

Party selected for that Service, the Ships were got under weigh, and stood across the Bay, with the apparent Intention of working out to Sea; but by keeping the Sails lifting and other Manœuvres we contrived to drift in towards the Spot fixed upon for a Landing, at the same Time keeping the Boats on the opposite Side of the Ship, so as not to be perceived by the Enemy.

Upon a nearer Approach the preparative Signal was made to bear up and sail large, the Ships bore up together with a fine Breeze, and passing within Cable's Length of the Landing-Place, slipped all the Boats at the same Moment per Signal. The Troops, Seamen and Marines, were instantly landed, and formed agreeably to the Directions issued by Captain Court, to whose Report of their further Proceedings I beg Leave to refer your Excellency.

The Ships immediately commenced an Attack upon the Fort and surrounding Batteries, which was continued without Intermision for Two Hours and a Half, by which Time, having drifted very close in, exposed to an extreme heavy Fire, particularly from the Heights on the Left of the Town, with red hot Shot, and the Object of the Attack being accomplished by the unexampled Intrepidity of the Troops, Seamen and Marines, in storming, and gaining Possession of the Heights commanding Portuguese Bay, I took advantage of a Spirit of Wind off the Land, and ordered the Ships to anchor there.

During the Night Forty Men were landed from the Samarang, and Two Field Pieces from the Dover, under the Direction of Captain Spencer, who volunteered on this Occasion, and succeeded in getting the Guns up the Heights, over a very heavy and difficult Ground.

Daylight on the 17th shewed the very great Advantage obtained over the Enemy in the Attack of the preceding Day, as he had abandoned in the Night the Battery on the Beach, as well as the Water Battery, both of which being very low, had much annoyed the Shipping. Shortly after some Shells were thrown from the Fort at our Positions on the Heights, without doing any Injury, while the Shot from our Batteries in return, were seen to have considerable Effect.

This decided Superiority, and the Ships being ready to advance again, induced me after landing, and examining with Captain Court the Strength of our Positions, to send in a Summons, a Copy of which is annexed, and in consequence, Terms were submitted by the Commandant of Amboyna, for the Surrender of the Island, and after some Alteration the Articles of Capitulation accompanying were agreed to.

Accordingly at Nine o'Clock on the Morning of the Nineteenth, the Force originally landed under Captain Court, marched in and took Possession of Fort Victoria for His Majesty, (the Enemy having previously laid down their Arms on the Esplanade,) when the British Union was hoisted under a Royal Salute from the Fort and Shipping.

I beg leave to congratulate your Excellency on the Acquisition of this important Colony, defended by One Hundred and Thirty Europeans, and upwards of One Thousand Javanese and Madurese Troops, exclusive of the Officers and Crews of Three Vessels sunk in the Inner Harbour, many of which are Europeans, amounting to Two Hundred and Twenty Men, aided by the Dutch Inhabitants and

Burghers, who were stationed in the Batteries on this very formidable Line of Defence, as will appear by the Return made thereon.

I trust it will appear, that the characteristic Coolness and Bravery of the British Soldiers and Seamen, have seldom shone forth with greater Lustre than on this Occasion, in the intrepid Conduct displayed by the Handful of brave Men, which I have had the Honour and good Fortune to command.

It now remains for me to perform that pleasing but difficult Part of my Duty, the Endeavour to do Justice to the Merits of the Officers and Men employed on this Service.

By Captain Court's Report (to whose Judgment, and the very able Disposition of the Force under his Orders, is to be attributed, in a great Measure, the early Surrender of the Island,) your Excellency will perceive the high Terms that distinguish every Individual, and in which Encomiums, so justly bestowed, I most heartily concur.

I must not omit to mention the very essential Assistance rendered the Expedition by that able Officer Captain Phillips, from his local Knowledge, and being complete Master of the Malay Language; for his Readiness in rendering that Assistance on all Occasions, I feel myself much indebted to him.

To Captains Montagu and Spencer, their Officers and Crews, the greatest Praise is due, for the able Support afforded by them in the Attack on the Fort and Batteries, where a difficult Navigation, with baffling Winds and strong Currents, required the greatest Judgment in the Management of the Ships.

Captain Montagu speaks highly of the Assistance he received from Lieutenant Peachy (First Lieutenant), Mr. Garland Master, and Mr. Scott the Purser, the only Officers left on board the Cornwallis.

Captain Spencer also mentions, in the most handsome Manner, the Aid he received from his First Lieutenant Mr. Dabine; and I beg to recommend to your Excellency's Notice Lieutenant Inledon, First of the Dover; from whom I have received the greatest Support throughout the whole of this Service, particularly so on the Day of Action, when the other Lieutenants were absent from the Ship. The Conduct of Mr. Morgan, the Master, also meets my Approbation.

It fell to the Lot of Mr. Palmer the Purser (who volunteered on this Occasion,) to command the Main Deck, in consequence of the Absence of the other Officers; to him I am particularly indebted for his Aid on this Occasion, as well as on many others, whenever he thought his Services might be useful.

The Warrant and Petty Officers, and that Part of the Ship's Company remaining on board, are entitled to my warmest Commendation, for a Conduct every Way worthy the established Character of British Seamen. I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD TUCKER.

W. O'Brien Drury, Rear-Admiral of the Red,
&c. &c. &c. East Indies.

To Captain Edward Tucker, commanding His Britannic Majesty's Ships, and the Forces employed on the Expedition to the Eastward.

SIR,

I HAVE the Honour to report to you by this,