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Admiralty Office, July 2, 1811.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Drury, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the East Indies, to John Wilson Croker Esq; dated on board the Samarang, in Madras Roads, January 1, 1811.

SIR,

YOU will please to acquaint the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I have received Letters from Captain Byng, whilst cruising, pursuant to their Orders, in the Straits of Sunda, for the outward-bound China Fleet, detailing the gallant Proceedings of the Boats of the *Belliqueux* and *Sir Francis Drake*, under the Orders of Lieutenant *Joseph Prior*, First Lieutenant of the *Belliqueux*, whose most judicious and highly spirited Conduct in an Attack on a French Ketch and several of the Enemy's Gun-boats in the Bay of Bantam, is spoken of by Captain *Harris*, of the *Sir Francis Drake*, with uncommon Warmth, as well as of the brave Conduct of acting Lieutenants *Bradley*, *Dawson*, and *Addis*, and the Seamen and others employed on this Occasion, as well as a *Mr. Pierre*, Midshipman of the *Belliqueux*, who has served his Time.

On this Enterprize Lieutenant *Joseph Prior* destroyed the French Ketch with Dispatches for General *Daendels*, and Two Gun-Boats, under a heavy Fire from the Batteries of Bantam, being so fortunate as only to have one Man killed, *John Holway*, Seaman of the *Sir Francis Drake*.

I have the Honour to be, &c.
W. O'B. DRURY.

Admiralty-Office, July 2, 1811.

Extract of another Letter from Vice-Admiral Drury, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the East Indies, to John Wilson Croker Esq; dated on board the Samarang, in Madras Roads, January 3, 1811.

YOU will be pleased to lay before the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the inclosed Copy of a Letter I have received from Captain *Christopher Cole*, of His Majesty's Ship *Caroline*, detailing his successful Enterprize against the strong, and generally supposed im-

pregnable Fortrels of the valuable Island of Banda, the principal of the Spice Islands in the Molucca Seas, with a Handful of Men, led on to the Storm of the Place by Captain *Cole*, Lieutenant *Richard Kenah*, acting Commander, of the *Barracouta*.

Captain *Cole's* plain and modest Narrative marks so strongly the intrinsic Merit of himself and his gallant Associates, that it would be almost Presumption were I to offer a Word of Commendation to Their Lordships, further than expressing my high Approbation of the judicious Conduct of Captain *Cole*, in his Provision with the very small Force he had for the Protection of this most important Position, as well for the Preservation of our Eastern Trade as for its immense Value. The *Caroline* was my Flag Ship, and going on another Service, but seeing the Necessity of sending immediate Relief to Captain *Tucker*, and my entire Confidence in the Ability of Captain *Cole*, determined me on sending him with the *Caroline* and *Piedmontaise*, as the only Certainty of reaching the *Moluccas* against a contrary Monsoon in any reasonable Time.

His Majesty's Ship Caroline, Banda Harbour, August 10, 1810.

SIR,

I HAVE the Honour and Happiness of acquainting you with the Capture of *Banda Neira*, the Chief of the Spice Islands, on the 9th August, by a Portion of the Force under my Orders, in consequence of a Night-Attack which completely surprized the Enemy, although the Approach of the Ships had been unavoidably discovered the Day before.

The Weather proved so unfavourable for Boat-Service on the Night of the 9th Instant, that although nearly Four hundred Officers and Men had been selected for this Occasion, yet, on assembling under *Great Banda*, at Two on the following Morning, I found that the State of the Weather would deprive us of the Services of some valuable Men under Lieutenant *Stephens* of the *Royal Marines*, and the greater Part of the Detachment of the *Madras European Regiment*, and from whom I had expected the most steady Support and Assistance.

The Attempt was now to be made with less than Two hundred Men, consisting of the *Seamen* and