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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 IX. Departure from Dory Harbour - Put into Rawak Harbour for Provisions - Description of it - Anchor at Manouaran Island - Put into Piapis Harbour - Description of it - Leave it, and row to ...

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## C H A P T E R IX.

*Departure from Dory Harbour—Put into Rawak Harbour for Provisions—Description of it—Anchor at Manouaran Island—Put into Piapis Harbour—Description of it—Leave it, and row to windward, intending to anchor at Pulo Een—Find it every where rocky and steep—Bear away, in order to go to the Southward of Gilolo—Pass between the Islands of Gag and Gibby—Pass between the Islands of Bo and Popo—Description of them.*

I WAS very glad to find, before we sailed, that the people of Dory had an opportunity of being convinced, we intended them no harm; and that, by giving up the debt above mentioned, I did not mean to entrap them, or carry them off, as is sometimes done by the Mahometans of the Moluccas, who, I was told by Tuan Hadjee, fit out vessels with no other design. I sailed in the evening, and found, when I got out of the bay, that the current set strong to the westward, against the wind, which, from a favourable S. E. gale, had shifted to the westward.

*Saturday* the 19th. We had squally, thick, and rainy weather, with westerly winds. The vessel was so uneasy, and pitched so much by a short sea, occasioned by the windward current, that she made a good deal of water. I wished to get into port again; but the current set us strongly to windward. To my great satisfaction, however, came

Q 2

fair

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February.



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February.

fair weather in the afternoon; and we had a light breeze at N. E. the current favouring us. At sunset, we were past the promontory of Dory, and the Beehive bore south; the Cape of Good Hope bore at the same time west, fifteen leagues. During the bad weather, I had the misfortune to have many papers wet, as the rain got almost every where.

*Monday* the 20th. At dawn the promontory of Dory, appearing like an island, \* was but just seen. We had variable winds all day, with sultry weather before noon. At noon it was cloudy, and we had no observation. At sunset the Cape of Good Hope bore S. S. W. In the evening we had fresh land wind at south; steered N. W. the current being in our favour.

In the morning of the 21st, found ourselves about five leagues off shore, and the Cape of Good Hope bearing S. E. by S. Our latitude at noon was  $00^{\circ} 40'$  N. the Cape then bore S. E. about sixteen leagues distant; the wind was N. E. and we steered N. W. by W. The night being pleasant, and the water smooth, we rowed most part of it, the people singing as usual.

On *Wednesday* the 22d, in the morning the high land of New Guinea was very conspicuous, although twenty leagues distant; at the same time we could see Waygiou, bearing from S. W. to W.

In consequence of the loss of the Borneo corocoro, we had five of the Batchian people upon wages, and maintained in all twenty-nine

\* Plate XII. N<sup>o</sup> 1.

persons



persons aboard the galley, beside the crew of the Banguay corocoro, which amounted to nineteen. I became, therefore, afraid of running short of sago bread, now our only diet, except a very small quantity of fish. Dory afforded us neither fowl nor goat. A little wild hog, which I got there now and then, and which I eat ashore, was all the refreshment I could procure, except fish, greens, and fruits. I was told, that on New Guinea were no four footed animals, except hogs, dogs, and wild cats; I saw no domestic ones. This being our situation, Tuan Hadjee represented to me, it was hard to proceed in the attempt of weathering Morty, with so small a stock of provisions; and it was dangerous to put in any where on the east of Gilolo, where Dutch panchallangs and corocoros were constantly cruising, as, no doubt, they had heard of us; and that Morty, where sago grew in abundance, had few, if any, inhabitants. He, therefore, advised me to put into Rawak harbour, on the N. E. part of Waygiou, where provisions were certainly to be had. At the same time he said, I was very lucky in getting off the coast of New Guinea, from Dory harbour, which he had always considered as a dangerous navigation for a small vessel. Being fully sensible of the justness of what Tuan Hadjee said, I immediately bore away for Rawak harbour, steering S. W. with the wind at E. N. E. and at noon we were in  $00^{\circ} 10'$  N. latitude. Early in the afternoon we got sight of Rawak island, it bearing west eight leagues. At the same time saw from the deck, Abdon, one of the Aiou islands; \* rowed and sailed all night for the harbour of Rawak; the people kept singing, as usual, their Mangaio song, and were refreshed with a dish of tea.

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\* Plate IX. N<sup>o</sup> 7.

Or





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February.

On *Thursday* the 23d, we got in about five in the morning, and found here the Moodo of Aiou, who had with him only one of his wives, with her little boy, besides servants. We soon filled our water jars, and bought some sago bread, from boats that came from a village called Kabory, the houses of which were plainly to be seen, bearing S. E. by E. from where we lay. To day the winds have been mostly north east.

*Friday* the 24th. Had the winds at N. W. with fine weather. In the morning, the Moodo of Yowl, and one of the King of Tidore's officers, who was then in a boat trading for swallo, came on board, to make me a visit. I gave each a piece of coarse calicoe. Afternoon, many boats from Kabory, and from Wargow, which lies beyond it, came with sago bread, which I bought: I bought also some raw sago from the Moodo, ashore, where I saw many of my Aiou acquaintances. In the evening I founded all about the harbour, went in the boat through the narrow, but bold strait, that divides the island Rawak from the main; and landed at a pleasant small river on the main land of Waygiou, where our people had filled water. The watering place on the island of Rawak is a pond, not very clean, just behind the few houses that are there: the houses on the land were built low; a few built on posts, in the water, were higher.

The island of Rawak,\* which makes the harbour, lies on the N. E. part of the island Waygiou, about five miles E. S. E. from Manou-aran; which island has been already mentioned. Rawak is of a singular figure, the south part projecting towards Waygiou, in a narrow promontory, somewhat lower than the northern part of the island, which

\* Plate X.



is high, and has a remarkable hill, covered with the aneebong tree, the heart of which is an excellent cabbage. The east part of the island is also a narrow promontory, which I call the Dolphin's Nose, from its shape. A ship from the eastward must keep closer to it, than to the opposite shore, off which runs a reef of rocks. The channel is there above a mile broad, with good mud soundings, from fifteen to ten fathom. A little beyond the Dolphin's Nose, is a good road; and still farther, in five fathom, the water is very smooth; but even there, a vessel lies open from the E. by S. half S. to the E. by N. Should too great a sea come in thence, a ship might run out by the strait, keeping close to the island, which is bold, and anchor behind the island, in sandy ground.

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While I staid here, I bought about two thousand cakes of fago, each weighing a pound, or a pound and a quarter; some smaller, weighing three quarters of a pound; but it was all hard baked, and kept well. We bought also some fish, and several turtle. Some of my people, who were not Mahometans, and eat turtle, cut the meat up small, and stewed it in green bamboos. No goats or fowls could we find. Rawak island lies in latitude  $00^{\circ} 13' N.$  longitude  $128^{\circ} E.$

*Saturday* the 25th. Early in the morning, being ready to sail, I found Mapia missing, whom I had bought of the Moodo, at Aiou: I sent ashore, to enquire about him; but to no purpose. I suppose he had met with some old acquaintance, who had seduced him to leave me.

We





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February.

We weighed at nine in the morning, with the wind about N. E. by E. and went out between the islands of Rawak and the main. About noon I anchored close to Manouaran, and sent the boat on shore. They filled some jars with very good water, from a kind of pond or dead river, hard by the beach, whilst I lay in seven fathom, sandy ground. In that position, the extreme to the westward, which I call Shoe island, was just open with the west point of Manouaran, \* and the land abreast (the highest on Waygiou) concealed the Third Peak, or Buffalo's Horn, while the entry into Offak harbour appeared towards the west. Rawak island, bearing S. E. is also very conspicuous. That part of Manouaran, which is next to the island, and where I anchored, is low, and very easy of access. The west part is steep and rocky; above that steep part, is grass, with shaggy trees intermixed. † This kind of ground extends to the summit, which is almost flat. The whole island looks at a distance like a saucer, bottom up. Afternoon we weighed, wind at N. E. During the night we lay up N. W. but made only a W. by N. course, as the current set to leeward.

On *Sunday* the 26th, had rainy squally weather, with variable winds: found the current set strong to the westward; and, when we had an offing, it set to the S. W. We made several tacks to little purpose; at last, we bore away for Piapis harbour, which I was just abreast of. ‡ At that time, Pulo Een bore N. W. and I was at noon in the latitude of  $00^{\circ} 18' N.$  About two P. M. I got into the harbour of Piapis; and anchored in two fathoms, sandy ground, close to the high rocky island of Sipsipa. We found lying here a boat bound to Gibby; but neither house nor inhabitant.

\* Plate X.

† Plate XI.

‡ Plate IX. N<sup>o</sup> 3. Plate V.

On



TO NEW GUINEA.

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*Monday* the 27th, fair weather, with northerly winds: weighed, and rowed up to the south east bay, and anchored at the mouth of a pleasant fresh water river. Tuan Buffora was very lucky in fishing with the cast net.

1775.  
February.

On *Tuesday* the 28th, the wind at N. N. E. with fair weather: filled all our water jars, and got ready for sea.

On *Wednesday* the 29th, weighed in the morning, and rowed out of the S. E. bay, but the wind blowing fresh at the harbour's mouth, we rounded the rocky promontory, and anchored in the south bay. It being about the change of the moon, the weather was very squally, and unfettled.

*Thursday, March* the 1st, wind at N. N. E. The boat I mentioned, bound to Gibby, failed. I made the Noquedah a present, as he knew our vessel was the same that had been repaired at Tomoguy. After he failed, I visited the mouth of the harbour, where I found irregular soundings, and overfalls.

1775.  
March.

On *Friday* the 2d, hauled the corocoro ashore, on an island in the S. bay, on which was a pond of fresh water. Had all day long variable winds, and a good deal of rain; it being the time of spring tides, we got, at low water, much kima on the coral reefs, of which we made very good curry; stewing it with the heart of the aneebong, or cabbage tree, which we found abundant in the woods. But I come to the description of Piapis harbour.

R

On





1775.  
March.

On the N. coast of Waygiou, lies an island, remarkable for a pretty high table land, called Pulo Een, or Fish Island, already mentioned. It bears N. N. W. from the mouth of Piapis harbour, fifteen miles; some rocky islands, with low trees and bushes upon them, and some islands like buttons lying between. By keeping the said island in the above direction N. N. W. you cannot miss the entrance of the harbour.

The hill, \* which in the description of the N. E. coast of Waygiou, I have called the first peak, may be seen far beyond Pulo Een: it is also a good object to steer for, as it is near the harbour's mouth. A perpendicular rock named Sipsipa, making the mouth of the harbour to the eastward, has some ragged rocks contiguous, on which are some withered trees and bushes. Off the rock of Sipsipa, are three spots of breakers, even with the water's edge, one without another. The sea generally breaks upon them; but in very fine weather, at high water, they may possibly not show themselves: it will be necessary to give them a berth.

In steering for this vast harbour, which has two capacious bays, keep rather towards the west shore, on account of the said three spots of breakers, near which is a remarkable sugar loaf rock, about the bulk of a pidgeon house, or hay cock. Within pistol shot, is ten fathom water. Having past it, you may, with a westerly wind, anchor in a bay just within it; or, proceed up what I call the south bay, if the wind favour. But, if the wind is scant, you may round a certain rocky promontory, into a commodious bay, which I call the S. E. bay, at the top of which is good fresh water, and a great deal of tall straight timber, fit for masts.

\* Plate IX. N° 3.

In



In either bay are good mud soundings; on Sipsipa island, is a pond of fresh water; the island in the south bay, upon which I hauled the corocoro ashore to clean, has also a pond; and some young fago trees grew close to it. In going up the south harbour, leave this island on the right. Piapis harbour lies in latitude  $00^{\circ} 05' N.$  longitude  $127^{\circ} 24'.$

1775.  
March.

On *Saturday* the 3d, we rowed early out of the harbour; just without it we had soundings thirty-five fathom, muddy ground. Made sail, lying up N. N. W. wind at N. E. but made only a W. N. W. course. We then struck our mast, and, as the wind was moderate, rowed to windward, thinking to anchor at Pulo Een.\* I gave to each rower, a red handkerchief for encouragement. About five in the afternoon we came up with Pulo Een, and saw many aneebong or cabbage trees growing on the island that lies west of it. Found the bottom every where rocky, and so steep that we durst not anchor. We, therefore, put off again, rowing and sailing all night. We lay up north, but made only a N. W. course, the current setting us strong to the southward. Finding it impossible to get the northward of Gilolo, without going near Patany Hook, where the Dutch have constant cruisers, either sloops, panchallangs, or corocoros, I bore away in the night.

*Sunday* the 4th. In the morning we had the passage between Gag and Gibby open, the wind being at N. N. E. Had an observation at noon, but it was not to be trusted: Gag bore then S. E. three leagues, and Gibby N. W. five. Got our swivel guns loaded, and our small arms in order.

\* Plate VIII. N<sup>o</sup> 3.

R 2

Gibby





1775.  
March.

Gibby\* is a much larger island than Gag; it is also higher, appearing as two hills, and has many inhabitants.

On *Monday* the 5th, we steered S. W. part of the night, then W. S. W. I expected to find the current set to the westward, but was mistaken. In the morning I found the current had set us to the southward, and that we had shot in between the islands Bo and Popo. I immediately hauled as much as I could to the westward, but could not get to the northward of Bo. At noon were in  $01^{\circ} 10'$  S. latitude.

The Banguy corocoro went to a smooth landing place, and picked up a great many excellent kimas (cockles) about the bigness of a man's head; nor failed to give us our share. At sunset we anchored in thirteen fathom water, sandy ground, close to a small island, with coco nut trees on it.† When we were at anchor, an island, pretty large, the top of which is like the back of a hog, bore N. W.

Presently came on board several boats: in one of them was the Papua man, whose boat had formerly carried Tuan Hadjee from Gag to Tomoguy, and with whose son I had like to have there had a quarrel about a wooden anchor.

Bought a great quantity of dried fish, which came very seasonably, as we were badly off for any provisions, but sago bread, and a very few spoiled fish. By the assistance of the country people, we this evening

\* Plate VII.

† Plate VIII, N<sup>o</sup> 7.

filled



filled most of our water jars, intending to put immediately to sea, as the wind was fair.

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March.

Here I was informed that the Dutch had got notice of our having repaired at Tomoguy.

The two clusters of islands, Bo and Popo,\* lie nearly in the same parallel of latitude,  $01^{\circ} 17'$  S. the longitude of Bo is  $126^{\circ} 10'$ ; of Popo,  $126^{\circ} 25'$ . They are about five leagues asunder. Bo consists of six or seven islands. When lying close to the southernmost part of the small island, near to which we anchored, the islands of Popo (almost shut in) bore about E. by N.

Coming from the westward, the first of the islands of Bo, that you meet with, is a low flat island, about four or five miles round; the second is an island somewhat higher, with a table land, it being flat atop. The next, and largest, is also highest; and has been already mentioned: its outline, when bearing N. W. resembles a hog's back, or the roof of a long hayrick. You may anchor in fifteen fathom, sandy ground, close to a small sandy island, which has some coco nut trees upon it. Farther eastward, are two or three small islands, hard by that which is easternmost in the view. † Off the easternmost point, is a coral bank, with two fathom water, about two miles from the shore.

These islands, which have a good many inhabitants, can supply plenty of coco nuts, salt, and dried fish. Had I staid till next day,

\* General Map:

† Plate VIII. N<sup>o</sup> 7.

we





1775.  
March.

we might have got some goats; but the wind being fair, I was unwilling to lose it.

The islands of Popo I passed at some distance: they are higher than the islands of Bo. To the westward of the cluster, but almost contiguous to it, are about nine or ten low small islands: to the eastward, on two islands, are two hills, which, at a distance, look like two tea cups, bottom up. These islands are also said to be well inhabited; and here resides a Rajah.

CHAP.







*Pulo Ben N.E. 6 L.*



*Fancy*

*Piamis S.E. b.S. 14'*



*Straits of Ikalio and the Cocks Comb beyond them, on Wagiou I.*



*Cocks Comb*

*N.E. b.E. Batangpally 5 L.*



*Islands of Bo, the highest 1' Dist. lying in 13 F. Sand*

*Popo E. b. N.*

*Capt. Tho. Forrest as the Act directs, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> 1779.*

*Tho. Vuaris Sculp.*







Pale Head W.W.C.E.L.

Pale Head S.W.C.E.L.



Pale Head and the Cocks Crag of Sibley Mountain beyond.

Rotungath

Low Flat Islands S.W. of Douglas

Point

Point S.W.C.E.L.



N

Pale Head

S.W.



Pale Head S.W.C.E.L.

Point of Sibley and the Cocks Crag beyond them, on Western E.



Rotungath S.W.C.E.L.

Head N.W.C.E.L.

The 7th March 1779



Rotungath

Head S.W.C.E.L.

Cocks Crag

Rotungath S.E.



Point

S.W.C.E.L.

Islands of the the highest 1st. being in 1779.

Point S.W.

Published by Order of the Admiralty, June 20th 1779.

The 7th March 1779





Faint, illegible text on a lined page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is arranged in several paragraphs across the page.





1

*Mancuaram E.L.*

2

*Wyag*

3

*Mancuaram 10 L.*

*Shoe E.L.*

4



*Skirt of*

5

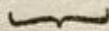
*S & W 10 L.*

*Tho. Forrest a*

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March

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March.







Manuaran E.A.S.5 L. Ravak Entrance (S.E. & S.) of Offak Harbour e. Buffalo's Horn



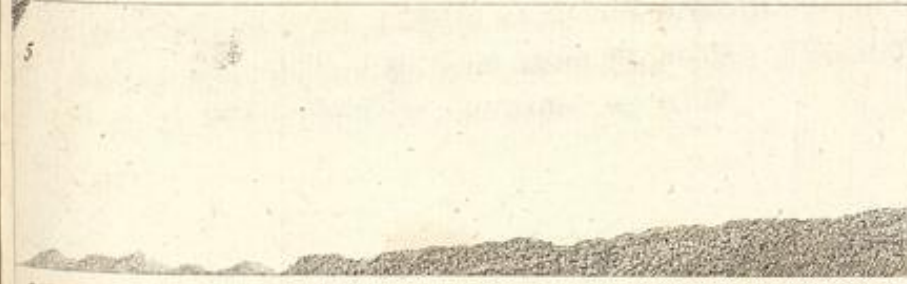
Wyag W.N.W. Seen from the mouth of Papis Harbour Pulo Een N.N.W.



Shoe E. & N. 5 L. a. 1<sup>st</sup> Peak b. 2<sup>d</sup> Peak c. 3<sup>d</sup> Peak or Buffalo's Horn Entrance of Papis Harbour, on Waygiou I. S. Sipsya Rock. H. Rock like a Haycock keep close to it.



Skirt of Aioubaba I' Manuaran 8 L.S.W. & S. and Waygiou behind



S.W. & L. Part of Waygiou I.



Aioubaba N.E. 5 L.



Abdon N.W. 4 L.

The Forrest delin<sup>t</sup> Published by Capt<sup>o</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Forrest as the Act directs, Jan<sup>y</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 1779. Tho<sup>s</sup> Vicars Sculp<sup>t</sup>





