

Marines and about Forty of the Madras European Regiment, or our Labours in the Boats through a dark and squally Night, in the open Sea, must end in the severest Mortification. After getting under Shelter of the Land, the same Circumstances of the Weather which before operated against us were now favourable to us, and the Confidence I had in the Handful of Officers and Men about me, left me no Hesitation; and with a degree of Silence and Firmness that will ever command my heartfelt Acknowledgements, the Boats proceeded to the Point of Debarkation.

A dark Cloud with Rain covered our landing within One Hundred Yards of a Battery of Ten Guns, where by the Promptitude and Activity of Acting Captain Kenah and Lieutenant Carew, who were ordered with the Pikemen to the Attack, the Battery was taken in the Rear, and an Officer and his Guard made Prisoners, without a Musquet being fired, although the Enemy were at their Guns with Matches lighted. From the near Approach of Daylight our Situation became critical, but we had procured a Native Guide to carry us to the Walls of the Castle of Belgica; and leaving a Guard over the Prisoners, and in Charge of the Battery, the Party made a rapid Movement round the Skirts of the Town, where the Sound of the Bugle was spreading Alarm among the Enemy. In Twenty Minutes the Scaling Ladders were placed against the Walls of the Outer Pentagon of Belgica; and the first Muskets were fired by the Enemy's Sentries. The Gallantry and Activity with which the Scaling Ladders were hauled up after the Outwork was carried, and placed for the Attack of the Inner Work, under a Sharp Fire from the Garrison, exceed all Praise. The Enemy, after firing Three Guns and keeping up an ineffectual Discharge of Artillery for Ten or Fifteen Minutes, fled in all Directions, and through the Gateway, leaving the Colonel Commandant and Ten others dead, and Two Officers and Thirty Prisoners in our Hands. Captain Kenah, Lieutenants Carew, Allen, Pratt, Walker, and Lyons of the Navy, Lieutenant Yeates and Ensign Allen (a Volunteer) of the Madras Service, were among the foremost in the Escalade; and my Thanks are due to Captain-Lieutenant Nixon, of the Madras European Regiment, for the steady and Officer-like Conduct with which he directed the Covering Party entrusted to his Charge, and to Lieutenants Brown and Deker of that Regiment, attached to the Marines.

With such Examples our brave Fellows swept the Ramparts like a Whirlwind; and in addition to the providential Circumstance of the Service being performed with scarcely a Hurt or Wound, I have the Satisfaction of reporting, that there was no Instance of Irregularity arising from Success.

The Day now beaming on the British Flag, discovered to us the Fort of Nassau, and the Sea Defences at our Feet, and the Enemy at their Guns, at the different Ports. I dispatched Captain Kenah with a Flag of Truce to the Governor, requiring the immediate Surrender of Nassau, and with a Promise of Protection for Private Property. At Sun-rise the Dutch Flag was hoisted in Nassau, and the Sea Batteries opened a Fire on the Caroline, (followed by the Piedmontaise and Batracouta,) then approaching the Harbour. Having selected a Detachment to secure Belgica, the Remainder,

with their Scaling Ladders, were ordered for the immediate Storm of Nassau; but Captain Kenah had returned with the verbal Submission of the Governor, and I was induced to send a second Flag, stating my Determination to storm Nassau that Instant, and to lay the Town in Ashes, if the Colours were not immediately struck. This Threat, and a well-placed Shot from Belgica (which completely commands all the principal Defences) into one of their Sea Batteries, produced an immediate and unqualified Submission, and we found ourselves in Possession of the Two-Forts, and several Batteries, mounting One Hundred and Twenty Pieces of Cannon, and defended by near Seven Hundred disciplined Troops, besides the Militia.

The Ships had been left with so few Men to manage them, that I had merely directed Captain Foote to lead into any Anchorage that he might be able to obtain, to make a Diversion in our Favour; but they were worked against all the unfavourable Circumstances of a dark and squally Night, in a narrow Channel, with the most determined Perseverance, and with that degree of Zeal that I expected from an Officer of my own Rank, whose Heart and Hand had always been with me on every Point of public Service.

Captain Kenah, who led the Storming Party, crowned a Series of valuable Services, during Two Months' difficult and intricate Navigation through the Eastern Seas, by his Bravery and Activity on Shore.

The Colours of Forts Nassau and Belgica will be presented to Your Excellency by Lieutenant John Gilmour, who has served Nine Years in this Country as a Lieutenant, and a large Portion of that Time as First Lieutenant under my Command. Although labouring under severe Illness, he took Charge of the Ship on my quitting her; and his Seamen like and zealous Conduct in the Discharge of his Trust were most conspicuous.

I also transmit a Plan of the Defences of Banda Neira, with the Position of the Dutch Troops, and our Route from the Landing Place to Belgica: the Enemy had advanced a strong Corps towards the Place where Admiral Rainier's Forces had formerly landed; and a Suspicion that this would be the Case, and that the Roads would be destroyed determined me as to the Point and Method of our Attack.

The Service performed was of such a peculiar Nature, that I could not do Justice to the Merits of my Companions without entering much into Detail and I feel confident that in Your Excellency's Disposition to appreciate duly the Merits of those under your Command, I shall find an Excuse for having taken up so much of your Time.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CHRISTOPHER COL  
To His Excellency William O'Brien Drury Esq.  
Rear Admiral of the Red, &c. &c.

Admiralty-Office, July 2, 1811.

Extract of another Letter from Vice-Admiral Drury  
Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and  
Sloops in the East Indies, to John Wilson Croker  
dated on board the Diomedé, in Madras Bay  
Jan. 28, 1811.

YOU will be pleased to lay before the R  
Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the A