

landing the Army till the following Morning, when the first Detachment of 530 Europeans and 110 Natives, and Two Field Pieces, landed at the White Rocks, within Elizabeth Point, without Opposition, and were followed by the Remainder of European Troops and Natives as fast as the Boats could convey them. The Boats with the first Detachment rendezvoused on Board the Heroine, who was placed as near the Landing Place as she could anchor in Safety, and, on the Boats pushing off, presented her Broadside to cover them: The Broadfides of the Suffolk and Centurion would also have done Execution, had there been any Opposition made. In the Course of the next Ten Days the Stores and Provisions were landed with all Expedition, not without the most vigorous Exertions of the Officers and Seamen, the Land Breeze blowing strong all the Time, as it still continues, and keeping up the most extraordinary high Surf I ever remember to have seen here: The Army had then to move them from the Landing Place to the Camp, a Distance of Three or Four Miles, over a very heavy Sand.

Colonel Stuart is making every Effort preparatory to the Attack of the lower Fort: The Dutch have as yet given no Interruption, as if the Commandant waited some further Authority, but appear to be hard at Work within. I can scarcely allow myself to think he will be so rash as to risk a formal Attack, but should that by the Cafe, the Event, from every Consideration, will, I have little Doubt of, be glorious to His Majesty's Arms; a short Time will decide. I have the Satisfaction to inform you, Sir, that the utmost Harmony subsists between the Officers and Men of both Services, which has much expedited their united Labours.

*Suffolk, Back Bay, Trincomalé,  
August 30, 1795.*

S I R,

I Have the Pleasure to acquaint you, for their Lordships Information, that the lower Fort and Town of Trincomalé surrendered to His Majesty's Arms the 26th Instant, the Eighth Day from the opening of the Trenches, a Work the Enemy most unaccountably never interrupted. The grand Battery of 8 Eighteen Pounders and 2 Ten Inch Mortars, from Five to Six Hundred Yards distant from the Glacis of the N. W. Bastion, was so judiciously planned by Colonel Stuart, and the Work so ably executed, as to do amazing Execution from its first opening, dismounting, in the Course of the Attack, almost every Gun the Enemy could bring to bear upon it.

There were also Two Batteries erected to the Right of the Grand Battery, One of 2 Twelve Pounders, the other of 2 Eight Inch Howitzers, that annoyed the Enemy much, and diverted their Attention from the working Parties of the Grand Battery, which was opened on the 23d Instant. During the Three first Days, the Enemy kept up a very smart Fire from all their Works that looked towards our Batteries, but with little Execution, and few Casualties. The Breach was effected directly over the Sea Gate and Landing Place of the Fort at Back Bay; and when practicable, on the Morning of the 26th, a Summons was sent by a Drum with the Conditions of Surrender. The Return was an inadmissible Demand from the Commandant on the Part of the Garrison. However, after some little Ceremony, he surrendered on the Terms offered, with some few Explanations; a Copy whereof, with a List of Killed and Wounded, and Return of the Ordnance found in the Garrison, are herewith inclosed.

In the Course of the Operations of the Army, observing Colonel Stuart to be short of Men for Working Parties, the Distance of the Camp from the Trenches being nearly Two Miles, partly over a heavy Sand, and no Draught Cattle or Vehicle of

any Kind to assist, I pressed him to accept of the Services of the Seamen of His Majesty's Ships, who were accordingly landed as required, in Parties of One and Two Hundred, and worked with great Chearfulness. A Party of Twenty-seven Artillery-Men, who had entered at Madras, their Time being expired, were also at Colonel Stuart's Request landed to assist in the Battery under Mr. William Staines, one of the Midshipmen of the Suffolk. Three of the Suffolk's Upper Deck Guns were landed to supply as many found defective in the Grand Battery from Injury received, and false Boring.

Three Hundred Seamen and Marines, under the Command of Captain Smith, late of the Diomedé, were also under Orders to assist in storming the Breach, had the Enemy determined to hold out: With the Seamen were Lieutenants Page and Hayward, with Messrs. Clarke, Dredge, Jennings, Elliott and Percy, under Captain Smith's Orders for the Seamen, and Lieutenants M'Gibbon and Percival for the Marines; a considerable Part of both were selected from the Diomedé's late Crew.

I beg you will assure their Lordships that every Service required of the Captains, Officers and Seamen of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, was executed with amazing Alacrity and Steadiness, the only Contention being who should be foremost on every Service required.

Colonel Stuart and myself have sent all the Prisoners, with a few Exceptions, to Madras, in a Transport and Prize, under Convoy of his Majesty's Ship Heroine; their Number as per List. There appeared some Disposition among the Soldiers of the Garrison to Mutiny after the Summons was delivered, which probably accelerated the Surrender. His Majesty's Forces were put in Possession of the Garrison that very Evening; the Dutch Troops marched out, and grounded their Arms in the Battery.

Fort Oostenburg was summoned the Day following; but the Commandant refusing to surrender to the very favourable Terms offered it, Colonel Stuart is making every Preparation for the Attack of it.

Previous to the Surrender of Trincomalé, the Ships and Boats of the Squadron took two small Vessels laden with Provisions and Stores for the Garrison from Columbo, and some small Craft belonging to the Port; having also found One small Ketch under the Guns of the Fort laden with Rice, the Whole of little Value.

I have the Honour to remain, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

PETER RAINIER.

WE, the undersigned Officers commanding His Britannick Majesty's Naval and Land Forces before Trincomalé, summon you to surrender the Fort under your Command to His Majesty's Arms. Motives of Humanity alone induce us to make this Proposal to prevent an unnecessary Effusion of Blood. You must be sensible that the Place is no longer capable of Defence; by an immediate Surrender the Lives and private Property of the Garrison will be preserved; but if you resolve to stand a Storm, they must prepare to meet their Fate. In this Event we request that the Women and Children of the Garrison may be immediately sent out, and a Passport will be granted for them to proceed to a Place of Safety. One Hour from the Delivery of this Summons will be allowed you to form your Resolution, during which Time all Firing shall cease on our Part, unless provoked by Acts of Hostility on your's.

Camp before Trincomalé, August 26, 1795:

(Signed)

PETER RAINIER.  
J. STUART.