



SUPPLEMENT to  
**The London Gazette**  
 EXTRAORDINARY  
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1796.

*Admiralty-Office, January 7, 1796.*

**D**ISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies and Extracts, have been received at this Office from Rear-Admiral Rainier, commanding His Majesty's Ships in the East Indies.

*Suffolk, Back Bay, Trincomalé,  
 August 14, 1795.*

**A**greeably to the Intimation in my last Letter of the 20th Ultimo, by the Royal Admiral, that Ship and Lafcelles have arrived here, therefore take the Opportunity, in Addition thereto, to request you will please to acquaint their Lordships, that the Transports having received the Stores and Ammunition, and the Troops embarked, which, owing to the unremitting Exertion and Attendance of Colonel Stuart, the Commanding Officer on this Service, was effected with much Expedition, I sailed from Madras, with the Centurion and Transports, the 21st following, having received on Board each of His Majesty's Ships upwards of 300 European Troops and their Followers, with the most of the heavy Artillery; Colonel Stuart and his Staff being with me in the Suffolk.

His Majesty's Ship *Resistance*, with Four European Flank Companies, a Transport, and the Suffolk's Tender, with the Remainder of the Troops and Baggage for the Malacca Expedition, sailed the same Day, and about Eight A. M. parted Company.

On the 23d anchored off Negapatnam, and having ordered the Troops appointed from thence to be immediately embarked on Board His Majesty's Ship *Diomedé* and the Transports there provided, being all Vessels owned and manned by Natives, left Negapatnam Road the 25th, each of the King's Ships and Two of the best sailing Transports having the

heavy sailing Vessels in Tow. On the 1st of August I anchored in Back Bay with the *Centurion*, being joined the Day before by Captain Gardner, in His Majesty's Ship *Heroine*, from Colombo, with Major Agnew, Deputy Adjutant-General, who had been sent to the Governor of that Place, the Chief of all the Settlements on Ceylon, with a Letter from Lord Hobart, and Instructions for his Conduct, under the joint Authority of Colonel Braithwaite and myself, to explain to him His Majesty's Commands, and the Purpose of the Armament. Major Agnew brought, in Return, an Order from the Governor of Ceylon to the Commandant of Trincomalé, to admit 300 of His Majesty's Troops to garrison Fort Oostenburg; to which, when presented to him, he refused Obedience, under a Pretence of Informality in the Order. The latter Part of this Day and greater Part of the following was occupied in receiving and replying to his Remonstrances relative thereto; which, as they were apparently calculated to evade the great Object of the Expedition, Colonel Stuart and myself determined on landing the Troops, and Preparations were making accordingly; but most unfortunately, as His Majesty's Ship *Diomedé*, with her Tow, were working up against a strong Land Wind into the Bay, she struck with so much Violence on a Rock, lying in Fifteen Fathoms Water, and not delineated in our Charts, between Pigeon Island and the outer Point of this Bay, that the Water the Ship made gained so fast on every Exertion of both Seamen and Soldiers at the Pumps, there was barely Time to take the Men out before she foundered, without a Possibility of saving a single Store of any Consequence but the Boats. The Employment of all the Boats on this pressing Occasion prevented the landing