

Landesbibliothek Oldenburg

Digitalisierung von Drucken

**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 VIII. Arrival of the Banguay Corocoro - Fate of the Borneo -
Arrival of a Corocoro from Tidore - Molucca Method of fishing - Arrival of a
Boat from an Island called Myfory - Harbour of ...

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

C H A P T E R VIII.

Arrival of the Banguey Corocoro—Fate of the Borneo—Arrival of a Corocoro from Tidore—Molucca Method of fishing—Arrival of a Boat from an Island called Myfory—Harbour of Mansingham—Apprehensions of the Inhabitants of Offy Village—Farther Account of the Papuas—Strictness of the Dutch—Search for the Nutmeg Tree, to no Purpose; find it at last, on the Island of Manaswary—Account of the Haroforas—Give up to the People of Dory the Debt they have contracted—Account of Dory—Account of the Coast of New Guinea, East of Dory Harbour, and of the Islands near the Coast—Also of the Places on the Coast, West of Dory Harbour.

WE had hitherto been very uneasy about the two corocoros, with which we parted company the twenty-fourth; but, just after sunset, news was brought, to our very great joy, that one of them had arrived. Tuan Hadjee immediately set off, in our boat; and returned with the Banguey, at seven in the evening. They informed us, that the Borneo had foundered in the bad weather, the next day after she parted with us; but, that the Banguey, by keeping near her, had saved the people, who were twelve: they lost, however, all their cloaths, and a basket of cloves belonging to the Sultan of Batchian.

1775.
January.



1775.
January.

The Banguay corocoro had then twenty-five people: they hove overboard a cask of water, and many cakes of sago. By what I could learn, the Borneo carried too much sail, just before she foundered; and took in a sea forward, which water-logged her. The Serang being sick, I, at his request, sent him ashore, to the house of a Papua man, who, for some Surat blue cloth, took great care of him. A boy brought me for sale, a small brown pig, which made me expect to find a breed of hogs; but I was disappointed, this being a very young pig caught in the woods, and so tamed, that it eat sago flour.

Saturday the 29th. Had still north west winds, with some rain; shifted our berth from the lower Papua tenement to the upper, and moored in two fathom sand, with a rope to the post of the tenement. Presented to each of the Batchian Manteries, as well as the two officers, a scarlet coat, and gave each private man a frock and long drawers of chintz. I enquired much about nutmegs among the Papua people: one man said, he would fetch some nutmegs from Mandamy, a place to the eastward. I made him a small present; but saw no more of him.

Monday the 30th. Fair weather, with winds at north west; got out our sago bread to dry; sounded part of the harbour. The Jerry Bassa (linguist) of Mansingham came on board, and was very talkative with Mapia, the linguist I had purchased at Yowl. The name of the former was Mambeway; and he spoke a little broken Malay.

Tuesday

Tuesday the 31st. Variable winds at three P. M. We saw a large corocoro coming in, with Dutch colours flying. This put us on our guard; I found she came from Tidore: I then mustered fifty people, mostly armed with bows and arrows.

On *Wednesday* the 1st of *February*. The Noquedah (commander) of the Tidore corocoro, made me a visit. I treated him civilly, and presented him with a pocket compass and a palampore or counterpane.

1775.
February.

Thursday the 2d. Moderate weather: went a fishing in company with the Tidore Noquedah. We tied coco nut leaves to a stone, about a pound weight, then hooked to it the false flying fish. This being let down fourteen, fifteen, or more fathoms, in deep water, the line is suddenly pulled up with a jerk, to sever it from the leaf. The stone goes to the bottom, while the false flying fish, rising quickly to the top, is snapped at by albecores, bonettas, &c. However, we caught nothing. A boat, with outriggers, came pretty near us to day. Of the four men in her, two had, each about his neck, a ratan collar, to which, hung backwards, by the top, a log of wood, shaped like a sugar loaf, and of about five or six pound weight. They were slaves, offered to me for sale. I might have had them very cheap; but, being crouded, I did not choose to purchase them. If I had, Tuan Hadjee and others would have expected the same indulgence. These objects of traffic had the gristle between the nostrils pierced with a bit of tortoiseshell, and were natives of New Guinea, a good way farther east.

Friday



1775.
February.

Friday the 3d. South from Dory, is another harbour, called Man-
fingham; willing to visit it, went to day in our boat; the Tidore No-
quedah went with us. I found it a very good harbour, but the entrance
rather narrow; and altogether, it is not of so bold and safe access as
Dory harbour. Returning, we put ashore, at a village called Offy,
on a small fresh water river, about five miles from where the galley
lay. The houses were built as Malay houses generally are: the great
Papua tenements, already described, being erected only on the strand,
where is no river. I observed the people of this village were shy of
us, most of them running away. When we had breakfasted, we em-
barked.

In the night a Papua corocoro came near us, and alarmed the large
Papua tenement opposite which we lay: the strangers being in search of
their wives and children, who had taken to the woods, from the village of
Offy, when we were there, and after we had left it, afraid, not
only of us, but of the Tidore people. In the boat were about twenty
persons. Tuan Hadjee wanted me to fire upon them, which I would
by no means do: in the morning the mistake was cleared up, and they
went away satisfied. I believe the Papuas did not like the Tidore men,
who, I often observed, make free with the coco nuts from the trees.
To day we shifted our berth from a rocky spot, on which we had driven,
to a spot of clear sand.

On *Saturday* the 4th, variable winds, and fair weather; at noon the
Tidore corocoro sailed. The commander said he was going farther
east, to the islands of Sao and Saba to trade. This being the first day
that

that the Papua people saw the new moon, they sang, and played on a fort of drum, the best part of the night.

1775.
February.

Sunday the 5th, winds at N. W. with fair weather; to day a swell from the sea, having brought our grapnel home, we carried it out again. Several Papua people ashore, offered to go amongst the Haraforas in order to purchase provisions; but wanted goods to be advanced for that purpose. I therefore advanced them ten pieces of Surat blue cloth, and one bar of iron.

Monday the 6th, fine weather, no swell, the winds mostly from the N. W. From Mansingham came a boat with fifteen Papua men, some of them jabbered a little Malay. Issued twenty pieces more, blue Surat bastas for provisions.

On *Tuesday* the 7th, fine weather: built a shed house ashore, and railed it in. Sowed a quantity of mustard seed.

Near to where we built our shed house, was an old tree, of which, lest it should fall, I thought proper to cut the roots; and fixed a rope to it, to pull it down. In falling, it took a direction quite opposite to the one intended, and smashed the skeleton of the house. Tuan Hadjee, unlike a Fatalist or Predestinarian, which Mahometans generally are, said it was ominous, and desired me not to build there; but I persisted.

To day I saw many of the Papua men set off in their canoes to fetch provision, as I was told. Part were those, to whom I had advanced

cloth:



1775.
February.

cloth: they left their wives and children, under the care of some of the old men. In each boat was generally a small fox looking dog.

Wednesday the 8th, fair weather, and southerly winds. Arrived to day, a corocoro from the island Myfory; with a person who said he came from the Rajah of Munsury, a portion of that island. It seems he had heard of a strange vessel's being at Dory. The corocoro went back in the evening, after promise to return. I presented the master with one piece of bastas for himself, and a bar of iron for the Rajah. Tuan Hadjee had informed me of the island Myfory's abounding with kalavanfas, (beans) but having no rice; also of its being populous; which was now confirmed by the master of this boat. They told me it lay towards the N. E. one day's sail.

Loft out of our house, last night, a china jar: on my complaining to a Papua man, about the theft, it was next day put into its place.

On *Thursday* the 9th, fine weather, and southerly winds. Two small boats returned from a place they called Wobur, with sago, plantains, &c. for their families: they were therefore unwilling to dispose of any. They also brought some birds of Paradise, which I purchased from them. To day I repaired to the large tenement, near which the vessel lay. I found the women in the common hall, making cocoya mats as usual; also kneading (if I may so term it) the clay, of which others formed the pots, with two pebble stones, as before described. Two of them were humming a tune, on which I took out a german flute, and played; they were exceedingly attentive, all work stopping instantly when I began. I then asked one of the women to sing, which she did.

The



The air she sung was very melodious, and of a species much superior to Malay airs in general, which dwell long on a few notes, with little variety of rise or fall. Giving her a fathom of blue bastas, I asked another to sing: she was bashful, and refused; therefore I gave her nothing: her looks spoke her vexed, as if disappointed. Presently, she brought a large bunch of plantains, and gave it me with a smile. I then presented her with the remaining fathom of bastas, having had but two pieces with me. There being many boys and girls about us, as we sat at that part of the common hall, that goes upon the outer stage of the tenement, I separated some of the plantains from the bunch, and distributed to the children. When I had thus given away about one half, they would not permit me to part with any more; so the remainder I carried on board. I could not help taking notice that the children did not snatch, or seem too eager to receive, but waited patiently, and modestly accepted of what I offered, lifting their hands to their heads. The batchelors, if courting, come freely to the common hall, and sit down by their sweethearts. The old ones at a distance, are then said often to call out, well, are you agreed? If they agree before witnesses, they kill a cock, which is procured with difficulty, and then it is a marriage. Their cabins are miserably furnished; a mat or two, a fire place, an earthen pot, with perhaps a china plate or basin, and some sago flour. As they cook in each cabin, and have no chimney, the smoke issues at every part of the roof: at a distance the whole roof seems to smoke. They are fond of glafs, or china beads of all colours; both sexes wear them about the wrist, but the women only at the left ear.*

* I saw no gold ornaments worn by the Papua people; but in the hills, pointing towards them, they declared that buloan, meaning gold, was to be found

1775.
February.



1775.
February.

They are exceeding good archers, and some of their arrows are six feet long; the bow is generally of bamboo, and the string of split ratan. They purchase their iron tools, chopping knives, and axes, blue and red baftaes, china beads, plates, basons, &c. from the Chinese. The Chinese carry back Misoy bark, which they get to the eastward of Dory, at a place called Warmasine, or Warapine; it is worth 30 dollars, a pecul^(133 lb.) on Java. They trade also in slaves, ambergrease, swallo, or sea slug, tortoiseshell, small pearls, black loories, large red loories, birds of Paradise, and many kinds of dead birds, which the Papua men have a particular way of drying.

The Dutch permit no burgher of Ternate, or Tidore, to send a vessel to the coast of New Guinea. They are not willing to trust those burghers, while they put a just confidence in the Chinese; that they will not deal in nutmegs, as formerly mentioned. The Chinese have a pass from the Sultan of Tidore, and wear Dutch colours. To day I found our mustard well sprouted.

On *Friday* the 10th, fine weather, and southerly wind; went to Manafwary island, which I have sometimes called Long Island. There was a good party of us, and we searched for the nutmeg tree, as some Papua men said it grew there. We returned about sunset, without finding it.

Saturday the 11th. Had still fair weather, and easterly winds; went again to Long Island, in quest of the nutmeg tree. I promised a reward, to whoever should find it. Found some trees, that the Batchian officers said were nutmeg trees; but they had no fruit. The
weather

weather being dry, saw on the hills many fires and smokes, which I was told were made by the Haraforas, for purposes of agriculture. Found on the island, close by the beach, a Papua burial place, rudely built of coral rock. On it was laid the wooden figure of a child, about eight years old, represented completely clothed. A real scull was put into the upper part, on which ears were cut in the wood.

1775.
February.

Sunday the 12th, fine weather, and S. E. winds; went round Manafwary island. To day found the variation of the compass, by the medium of several amplitudes taken ashore, to be $01^{\circ} 30' E.$

Monday the 13th, all day long cloudy weather, with variable winds. This being the first day of the Mahometan year, Tuan Hadjee and all the Mahometans had prayers ashore. In compliment to them, I fired twelve guns, six ashore, and six on board. After prayers, they amused themselves in throwing the lance, and performing the whole exercise of the sword and target. Tuan Buffora was the most distinguished for alertness.

On *Tuesday* the 14th, fine weather, and S. E. winds; went to Manafwary island, with a numerous party; landed on different parts, and made the tour of it a second time. We saw no wild hogs, but by the prints of their feet, perceived plainly where they had been: within the island, about a quarter of a mile from where we landed, we reached a rising ground. The island is about five miles in compass, everywhere full of trees, among which is good walking, there being no underwood.



1775.
February.

On *Wednesday* the 15th, fine weather, with S. E. winds; went again to Manafwary. About a mile from where we landed, found a nutmeg tree; we eagerly cut it down, and gathered about thirty or forty nuts: there were many upon it, but they were not ripe. Tuan Hadjee and all the Molucca people assured me it was the true nutmeg, but of the long kind, called Warong; the round nutmeg, which is cultivated at Banda, being called Keyan. I presently found many more nutmeg trees, and many young ones growing under their shade. I picked above one hundred plants, which I put up in baskets, with earth round them; intending to carry them to Balambangan, whither I now proposed to return as fast as possible. Gave the reward I had promised for finding the nutmeg tree, being five pieces of baftas.

On *Thursday* the 16th, the fair weather continued, with easterly winds: saw many great fires on the mountains of Arfak. As the Papua people had not yet returned with the provisions stipulated, and I was unwilling to lose the fair winds, that had blown some time from the eastward, being also afraid of N. W. winds returning; against which it were imprudent to attempt, and impossible to work up the coast to Waygiou; I therefore gave up to the Dory people, the debt of thirty pieces of Surat cloth, and a bar of iron, with which I had trusted them: this rejoiced the old men.

On *Friday* the 17th, had still easterly winds, with fine weather. To day some of the people found a nutmeg tree not a hundred yards from our Shed House. We cut it down, but the fruit was not ripe; it was just such a tree as I had found and cut down at Manafwary; and the people of Dory said there were many such trees

trees about the country; at the same time, they did not seem to know that it was an object of consequence, and regarded it no more than any wild kind of fruit, that is of no general use: whereas on the Plantain, the coco nut, the pine apple, and the bread fruit of two sorts, they set a proper value. They allowed that to the eastward, at a place called Omerpon and Mandamy, were many nutmegs gathered, but I could not learn what was done with them, or to whom they were sold. Sometime before this, I had asked Tuan Hadjee and Tuan Buffora, what they thought of going farther down the coast. They both objected to it, as they likewise did to making any inland incursion, to visit the Haraforas houses. The Papua people also did not seem willing that we should have any intercourse with the Haraforas, who, I believe, are some how kept under, or at least kept in ignorance by the Papuas. When I asked any of the men of Dory, why they had no gardens of plantains and kalavanfas, which two articles they were continually bringing from the Haraforas; I learnt, after many interrogatories, that the Haraforas supply them with these articles, and that the Papua people do not give goods for these necessaries every time they fetch them; but that an ax or a chopping knife given once to a Harafora man, makes his lands or his labour subject to an eternal tax, of something or other for its use. Such is the value of iron; and a little way farther east, I was told they often used stone axes, having no iron at all. If a Harafora loses the instrument so advanced to him, he is still subject to the tax; but, if he breaks it, or wears it to the back, the Papua man is obliged to give him a new one, or the tax ceases.

1775.
February.

Tuan Hadjee, when before at Dory, had gone among the Haraforas. He said many had long hair; but that most of them were Coffres,



1775.
February.

res, as the Papua men are. He also told me they built generally on trees, their houses, to which they ascended with great agility, by a long notched stick, and often pulled their ladder after them, to prevent followers. The Papua men not inclining I should have any knowledge of the Harasoras, put me in mind of the Malays at Nattal and Tappanooly, on Sumatra, not wishing to let Europeans have intercourse with the Batta people, where the gum benjamin and camphire grow.

Being ready to go from Dory over to the island of Manaswary, where I proposed to stay a day before I sailed for good, and the people of the village, close to which I had lain, seeing our motions, I suddenly perceived, what I imagined, to be a distrust of us, as few children were to be seen about the Papua tenement that day: whereas, heretofore, they used to come every day on board of us, with fruit, fish, &c. to sell. About noon, when we sailed, not a man accompanied us over to Manaswary island. Some time after, two men came over, one of them a kind of linguist. I caused to be fully explained to him, the nature of my giving up the debt, and that no body would ever call upon the men of Dory for it. At the same time, I made him a Capitano, by giving him a frock and drawers of chintz, and firing off three guns, this being the Dutch ceremony. He returned to Dory very well pleased, and very vain of his dress.

Saturday the 18th. Employed in getting ready for sea. Took up a good many nutmeg plants, and felled another nutmeg tree; the fruit was such as we had got before. Tuan Hadjee said it would be a month or six weeks ere the fruit would be fully ripe. He and the rest talked

fo



so much about its being of the right sort, tho' it was long, and not round, like the Dutch nutmeg, that I no longer doubted it.

1775.
February.

About noon, our Capitano linguist returned. With him came many boys and women, and two men from Dory, who brought us fish, plantains, kalavanfas, &c. which were purchased from them as usual; all jealousies being removed last night.

The promontory of Dory, the sea coast of which extends about fourteen leagues, is of middling height: the grounds every where ascend gradually. It may be said, like Malay countries in general, to be covered with wood; but it differs in one respect: there being no underwood, it is very easy travelling under the shade of lofty trees. The country abounds with small fresh water rivulets; here and there is very good grafs, but in no large tracts, that I saw. It is very temperate, being so near the high mountains of Arfak, where the clouds seem always to settle, so that it is by far the best country hitherto visited on the voyage.

What I shall now say of the coast of New Guinea, to the eastward of Dory, and of the islands off the coast, is from the information not only of the Moodo of Aiou, but of some of the old men at Dory.

From Dory I could not see Schoutens island, which I was told lay to the northward, consequently there must be a wide passage between it and the main; a passage however not very obvious in the map of this coast, accompanying Dampier's voyage in the Roebuck, in 1699.* Captain Dampier saw Schoutens island, and coasted its north side,

* Plate XIV.

which



1775.
February

which, as I have said, abounds with kalavanfas, and is full of inhabitants. In sight of Myfory, which possibly may be Schoutens island, lie, as I was told, the islands Saba and Sao, in an east direction. Saba, by the Moodo of Aiou's account, is about as large as Gibby. From Saba and Sao are brought large red loories, also black ones.

Farther, in a south east direction, lies the island of Padado, as large as Aiou Baba; also, the island of Awak, each under its particular Rajah. Still farther is Unfus,* an island about the size of Gibby, it is four days sail from Sao, and near it are the smaller islands of Bony and Yop.

Along the coast of New Guinea eastward, are the countries of Oranfuary, one day's distance by water from Dory; Wariapy two days; Warmaffine four days; Yopine five days; Mandamy six days. Over against Wariapy, lies the island of Omberpone, behind which is a harbour. Beyond Mandamy, are places on the coast called Wopimy, Yowry, Manfuary, Morry, then Waropine, the residence of a powerful Rajah. Opposite Morry, spreads a number of small islands, abounding in coco nuts and kalavanfas. Beyond Waropine appears the island Krudo, where iron is almost unknown; and here prevails the custom of boring the nose: the inhabitants are sometimes called Komambo. Krudo is five days sail from Sao. At Krudo, and the islands near it, may be got much tortoiseshell, as indeed every where on this coast; but it requires time to collect a quantity, and the merchant must ad-

* Unfus, possibly Meansu, mentioned by Mr. Dalrymple, in his collection of voyages, p. 39.

vance the commodities of barter. This the Chinese do, and are seldom cheated by the Papuas.

1775.
February.

From Waropine, above mentioned, is said to be a long land stretch to the head of a river, or a branch of the sea, which comes from the south coast of New Guinea. I have been told that the inhabitants of Ceram carry iron and other goods up this inlet, and trade with the inhabitants of the north coast, for Missoy bark. They are deemed also to speak different languages: but I could learn nothing of the coast east of Waropine.

As to the character of the inhabitants of those places, east of where we lay, I have the greatest reason to think it was fierce and hostile, that they are numerous, and have a vast many prows: at the same time, they are said to deal honestly with the Chinese, who trade with them, and advance them goods for several months before the returns are made. They trim and adorn their hair, but bore the nose, and wear earrings like the mop headed people of Dory.

The places on the north coast of New Guinea, west of Dory, are, Toweris, which is reported to have a harbour; Warpaffary and War-morifwary, near the Mispalu islands, behind which is said to be good anchoring. I saw them both: they are flat low islands. Beyond Mispalu, that is, farther west, is Worang; also Pulo Womy, which was represented to me at Dory, as an island, a little bigger than Masimapy, and to have a harbour behind it. Then comes Pulo Ramay, and next to it Salwatty, which bounds Pitt's Strait on the south, and on its south side, with New Guinea, forms the strait of Golowa.

Q

The



1775.
February.

The above intelligence is the best I could procure. Those who gave it, not having the true idea of a harbour, and sometimes thinking that place deserving the name, into which a boat of theirs could go, excuse me from depending on their accounts. In the names and distances, reckoning by days, they could not so well be mistaken; and I have the greatest reason to believe, they answered my questions, not only with sincerity, but as well as they could. During my stay here, Tuan Buffora daily supplied us with small fish, like sprats, he being very expert in casting the net: which fish broiled, with fresh baked sago bread, and a dish of tea, were our breakfast. We seldom ate in the middle of the day; but had always, about noon, a dish of tea, coffee, or chocolate, and sometimes a young coco nut. At sunset we regularly boiled the pot, stewing whatever we had; sometimes greens and roots only, but always mixed with the emulsion or milk of a full grown coco nut, rasped down. This the Malays call guly (curry): and, thank God, we were all in good health; but we failed not to bathe daily, nor was there want of pleasant brooks.

C H A P.

