

*Downing-Street, April 22, 1804.*

DISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies, were this Day received by the Right Honorable Lord Hobart, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Colonel John Frazer, Commandant of the Settlement of Goree, on the Coast of Africa:

MY LORD, *Goree, Africa, 5th Feb. 1804.*

ON the 17th of January, about Noon, a Negro arrived from Yoff, and reported that a Fleet had been seen from thence that Morning, at Day light, and appeared to be standing for Goree.

Before Two o'Clock Vessels were seen from the Hill behind Cape Emanuel; near Four they came round the Cape; the Squadron consisting of One Ship, carrying a Commodore's Pendant, and Five Armed Schooners, with Pendants, all shewing French Colours, and with large Boats towing after them.

The Commodore fired a Gun, and hoisted a Red Flag at his Foremast-Head, which we have since learnt was meant as a Signal to us, that in case of Attack during Night, no Quarter would be given.

About Sunset the Squadron tacked, and before dark was near the Anchorage, standing in.

The Inhabitants having agreed to assist in defending the Island against any Attempt that should be made from Senegal, and being of Opinion that the present Force was of that Nature, such Measures were taken as appeared most likely to prevent the Enemy from Landing during the Night: All the Arms that could be procured were accordingly issued to the Inhabitants, who, with the Garrison, were stationed at the different Posts round the Island.

The Moon set at Eleven, and Affairs remained in the Situation described until about Three o'Clock on the 18th; when shortly after I had returned to the Beach Battery from visiting the Posts, a fresh firing commenced on the East Side of the Island from Boats, and at the same Instant a Schooner came in Sight, standing directly for the Beach; a strong and well directed Fire of great Guns and Mulketry was immediately opened upon her, and the People on board, being either wounded or driven below, she drifted on shore.

In the mean Time the Boats, to the Number of Eight, full of Troops, had unfortunately effected a landing on the Rocks to the East Side of the Town, where the Surf happened to be unusually low, and having overcome the Force which was opposed to them, they had penetrated through the Town as far as the Main Guard, of which, after being once repulsed, they gained Possession, making some Prisoners.

The Inhabitants having given way nearly on all Sides, and the Enemy being now in such Force on our Right, it appeared advisable to form a Junction with the Soldiers in the North-Point Battery, where we should retain the Command of the Beach, and be ready to check any further Attempt to land, until some Information could be received of the Strength and Situation of the Enemy, to enable me to judge what ought to be done.

The Firing continued until towards Six o'Clock, when being yet uncertain what Number had landed, and in hopes that the Main Guard was the only Post held by the Enemy, I directed that it should be attacked by the Soldiers I had with me, which was executed with great Alacrity, and the Post carried, with considerable Loss on the Part of the Enemy;

on our Side it was less as to Numbers, but I lost the Assistance of a very gallant Officer, Doctor Heddle, being shot through the Breast in the Attack, when Captain Lloyd was also slightly wounded.

We now learned that the Enemy had Possession of the Hill, where Captain Lloyd proposed to attack them, a Measure I should gladly have adopted; but the Day beginning to break, we had the Mortification to see them appear in such Numbers as left no Room to suppose there was any Probability of Success, our Force being reduced, by Killed, Wounded, and Prisoners, to about Twenty-five Soldiers, Captain Lloyd, Lieutenant Christy, and myself.

At this Time the Enemy's Vessels were standing closer in, apparently to land a Reinforcement; and the Inhabitants, seeing French Colours on the Hill, came to me, asking Leave to treat.

Under these Circumstances, and exposed to the Enemy's Fire on all Sides, further Resistance appeared vain; I therefore felt it my Duty to comply with the Request of the Inhabitants, and sent an Officer with them, proposing Terms of Capitulation for the Garrison.

The Officer who commanded the Storming Party having been killed, the annexed Terms were verbally agreed to with the Senior who survived, to be communicated to the Commandant of the Squadron; until his Answer should be received firing ceased, and we continued to occupy the Battery.

The Terms of Capitulation being confirmed by the Commandant Mahé, the Soldiers grounded their Arms, and the Place was surrendered.

We were informed that the Enemy's Force consisted of Four Schooners, which had been fitted out at Cayenne, and supplied with Soldiers for the Purpose of attacking Goree; that they had touched at Senegal, where they had been furnished with additional Boats, Pilots, a Reinforcement of Soldiers, and another, Schooner and where they had been joined by the Ship, which happening to call at Senegal was put in Requisition for this Expedition: The Squadron altogether carried upwards of Sixty Guns, and Six Hundred Men, about Two Hundred and Forty of whom had been landed; the Whole under the Command of Monsieur Mahé, Lieutenant de Vaisseau, the Commodore's Pendant having been hoisted only while coming in, by the Captain of the Ship, who had held that Rank in their Navy during the late War.

On the Evening of the Action we had Fifty-four white Men, including Officers, and although the Serjeant-Major was the only one who was not able to come upon the Batteries, when it is considered, that several of the Men, worn out by Disease, and disabled by Accidents, were incapable of making any great Exertion, that uncertain where an Attack might be made in the Night, it was necessary to divide our Force very much to occupy the different Posts, I hope and trust it will appear to our King and to our Country, that the Garrison I had the Honor to command, did not submit without discharging its Duty like British Soldiers.

Our Loss consists of 1 Drummer, 8 Rank and File, killed; 2 Officers, 8 Rank and File, wounded.—Total 19.

Of the Enemy, according to the most correct Accounts I can procure, 3 Officers and 40 Men, killed, or since dead; 2 Officers and upwards of 30 Men, wounded.—Total 75.