

DORNINGSTREET, FEBRUARY 7.  
Extract of a Dispatch from Gov. the Hon. F. North, to the  
Rt. Hon. Lord Hobart, dated Colombo, 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1803.  
I enclose to you the deposition of a Person, stat-  
ing himself to be an eye witness of one of the most  
atrocious acts of perfidy and cruelty ever commit-  
ted. Every particular of the narration may not  
be true, but it appears that Candi was attacked in  
the midst of a truce, by the first Adigaar, on the  
23<sup>d</sup> (or I rather believe on the 24<sup>th</sup>) ult. that  
Major Davie commanded the Garrison there, capi-  
tulated on the following day, and that after he left  
the Fort all the English soldiers who accompanied  
him were treacherously murdered in cold blood.  
I cannot believe that Major Davie would have con-  
sented to evacuate, on any terms less favourable  
than those stated in the deposition; viz. of being al-  
lowed to proceed with arms and ammunition, and  
without molestation to Trincomalee, and that care  
should be taken of the sick whom he left behind;  
for the fort was rendered, in the opinion of most  
military men, tenable against any force that was  
likely to be brought against it, and large supplies  
of provisions had been sent thither, in addition to  
those which Lieut. Col. Barbut declared to be  
sufficient for 6 months' consumption two months  
ago. Lieut. Huskisson was also on the road from  
Trincomalee (as Major Davie must have known)  
with 100 Doolies, under an escort of 150 Malays;  
and when I heard of the breach of the truce, I or-  
dered Lieut. Col. Hunter to proceed from Trin-  
comalee with 200 of his Majesty's 19<sup>th</sup> regiment,  
and 50 Malays, to secure the evacuation which  
(had it been delayed for a fortnight) would have  
been safely effected.

But what I can still less account for, is, that  
Major Davie, having obtained such terms, should  
have consented to lay down his arms, when he  
must have felt that the person who insisted on such  
an infraction of agreement, could have no other  
design but that of murdering him and his men, and  
when he must, in common with all the army, have  
known that a corps of 40 Europeans in good health,  
and of 200 Malays, might cut their way through  
any army of Candians to any part of the Island.  
Indeed Captain Mudge, late commander of Fort  
Maddowall, brought off his men in circumstances  
of as great difficulty, and a small detachment of  
22 Invalid Malays, 14 convalescents of the 19<sup>th</sup>  
regiment from Candi, and 60 Seapoys under Lieut.  
Nixon, Ensign Grant, and Ensign Smellie, de-  
fended themselves in a miserable little Fort of Fal-  
ciues at Dembadenia, for more than a week, against  
an immense multitude collected by the second Adi-  
gaar, after they had expended all their ammunition,  
till they were relieved by 50 Europeans and as many  
Seapoys, whom I sent under the command of Capt.  
Blackall of the 51<sup>st</sup> to bring them down, in which  
he has succeeded without loss.

Under the oppression of so dreadful a misfortune,  
it is satisfactory for me to state, that an opinion  
formed of a spirit of defection in his Majesty's Malay  
regiment is perfectly unfounded. Some individuals  
of that corps had indeed deserted from Candi; but  
the great majority, including all officers of influence  
and respectability, were staunch to the end. Those  
who, after the English were separated from them,  
were forced into the Candian service, are certainly  
not blameable, and of those five have already escaped  
and arrived here, who say that all the others are  
ready to follow their example. The princes of  
that nation, who are settled at Columbo, waited on  
me, as soon as the melancholy intelligence arrived,  
to assure me of their regret and indignation at hear-  
ing that any Malays had deserted, and of their in-  
variable attachment to the British Government.

*Deposition of the Lascoryn arrived from Candi.*

Milhanage Joannes, of the reformed religion,  
being duly sworn, deposed, That the 6<sup>th</sup> of last  
month, he was sent, along with twelve other Las-  
coryne, by the Town-major to Candi; that he  
passed at Negumbo, where doolies were put under  
their charge, and that he arrived at Candi, after  
a route of about twelve days, and that the Las-  
coryns delivered up the doolies and other stores  
which were under their charge, to the English  
gentlemen. After remaining there three days,

they were ordered to return to Columbo with 12  
doolies, in eleven of which were six Europeans,  
and one which contained baggage. These doolies  
with 12 European soldiers, as an escort, passed  
the river, and stopped upon the opposite side; that  
the same day he heard firing at Candi; that a great  
many doolies, upon hearing the firing, attempted  
to pass the river, but were stopped by a Malay  
fentry. Several Candians approached the place  
where the doolies and the sick were, and fired upon  
them, which was returned by the Europeans and  
12 Malays who were posted there. They fired till  
their ammunition was expended, when the Malays  
jumped into the river, and the European officer  
who commanded the detachment, did the same.  
He does not know what became of all the Euro-  
pean soldiers, of whom he only saw three cross  
the river, and one killed by the Candians. That  
the Lascars who served the cannon at that post,  
threw the cannon into the river, and passed to  
Candi, and that he followed their example, and  
escaped to Candi; that he does not know what  
became of the sick who were in the doolies. He  
went first to the Mandore, where he had been be-  
fore, but finding many Candians there, he got into  
the Palace, and remained in the Court where the  
Malay soldiers were. The firing continued until  
two o'clock, when a white flag was hoisted from  
the Palace, and the firing ceased. That Major  
Davie, the Captain of Artillery, and an European  
Malay officer who spoke Malay, and two or three  
Malay native officers, went to the Adigaar, and  
returned soon afterwards with an Ola from the  
Adigaar, which he himself read, importing that  
the whole might proceed to Trincomalee without  
receiving any molestation, and that the sick should  
be taken care of and have medicine given to them  
until they were well, when they might either go  
to Columbo or stay at Candi. The garrison set out  
on Friday, with their arms and ammunition, at 5  
in the evening, to Alungantotte, where they re-  
mained all night, exposed to a very heavy rain, he  
the deponent being with them. On Saturday morn-  
ing Major Davie ordered a raft to be made to pass  
the river; several Candians came and demanded  
Mooto Sawmy, who, they said, was not at Candi.  
They seized upon him and carried him off. Mooto  
Sawmy gave his sword to Major Davie. The  
Candians told Major Davie that it was unnecessary  
to make rafts, as next day a number of doneys  
would be procured in which they might all pass.  
Next day however, Sunday, no doneys came, and  
it was proposed to send some person across the  
river to fasten a cord, by which they might pass;  
that he, the deponent, swam across the river, and  
fastened a cord to the other side, after which he re-  
turned, but while he was doing so, a Candian cut  
the cord. Soon afterwards there came an order  
from the Adigaar to Major Davie, to make his  
men lay down their arms, and return to Candi,  
which, after some time they did; that between  
Candi and Allungantotte, there is a village called  
Gevantotte, where two cannon were placed, and  
where the Malays were ordered to separate from  
the rest, and proceed to Candi, which they all  
did, except four native officers, who remained with  
Major Davie. Soon afterwards all the prisoners  
were taken, two by two, and delivered over to  
Candians, who took them to a little distance and  
cut their heads off; that they were likewise going  
to kill the women, but this was put a stop to by or-  
der of the Adigaar. Major Davie, and the Captain  
of Artillery, with the four Malay Officers who had  
not followed their countrymen, were carried off,  
as he supposes, to the Adigaar. The Seapoys and  
Bengal Lascars were not put to death. A Malay  
servant of Capt. Nouradin, whom he saw, told  
him that the two English Officers and the four Ma-  
lays were with the Adigaar. Upon Monday he  
saw the two English Officers, and was told they  
were to be carried to Hargaroonekerti, where the  
King was. In the evening of that day the Adigaar  
collected all the effects which the English had left,  
and ordered the cannon to be fired without ball, as  
a mark of rejoicing. That having heard after-  
wards that the Doolies, Lascoryns, &c. might re-  
turn, he set out on Friday night, and came to Co-  
lumbio yesterday evening, the 5<sup>th</sup> of July. Taken  
down by me from the interpretation of Mr. Jou-  
ville and the Manamodliar. R. ARBUTHNOT.

Chief Secretary to Government.

(A true copy) RICHARD PLASKET,

First Assis. to the Chief Secretary to Government.  
Columbo, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1803.