

and other armed Vessels, on the 27th Ultimo; which was defeated in the most gallant Manner by Governor Maurice and the brave Garrison under his Orders, with the Loss to the Enemy of their Commander and Three other Officers Killed, and Sixteen Officers and upwards of Five Hundred Rank and File taken Prisoners.

I cannot too strongly express to their Lordships my high Admiration of the very gallant Conduct of Governor Maurice, and Major Torrens senior Officer of the Royal Marines, and the other Officers and Men composing the brave Garrison, and my Satisfaction that this brilliant Service has been performed with so little Loss on our Part.

I have also great Pleasure in transmitting a Letter from Captain Baker of the Tartar, giving an Account of the Operations of that Ship and His Majesty's Sloop Sheldrake in support of Captain Maurice, and in pursuit of the retreating Flotilla of the Enemy. Their Lordships will, I doubt not, also appreciate the good Conduct of Captain Stewart in attacking and defeating so superior a Force as that opposed to him, each of the Gun-Boats carrying heavy Metal and being manned with Sixty or Seventy Men.

Lieutenant Baker, who has brought the Dispatches, bore, as their Lordships will observe, a distinguished Part in this gallant Affair, and is strongly recommended to their favourable Attention.

I have, &c.

JAMES SAUMAREZ.

*Fort Yorke, Island of Anholt,
27th March 1811.*

SIR,

I REPORTED to you in my Letter of the 20th Ultimo my having received Information of an intended Attack on this Island by the Danes. On the 8th Instant I received Corroboration of this Intelligence, but as every Exertion had been made to complete the Works as well as our Materials would allow, and as Piquets were nightly stationed from one extreme of the Island to the other, in order to prevent Surprise, I awaited with Confidence the meditated attack.

Yesterday His Majesty's Ship Tartar anchored on the North Side of the Island. The Enemy's Flotilla and Army, consisting in all of nearly Four Thousand Men, have this Day, after a close Combat of Four Hours and a Half, received a most complete and decisive Defeat, and are fled back to their Ports, with the Loss of Three Pieces of Cannon and upwards of Five Hundred Prisoners; a Number greater by One Hundred and Fifty Men than the Garrison I command.

I am now to detail the Proceedings of the Day. In the Morning, just before Dawn, the Out-piquets on the South Side of the Island made the Signal for the Enemy's being in Sight. The Garrison was immediately put under Arms, and I lost not a Moment in proceeding with the Brigade of Howitzers, and Two Hundred Infantry, accompanied by Captain Torrens (who had hitherto acted as Major Commandant to the Battalion), in order to oppose their Landing. On ascending an Elevation, for the Purpose of reconnoitring, I discovered the Landing had already been effected, under the Cover of Darkness and a Fog, and that the Enemy were advancing rapidly and in great Numbers.

On both Wings the Enemy now far outflanked us, and I saw that if we continued to advance, they would get between us and our Works; I instantly ordered a Retreat, which was effected in good Order, and without Loss, although the Enemy were within Pistol-Shot of our Rear, and seemed determined to enter our Batteries by Storm: but Fort Yorke and Massareene Batteries opened such a well-directed Fire of Grape and Musketry, that the Assaultants were obliged to fall back and shelter themselves under the Sand Hills. As the Day lightened, we perceived that the Enemy's Flotilla, consisting of Eighteen Gun-Boats, had taken up a Position on the South Side of the Island at Point-Blank Shot. I ordered the Signal to be made to the Tartar and Sheldrake, that the Enemy had landed, upon which these Vessels immediately weighed, and under a heavy Press of Sail used every Endeavour to beat up the South Side, but the Extent of Shoals threw them out so many Miles, that it was some Hours before their Intention could be accomplished. The Gun-Boats now opened a very heavy Fire on our Works, while a Column of about Six Hundred Men crossed the Island to the Westward and took up a Position on the Northern Shore, covered by Hillocks of Sand, by Breaks and Inequality of Ground. Another Column made many Attempts to carry the Massareene Battery by Storm, but were as often repulsed, and compelled to cover themselves under Hillocks of Sand, which on this Island are thrown up by every Gale.

The Column on the South Side had now succeeded in bringing up a Field Piece against us, and Captain Holtoway, who had commanded at the advanced Post, joined us by Water. I had been under great Apprehensions that this Officer had fallen into the Hands of the Enemy; but finding, after several gallant Attempts, that he was cut off from reaching Head Quarters by Land, he, with the coolest Judgment, launched a Boat, and landed his Party under Fort Yorke amidst the Acclamations of the Garrison. Immediately afterwards Lieutenant H. L. Baker, who, with Lieutenant Turnbull, of the Royal Marines, and some brave Volunteers, had, in the Anholt Schooner, gone on the daring Enterprise of destroying the Enemy's Flotilla in his Ports, bore down along the North Side of the Island. Things were in this Position when the Column on the Northern Shore, which, divided by the Sand Hills, had approached within Fifty Paces of our Lines, made another desperate Effort to carry the Massareene Battery by Storm; the Column to the South-East also pushed on, and the Reserve appeared on the Hills ready to support them; but while the Commanding Officer was leading on his Men with great Gallantry, a Musket Ball put a Period to his Life. Panic struck by the Loss of their Chief, the Enemy again fell back, and sheltered themselves behind the Sand Hills. At this critical Moment Lieutenant Baker, with great Skill and Gallantry, anchored his Vessel on their Flank, and opened a well-directed Fire. The Sand Hills being no longer a Protection, and finding it impossible either to advance or retreat, the Assaultants hung out a flag of Truce, and offered to surrender upon Terms; but I would listen to nothing but an unconditional Surrender, which after some Deliberation was complied with.

In the mean Time the Gun Boats on the South