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COPIES and Extracts from Letters received by Vice-Admiral Rainier from the several Captains and Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the East Indies, from the 25th October 1799 to the 28th September 1800, with Accounts of their respective Captures, &c.

Copy of a Letter from Captain William Hills, of His Majesty's Ship Orpheus, dated La Copeng, the Straights of Banca, the 25th October, 1799.

SIR,

I Have the Pleasure to inform you, that on my Passage from Ternate to the Straights of Banca, I Yesterday discovered two Sail off Tagolanda, which I chafed at One P. M., at Three it fell calm, all the Boats were hoisted out to tow the Ship, and every Exertion made to get up with them. On a Breeze springing up at Five o'Clock, we cast off all our Boats, but was not able to get alongside of them until a Quarter before Nine o'Clock, when we brought them to a close Action on each Bow, which continued about a Quarter of an Hour, when they both struck their Colours. They proved the Zeevraght and Zeelast, the one a Brig and the other a large Panchallang, each mounting Twenty-two Guns, of different Calibres, from Macassar, loaded with Rice, Powder, Shot, Gun Carriages, and Stores from Ternate. The Vessels both belong to the Dutch East India Company.

During the Action I lost One of my best Seamen, killed in the Maintop, and Five wounded, among the latter is the First Lieutenant Hodgkins, who received a Musquet Ball through his right Arm; his Conduct on this, as on every other Occasion, has given me that Satisfaction that warrants my recommending him to your Notice and Attention. I had great Pleasure in observing the Zeal of all the Officers and Men on this Occasion, as I have done several other Times since my Arrival at these Islands, which justly entitled them to my Thanks. Enclosed I send you a List of the Killed and Wounded on board the Dutch Vessels.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM HILLS.

P. Rainier, Esq; Vice-Admiral of the Blue, &c. &c. East Indies.

List of Killed and Wounded on board the undermentioned Vessels, captured by His Majesty's Ship Orpheus, William Hills, Esq; Captain, the 25th October 1799. Sanchallang Zeelast, Captain Pieter Janfen.—Number on board at the Time of Action, 42; 1 killed.

Brig Zeevraght, Captain Pietre Meuse.—Number on board at the Time of Action, 33; 6 killed; Captain Meuse, and 6 Seamen wounded.

W. HILLS.

Extract of a Letter from Captain George Astle, of His Majesty's Ship La Virginie, dated Amboyna, the 20th May 1800, to Vice Admiral Rainier, Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

I Beg Leave to acquaint you, that I arrived here on the 6th of May.

I enclose a List of Vessels I captured on my Passage, which are all arrived at Amboyna.

A List of Vessels captured by Captain Astle in His Majesty's Ship La Virginie, on his Passage to Amboyna, between the 22d March and 26th April 1800.

A Dutch Prow, mounting Four Swivels, small Arms, &c. manned with Sixteen Men, laden with Sundries, out Three Days, from Macassar bound to Sambauwa; captured 22d March, in Latitude 6 Deg. 5 Min. South, Longitude 117 Deg. 25 Min. East.

A Dutch Prow, mounting Two Brass Swivels, small Arms, &c. manned with Fifteen Men, laden with Sundries, Six Days from Macassar, bound to Sambauwa; captured 26th March, in Latitude 5 Deg. 51 Min. South, Longitude 118 Deg. 25 Min. East.

A Dutch Prow, manned with 14 Men, laden with Sundries, Eight Days from Macassar, bound to Sambauwa; captured 29th March, in Latitude 5 Deg. 29 Min. South, Longitude 118 Deg. 46 Min. East.

On the 26th April, in Latitude 1 Deg. 10 Min. South, Longitude 126 Deg. 25 Min. East, fell in with and captured the following Vessels, upon Dutch Colours, from the Island of Java bound to Ternate, viz.

Vrow Helena (Ship), mounting Eight Six-Pound Carriage-Guns and Four Swivels, manned with Forty Men.

