived safe at Fort St. David.

It being determined at Fort St. David to undertake the Siege of Pondicherry, they immediately set about landing the necessary Stores and Troops from the Ships, and formed a Camp about a Mile from the Fort, all the People continuing very healthy, as they had done the whole Voyage, which the Admiral thinks owing to the Air-pipes, which he esteems to be of infinite Service. And the Marines serving in the Squadron under the Command of Rear Admiral Griffin, now at Fort St. David, being joined to those of Mr. Boscawen, a very good Battalion was formed of 700 Men.

On the 1st of August the Exeter was sent to anchor off of Pondicherry, and two Days after, the Chester, Pembroke, and Swallow Sloop to join her; and Captain Pawlett of the Exeter, was directed to take the Soundings all about, and see how high the Ships could come to the Town upon Occasion, and cut off all Communication upon that Side.

Every Thing being prepared, the Army began to march on the 8th of August, with whom Mr. Boscawen went himself, and left the Management afloat to Captain Lisle of the Vigilant, with Orders to anchor with the whole Squadron two Miles to the Southward of the Town, and remain there till farther Order.

The Army continued their March on the 9th and 10th, without any Appearance of an Enemy, but on the 11th they made a Shew of about 300 Foot and some Horse, at an Intrenchment they had thrown up, which they abandoned at the Approach of our People. This Post was situated by a small River, and very defensible; and about a Mile from it, on the other Side the Water, was the Fort of Aria Coupan, on the Side of a River, from whence it takes its Name.

Here the Admiral having learnt by a Deserter, that the Garrison of the Fort of Aria Coupan consisted only of 100 Men, Whites and Blacks, resolved to make an Attempt next Morning with the Grenadiers and Piquets, to gain a Lodgment in the Village contiguous to it, and there raise a Bomb Battery, as the Fellow said they greatly dreaded a Bombardment, their Magazine not being Bomb Proof; and herein they would have succeeded, as they soon got Possession of the Village, had not the Blacks, who were employed in carrying up the intrenching Tools, on a Shot coming among them, all ran away. And