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**A Voyage To New Guinea, And The Moluccas, From  
Balambangan: Including An Account of Magindano,  
Sooloo, and other Islands; And Illustrated With Thirty  
Copperplates, Performed In The Tartar Galley, ...**

**Forrest, Thomas**

**London, 1779**

Chapter VI. The Batchian Officers refuse to proceed to New Guinea -  
Sailed without them, but immediately put back - Conversation with Tuan  
Hadjee on the Subject; who agrees to go to the Islands off ...

**urn:nbn:de:gbv:45:1-1505**

## CHAPTER VI.

*The Batchian Officers refuse to proceed to New Guinea—Sailed without them, but immediately put back—Conversation with Tuan Hadjee on the Subject; who agrees to go to the Islands off the Coast of New Guinea, but not to the Main Land—Account of the West Coast of Waygiou, and of the Straits of Batang Pally—Sailed for the Islands of Yowl—Passed Ruib and Pulo Een—Arrived at Offak Harbour, on the North Coast of Waygiou.*

1775  
January.

BEING all ready for sea, in the evening of the 6th of *January*, Tuan Affahan came on board, and asked me whither I was going; I told him, to Tanna Papua, and thence to Balambangan. He said, very seriously, as that was the case, he could not go with me. I told him, he might do as he pleased; but that he should not have promised to go. We then parted.

*Saturday* the 7th. In the morning I fired a gun as a signal for sailing. When I had got under way, the other corocoro being left at anchor, the Banguay approached, and one Mapalla, (son to a head man of Ceram) who belonged to her, cried out, that if the Batchian officers did not go with me, he would not. This man had been spared to me by those officers, and was upon wages. By way of answer to what he said, I asked, where his commander Tuan Hadjee was, as I did

did not see him? Mapalla answered, he was sick. On this I said no more, but immediately suspected him of being the secret cause of what had happened, as also of the defection of the Batchian officers related yesterday. I therefore instantly put about, being only half a mile from our former berth, and anchored close to the Borneo corocoro, on board of which the two Batchian officers had remained.

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When we had got to an anchor, Tuan Hadjee came on board and breakfasted with me. Whilst at breakfast, I slightly mentioned the Batchian officers having failed in their promise; but I was very cautious of touching upon what had happened that morning, waving whatever might be imputed to him, and rather laying it on the Batchian officers, to whom, I said, we were certainly obliged, for so far assisting us in repairing our vessel; but, as for going with us to New Guinea, it was what I had no right to expect. The contents of the Sultan of Batchian's letter to him, he always told me, were, that his officers and corocoro should accompany me whithersoever I went, and that he (Tuan Hadjee) was to enforce these orders. But, replied he, what can I do, if they will not obey? Soon after he sent a boat alongside, as if to put on board his baggage; but his servant carried her back towards the shore; where afterwards seeing that servant, I bid him ask his master, if he intended to put his baggage on board; to which the man gave me no answer.

I really expected, from the reluctance Tuan Hadjee and the Batchian officers had lately shewn of proceeding to New Guinea, that matters would turn out as they did: I was therefore on my guard, and that afternoon had a long conversation with Tuan Hadjee about our voyage,  
in



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in order to sound him. The seeming indifference which I put on at what had happened, led him, I believe, to imagine he might have every thing his own way; and, on his hinting that we had come a great distance, and, were we to return, it might not be amiss; at the same time, politely acknowledging, that I was commander, &c. I said, that I dropt all thoughts of going to Tanna Papua, but begged of him to accompany me to some of the islands that lie to the N. E. of Waygiou, near which we were, and about which he had talked so much at Balambangan; in order that we might have at least something to say on our return. This pleased him, and he consented with a good grace. But before I proceed, it may not be improper to say something of the islands on the west side of Waygiou.

On the west side of Waygiou \* is a pretty deep bay, before which lie many small low islands called Ranfawar, Efnowan, Binsi, Gopi, Kubbon, Waftib, Wafwa, Wafagy, Tapopo, and Piapis. These are low flat, and covered with trees to the water's edge, as most Malay islands are, Ranfawar and Piapis excepted. The largest of them may not be above a mile and a half, some only half a mile round. I have already said Tomoguy has a hill about a hundred and fifty feet high. On an island three miles E. N. E. of Tomoguy, called Ranfawar, already mentioned, is a hill rather higher. These islands keeping off the westward swell, must make smooth water within them, on the coast of Waygiou, where I am told are some harbours; but I did not visit them, nor quit the island Tomoguy, whilst repairing there, above half an hour at a time, and that only twice. Therefore I can give no account of these harbours, and have laid down in the chart, only the

\* Plate VII.

bearings



bearings of the islands, from Tomoguy hill, with their computed distances.

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Tomoguy lies near the two islands of Batang Pally, which are of middling height, and about eighteen miles in compass, reckoning round them both. They form the strait, in which is the harbour of Manafuin, where we lay. The strait may be called one continued harbour, four miles long, with mud soundings throughout. Here are some spots of coral rocks; but they give fair warning, showing themselves by their bright colour at high water, and at low water being dry.

On the northern extremity of the westernmost Batang Pally, is a flat table-land. Near the other Batang Pally lies the small flat island of Waglol;\* between which and the larger island is a safe and short passage, with good soundings. At Waglol, lives a Synagee, who honoured me with a visit, while the vessel was repairing at Tomoguy, and begged a present like the rest. One half of his coat and long drawers was clouded red, white, and yellow; the other half blue, white, and green clouded also, not unlike the whimsical dresses of masquerades; his turban, made of coarse white calico, was pinked. The Mahometan inhabitants of the Molucca islands, are much given to cloud the Indostan calicoes with many colours. Several Molucca men having touched at Tomoguy, I observed, not only their turbans, but even their coats, clouded and pinked in this manner.

I was told that, east of Gilolo, were no horses, no horned cattle or sheep; I saw only a very few goats at Tomoguy. On the adjacent

\* Plate VII.

L

islands



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islands are many wild hogs, of which the Papua people who sold me sago, brought me at times, some pieces dry roasted at a slow fire. On these also are some deer. At Tomoguy I bought three of the large crowned pigeons, very well represented by Dampier. The Molucca people call them Mulusu, and the Papuas Manipi. My pigeons grew tame, and eat Indian corn, called Jaggon. They strike hard with their wings, on which is a kind of horn. One of the three escaped at Dory harbour, the other two I carried to Mindano, where they died. Some Papua people brought me land crabs, shaped like lobsters; their claws exactly the same, but much stronger; and their bodies not so large; they are called Oodang. I was told they climb trees, and eat the fruit.

Whilst I lay at Tomoguy, Captain Mareca was breaking sugar canes, by putting them in a press, and driving wedges. The juice thus extracted is boiled into a syrup for use. I filled a liquor case with the juice, which in a little time became good vinegar. The Mahometans here, live mostly upon fish and sago bread. Sometimes they mix a coco nut rasped down, with the sago flour; and, putting this into a thin Chinese iron pan, they keep stirring the mixture on the fire, and eat it warm. I have also seen, not only the Mahometans, but Papua men, eat the ordinary white swallo (Biche de Mer) which is found almost every where in the sand at low water. They eat it raw, cut up small, and mixed with salt and lime juice.

I saw here a peculiar way of drawing blood; they put the rough side of a certain leaf, about as large as a man's hand, on that part whence they want to extract blood; then, with the tongue, they lick the

the upper side of the leaf, and the under side is presently all over  
 bloody.

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Here grows a particular kind of green fruit, which they eat with  
 the aiska nut, as they do the betel leaf in Indostan: it is as long as  
 the hollow part of a quill, and almost as small: they call it, as  
 the Malays call the betel leaf, Ciry. This fruit is very good in  
 a curry or stew, having a fine aromatic flavour. Tomoguy lies in  
 latitude  $00^{\circ} 20' S.$  and longitude  $127^{\circ} 10' E.$  But to return to our  
 voyage.

After I had, as before related, agreed with Tuan Hadjee, that I  
 would not proceed to New Guinea, and that, after visiting the islands  
 of Aiou and Fan, (which I understood lay to the N. E. of Waygiou,  
 the former in sight of it) I would return to Balambangan, the two  
 Batchian officers came very frankly to sup with me, and said they  
 would go very willingly to the islands that lie off New Guinea, but  
 not to the main land. I told them I did not mean to go to the conti-  
 nent; on which we parted, they promising to have every thing ready  
 to sail in the morning.

*Saturday* the 8th. At break of day, fired a gun, as a signal for sail-  
 ing; got under way, and rowed through the strait between Batang  
 Pally and Waglol, where we found good foundings. This strait is  
 about half a mile broad at the narrowest part. We had light and vari-  
 able winds from the south and south east, steering north east, along the  
 north west part of Waygiou. About noon came on board a canoe  
 with six people, who had long hair, were dressed like Malays,

L 2

and



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and all spoke the Malay tongue. They belonged to a Dutch Chinese sloop, then in harbour, at a place called Ilkalio; where is a deep strait (I was told) that divides the island of Waygiou: the houses of Ilkalio being visible with a glass. They conversed much with Captain Mareca; and at going away left him some Cocoya mats, as a present. I suspected they were very curious and inquisitive with him, though they asked me no questions. I showed them, however, all manner of civility: but, to intimate that I was not alone, the Banguay corocoro, in which Tuan Hadjee was, being then about a league to windward, I made a signal to speak with her; which she instantly observed, by bearing down. Tuan Hadjee had then some little conversation with the people in the canoe.

We left to the northward the island Ruib,\* which consists of one high hill, not peaked, and is higher than the cock's comb of Gibby Monpine. The distance of Ruib from Waygiou, may be about six leagues. Ten small islands, five pretty high, and five shaped like buttons, lie in the straits: I left them to the northward. In passing those straits, between Waygiou and Ruib, I could get no soundings. We saw also an island, with a table land upon it, bearing about N. N. E. it is called Pulo Een, or Fish Island; and lies to the eastward of Ruib. Every island in those straits seemed to be steep. I kept some times within half a league of the island Waygiou, and found strong tides, with a great swell: the coast of Waygiou appeared likewise to be bold. Ruib lies in latitude  $00^{\circ} 15' N.$  longitude  $127^{\circ} 10' E.$  In the different views I have given of Ruib and Pulo Een,† they cannot but be known. At sunset, the extreme part of the coast of Waygiou bore E. by S.

\* Plate VIII. N<sup>o</sup> 1, 3, 4, 5, 6.

† Plate IX. N<sup>o</sup> 2.

On



On *Monday* the 9th, had but little wind all night; the current set us to the eastward. In the morning Ruib bore west half south, seven leagues: found we had passed, in the night, several islands shaped like buttons, near the coast of Waygiou.

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In the morning we saw an island of middling height, flat atop; or rather like the flat of a plate turned bottom up.\* It bore east by north, half north. We also saw a remarkable peak, like a buffalo's horn, upon the island Waygiou, about a league in land.

In the evening we had the mouth of a good looking harbour open: it is called Offak.† The peak or horn above mentioned, then bore S. S. E. The wind immediately came round to the eastward, and it looked very gloomy to the northward; which, however, came to nothing.

On *Tuesday* the 10th, lay to most part of the night; fired a gun, and showed several lights for the corocoros. In the morning, saw them both to the westward; stood on to the eastward, all three in company, until P. M. The wind coming then from the east and north east, we bore away for the harbour Offak, and got into it by five o'clock; about sunset had a great deal of rain. I am of opinion there is much rain on this island; for the hills are not exceeding high, but are above what may be called middling height; and the clouds, as they pass, often break, and dissolve into rain.

*Wednesday* the 11th. Employed in fitting our commodies, which did not move well; also compleated our water. We sent our boat to

Manouaran, Plate IX. N° 1.

† Ibid. N° 1, 3, 4.

fish



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fish at the mouth of the harbour. She soon returned with nine Bonettas. The people seemed all very well contented. Among the Batchian people, were four persons, whom I called Manteries, by way of civility and distinction: they belonged to certain head men on the island Ceram, who really had the title of Mantery; and Ceram was under Batchian. I thought proper to keep those persons in good humour, as well as Tuan Bobo and Tuan Assahan; therefore, I promised each of them a coat of Europe broad cloth.

In the evening we had the mouth of a good looking harbour open: it is called Olik. The peak or horn above mentioned, then bore S. S. E. The wind immediately came round to the eastward, and it looked very gloomy to the northward; which, however, came to nothing.

On Friday the 10th, lay to most part of the night, and a gun, and showed several lights for the corcoror. In the morning, lay to until P. M. The wind coming then from the east and north east, we put away for the harbour Olik, and got into it by five o'clock, about sunset had a great deal of rain. I am of opinion there is much rain of this kind, for the hills are not exceeding high, but are above water may be called middling height, and the clouds, as they pass, often break, and dissolve into rain.

CHAPTER

Employed in fixing our commodities, which did not move well, also completed our water.

Mansour, plus IX. N. 1. 1775. 1. 3. 4. 1775.

