

Records of Fort St. George

LETTERS FROM FORT ST. GEORGE, 1758

Volume XXXIII



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PREFATORY NOTE

This volume is a reprint of the letters sent from Fort St. George during the year 1758 as found in Volume No. 33 of the series known as "Letters from Fort St. George." Some of the letters at the beginning and at the end are lost. Unfortunately these gaps could not be filled in, as the India Office does not possess copies of the missing letters.

The manuscript volume has been mended and is in a fair state of preservation.

EGMORE,
26th January 1940.

B. S. BALIGA,
Curator, Madras Record Office.

RECORDS OF FORT ST. GEORGE

LETTERS FROM FORT ST. GEORGE

1758.

(VOLUME No. 33)

[*Previous Letters lost*]

No. 50.

[. . .] for your information.

We are

SIR

Your most obedient Humble Servants.

GEORGE PIGOT.

HENRY POWNEY.

STRINGER LAWRENCE.

WILLIAM PERCIVAL.

JOHN SMITH.

CHAS. BOURCHIER.

JOHN PYBUS.

HUGH NORRIS.

HENRY VANSITTART.

FORT ST GEORGE
THE 20TH. OCT^R. 1758.

No. 51.

TO THE HONBLE ROBERT CLIVE ESQ^R.
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR & C^A. COUNCIL
AT FORT WILLIAM.

HONBLE SIR & SIRs

We dispatch'd the Mermaid Sloop and wrote to you the 18 Instant.

We [. . .] Letter of the 20 September. We sent you a copy of one to [us from the] Court of Directors We inclose another Copy in this Packet as well as a Paragraph Extracted from another General Letter of the 8 March 1758 received by the London by which you will please to observe that it is strongly recommended to us to increase the Stocks of the China Ships and that the Court of Directors conclude from your advices, you will be able to supply Us with Treasure for that purpose as well as for our Investment and Expences and indeed we must wholly rely on you, for what may be proper to add to the Stocks of the China Ships having not a single Chest of Bullion in the Treasury, and in regard to our own Expences, tho' We cannot well ascertain how much We may want yet We think it pretty certain We shall be deficient before we can receive supplys from home next year, and therefore what ever you can spare from your own Demands, may be of great Service here.

As we doubt not but your Honour &c^a. will be able to spare us some Money to save the risque of the Sea We have now drawn on you the undermentioned for [*sic*] Setts of Bills and observing what you say on that subject in your Letter of the 12 Sept^r. 1757 We have made them payable in Current Rupees Viz.

Setts to whom payable.		Of whom value recd.		A.Rs.	a.	p.	C.R.	a.	p.
1	Mess ^{rs} . Manningham & Frankland.	George Pigot Esqr.		18,518	8	3	20,000	—	—
1	[Mrs.] Elizabeth Beard ..	Henry Powney Esqr.		2,166	—	—	2,339	4	6
1	[Mr.] Willm. Fullerton for Acct. of Edwa. Holden Cruttenden Esqr.	Mr. Josias. Du Pre'.		20,838	4	9	22,505	5	9
1	Mr. Andrew Ross	himself		3,000	—	—	3,240	—	—
4	Setts amounting to .. ..	.. ..		44,522	13	—	48,084	10	3

An Account of Stores supply the Mermaid Sloop having been omitted in the Packet by that Sloop is enclosed in this for the amount whereof We have debted your Presidency.

This waits of you by the London. We fear We shall not see the Warren before the Breaking up of the Monsoons but should she come in We shall immediately dispatch her to you.

We are

HONBLE SIR & SIRs

Your most Obed^t. & Hume. Serv^{ts}.

GEORGE PIGOT.

HENRY POWNEY.

STRINGER LAWRENCE.

WILLIAM PERCIVAL.

JOHN SMITH.

CHAS. BOURCHIER.

JOHN PYBUS.

HUGH NORRIS.

HENRY VANSITTART.

FORT ST. GEORGE

20TH. OCT^R. 1758.

LISTS OF PAPERS IN THE PACKET LONDON.

No.						
1	General Letter .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	Dated 20 th Oct ^r . 1758.	
2	Dup : D ^o .  Mermaid Sloop .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	18 Oct ^r . 1758.	
3	Trip. Copy General Letter from England  Pitt ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	15 Feby. 1758.	
4	Extract of D ^o .  London ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	8 March 1758.	
5	Dup : Invoice of Gunpowder  Mermaid.	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..		
6	Second Bill of Lading for D ^o.	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..		
7	Account of Stores supply'd the Mermaid Sloop.	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..		
8	Manifest of Goods & Merchandize  London.	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..		
9	Account of Goods landed by the Comr. & Officers of the London.	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..		
10	Copy of the London's Victualling Bill.	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..		
11	Copy of Captain Richard Alwrights Sailing Orders.	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..		

FORT ST. GEORGE

21st Oct^r. 1758.

JOS^S DU PRE'

Sec^{ry}.

N^o. 52.

TO CAPTAIN RICHARD ALWRIGHT
OF THE SHIP
LONDON.

SIR

You are hereby Ordered to repair on board and Wind and Weather permitting make the best of your way to Fort William in the River of Bengal where on your arrival you are to deliver the accompanying Packet to the President and Council and follow their Orders for your further proceedings. Dated in Fort St. George the 21st. October 1758.

GEORGE PIGOT.
HENRY POWNEY.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
WILLIAM PERCIVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHA^s. BOURCHIER.
JOHN PYBUS.
HUGH NORRIS.
HENRY VANSITTART.

N^o. 53.

TO THE HON^{ble} RICHARD BOURCHIER
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR &^{CA}. COUNCIL
AT BOMBAY.

HON^{ble} SIR & SIRs

We addressed you last by his Majestys Squadron the 10th. October and the 12 Instant imported here the Hon^{ble} Companys Ship London Captain Allwright, who inform'd us he parted from the Warren at Point de Galle where Captain Glover went ashore for Intelligence but the London bore away for this place and has since been dispatched to Bengall. We as yet see nothing of the Warren so that we conclude she proceeded from Galle to Bengal those two ships put in at St. Augustins Bay to refresh, and whilst they were there on the 7th. August his Majesty's ships Grafton & Sunderland with the Six Companys ships for this Coast and China arrived there. The London and Warren left that place the 17 August and the other ships intended to follow in about a fortnight but as they are not yet arrived We conclude we shall not see them till after the Monsoon, their early arrival may be of the greatest Importance. In case the abovementioned ships should proceed to Bombay your Hon^r. &^{CA}. may have the opportunity to land from the Prince of Wales One Hundred Bales of Cloth and from the Shaftesbury Seventy three Bales which our Hon^{ble} Masters advise us they have laden on those Ships being part of the Woollen Goods intended this Season for your Presidency.

We transmit you herewith several Paragraphs Extracted from our Hon^{ble} Masters Commands, received this Season of the undermentioned Dates
Viz.

11 November 1757 Para 11, 109, 110, 112.

8 March 1758 . . . 15 23 paragraph 11 of the first relating to the Guns of any of his Majestys ships that may be condemned and Paragraph 15 of the Second ordering Mr. Harling to be sent home need no remarks, the rest relates to the Companys Settlement on the West Coast of Sumatra, and lead us to acquaint your Honour &^{CA}. that repeated Complaints have been made by the Deputy Governour's Council as well to the Court of Directors as to us of

the unwarrantable proceedings of the Dutch on that Coast in stoping the Company's as well as other Trading Vessels and some times Confiscating them, and tho' proper representations have always on such occasions been made to the General and [Council of] Batavia yet preminery [*sic*] We suppose that the Trade of the Settlements could never Answer the charge of maintaining sufficient Naval Force for its Protection, these Acts of Violence continue to be repeated when ever opportunitys offer these Outrages we find have determined the Court of Directors to order one of your Cruizers every year to the West Coast for the Protection of that Trade. If you should be able to put this in practice We shall be ready to co-operate with you in such manner as that the proposed end may be best obtained, upon which we must wait your Answer.

We are always guided in the Quantity of Stores and Provisions We send to the West Coast on the Companys Accot. by the Indents We receive from thence sometimes indeed We have wanted Conveyances, but at present the stores we are about sending them and what we have indented to Bengal for will be nearly as full supply. We are therefore only to request that your Honour &c^a. will advise Us what price salt and Rice generally bear with you that We may the better judge of the most advantageous way of supplying the West Coast with those Articles in future.

The Vessels employed on the West Coast have always been a very expensive Article to the Company chiefly from the want of proper Artificers to give them in time the necessary Repairs. We are unable to send them any from hence and We must therefore request that you will engage as many shipwrights and Chaulkers [*sic*] as may be necessary to keep in Repair the Two Vessels you are building and a few other small Craft.

The Buildings in General at Fort Marlbro as well as at the Subordinates are in a ruinous Condition. Skillful person to direct as well as Artificers to execute the necessary repairs and Works are much wanted there the pressing occasion We have had and still have for Workmen of all sorts to put this Settlement in a proper State of Defence has hitherto prevented us from sending them any assistance of that kind if therefore your Honour &c^a. could spare a capable Person to direct or assist in carrying on their Works and procure some Bricklayers and Carpenters to engage on that Service you would remove a great Difficulty We are under

We are
HONBLE SIR & SIRS
Your most Obed^t. Hum^{le}. Serv^{ts}.

GEORGE PIGOT.
HENRY POWNEY.
STRING^r. LAWRENCE.
W^m. PERCIVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHA^s. BOURCHIER.
JOHN PYBUS.
HUGH NORRIS.
HENRY VANSITTART.

FORT ST. GEORGE
29 OCT^r. 1758.

N^o. 54.

TO THE RESIDENT FOR THE TIME BEING
AT TAPPANOULY.

SIR

We have Consign'd to the Deputy Governour and Council at Fort Marlbro by the Honble Companys Ship Duke sundry Stores for the use of the Company Settlements on the West Coast of Sumatra. You will be informed of the particulars by an Abstract of the Invoice inclosed. We have ordered the Commander Captain Powney to call (first) at Tappanoully that you may take out such

of the Stores as the Settlement may be in real want of in doing which you are to consider the Demands at Marlbro and the other Settlements Our Intentions herein being that you may be supplied with such Stores only as would have been sent you from Marlbro had the ship proceeded directly thither but earlier and without the charge of Transportation. [And here We think it necessary to direct that should you have received any Orders from the Deputy Governour and Council to withdraw or to take any Steps towards withdrawing the Settlements at Tappanoully you are to suspend the Execution of any such Orders until you receive their further Directions]. You are not to detain the ship a moment longer than may be absolutely necessary to Land what Stores you may find it necessary to take out of which you will send a particular account to your Superiors at Marlbro.

We are

SIR

Your Affectionate Friends

GEORGE PIGOT.

HENRY POWNEY.

STRINGER LAWRENCE.

WM. PERCIVAL.

JOHN SMITH.

CHAS. BOURCHIER.

JOHN PYBUS.

HUGH NORRIS.

HENRY VANSITTART.

FORT ST. GEORGE
THE 31 OCT^r. 1758.

a like letter to the Resident at Nattall leaving out the Word (first) in the 9th. Line a like letter to the Resident at Moco Moco omitting the Word (first) in [the 9th.] Line and also the Paragraph included in the [].

N^o. 55.

TO ROGER CARTER ESQ^r. DEPUTY

GOVERNOUR & C^a. COUNCIL

AT FORT MARLBRO.

GENTLEMEN

We received by the Hon^{ble} Companys Ship Duke your General advices of the 14 June, and a Separate Letter from Mr. Carter of the same Date. We have also received by several Conveyances your Letters of the 20 and 23 January 8th. February 29 April and 19 May 1758 and Duplicate of your Letter by the Hartop dated 15 Septem^r. 1757 likewise a Letter from Mr. Goodwin dated at Batavia the 26 May 1758 one from Mr. John Herbert at the same place the 5 July 1758 and another of the same Date from Mess^{rs}. Peter Garden & John Herbert.

Our attention has lately been so much engaged in other matters that We have not been able entirely to advise all your Books & Papers in such manner as to give you our thoughts on every Branch of the Companys Affairs under your management this shall be done by the next opportunity and for the present We shall only give you such Directions as appear immediately necessary.

We are extreamply pleased to find so large an [*sic*] Treasure in your Pepper as to leave you near seven hundred Tons, after providing for your annual Ship. We communicated these advices to the Gentlemen at Bengal shortly after the

receipt of them from you, and left it to them [to send] one or two ships to fill up at Marlbro. They tell us in Answer that if the ships expected from Europe this Season arrives in time they purpose to send two partly loaded to take in your surplus pepper. Since the receipt of that Letter the London (one of the ships from Europe for the Bay) arrived here and has been sent down thither and the Warren (another of the Coast and Bay Ships) put in some time ago at Point de Galle and we suppose may also be gone from thence to Bengal. Should these ships arrive safe there We think it probably the President and Council [of Bengal send] one or two ships to you to fill up. Tho' we cannot absolutely be certain what ships can be sent you from Bengall [yet] upon the probability of all the Expected ships from England arriving safe there, We think you ought not to give your Annual ship more than her Charter party Tonage as all your surplus and more if you had it will be wanted for the dispatch home of the ships We shall have on this side India, should they all arrive safe.

We must recommend it to you to be as particular as possible in assigning to the Court of Directors and to us the Causes of Increase or a Decrease of peper at the several Residencies for as all places are not equally capable of Improvement the Merit and deligence of the Residents should be the Measure of Approbation, the favourable Reports. We have more than once had [*sic*] of Mr. Darvel give us reason to attribute to his good Management the flourishing state of Manna which we remark has yielded a greater Increase than any of the other Residences he cannot more effectually recommend himself to the Court of Directors than by preserving in his Deligence.

We send herewith a Copy of the General Letter from the Honble Court of Directors to you lest the Original should miscarry, you will observe by the 50 Paragraph that they have revoked their Orders for withdrawing Tappanoully and Nattall and have directed you to keep possession of them at as Moderate Expence as possible. We judge from Mr. Carters separte advices, that the Measures he planned for withdrawing those Settlements may not yet have been carried into Execution and We have therefore ordered the Duke to touch at both those Settlements as well as at Moco Moco to land such of the Consignments to you as may be wanted there.

Upon hearing of the Loss of the Marlborough Sloop We wrote to the Gentlemen at Bombay to build one of seventy Tons which was immediately put upon the stocks. We afterwards heard of the Loss of the Neptune Sloop and received your advices by the Duke whereon you strongly recommend vessels of 120 Tons, as the fittest Burthen for the West Coast service, your reasons for which appear to us so cogent that we immediatly wrote to the President and Council of Bombay to build one of that burthen and to rigg both as schooners when finished they are to be sent round to us and We shall dispatch them directly to you.

[Most] of the Coir Cordage you indent for is now sent you [?] the Duke you should not Indent for more of this Article than immediatly wanted as it is cumbersome and very apt to decay if not carefully preserved from Wet or damp. That which you tell us you have remaining in the storehouse, damaged and unfit for Service, We suppose must have come so from that cause. The transporting it hither will not answer the expence you will therefore sell it at Outcry for the most it will fetch and let it be a standing Rule with you once at least in every year to have an account remains taken of all stores and if any appear to be damaged or decayed, let a regular survey be made of them by skilful Persons and a report laid before you, upon which if they appear to you unfit for service Order them to be sold at Outcry for the most they will fetch.

We have also consigned to you by the Duke three hundred Barrels of Gunpowder and as many other Military Stores as We can spare at present the particulars you will see by the Invoice.

You shall be supplied with Copper Cash by the next Conveyance, the Fanams you indented for are now sent you.

If you apprehend any immediate Danger from Cumberland House you may pull down so much of the Building as you think necessary, but We would not have you proceed further than the Case may absolutely require as We intend (if possible) by the next Conveyance, to send you a skilful Person to direct your Buildings and We shall at the same time endeavour to supply you with some Artificers, tho' We have but little hopes of success from the great attachment the Natives of this Coast have to their Casts and Country.

Shipwright and Caulker We cannot supply you with. We neither Build or Repair ships here and consequently can have no such Artificers but we have wrote to Bombay to engage as many as you want if possible and to send you other artificers also, as well as a capable person to assist in carrying on your Buildings and Works.

We do intend to comply with your Request to be supplied with One hundred and fifty seapoys, but We cannot yet say whether We shall be able to send any of them by this ship; if we are a List [shall be] forwarded in the Packet.

You can observe by the 36 Paragraph of the General Letter to you from England by the Egmont the Method the Company have fallen upon for the protection of the Trade on the West Coast by recommending to the President and Council at Bombay to send you one of their Cruizers every year We have wrote to them on that subject as well as concerning the means of facilitating an Inter-course between the Settlements on the West Coast and that Presidency for the better supplying you with stores and necessaries We have also referred it to our Committee for Affairs of the West Coast to state to Us the particular instances of the Violent & unwarrantable behaviour of the Dutch and We shall then address the Regency at Batavia and desire Adm^l. Pocock to do so likewise.

We find by the General Letter to you by Egmont that Mr. Bastion Smith in a Letter to the Court of Directors has charged Mr. Pybus with having enjoined the Paymaster to pay Diong Maccooley the amount of a fictitious Roll of Buggeeses and that you are directed to make enquiry into that matter and to acquaint Mr. Pybus with the particulars of the Charge and the Evidence by which it is Supported that he may have an Opportunity of justifying himself. Mr. Pybus has represented to us that as it is impossible for him at this distance to justify himself otherwise than by averring the whole of that Charge to be utterly false so he relies intirely on your Candour for impartial Justice.

The French Squadron left this Coast the beginning of September. We imagine to refit at the Islands, our Squadron sailed from hence for Bombay the 12 Instant. We have great reason to believe theirs will be reinforced considerable at the Islands and be back on the Coast in January ours not so soon should that be the Case. The French will most probably cruize of this Port. We should be glad therefore if possible to have the Duke back again by December or the beginning of January. Much will certainly depend on the length of the Passage, but We would have you use all possible expedition in landing the Stores and dispatching the ship back and whether it be early or late give the Commander Orders to endeavour to fall in with Pullicat the first land he makes on the Coast where he shall receive all needfull Indulgence.

The Long Cloth now sent you by the Duke is damaged: such part of it as you do not use for the Hospital and Slaves cloathing must be sold at Outcry.

Mr. Charles Frederick Noble who was appointed a Factor on your Establishment in 1736 and took his Passage last year on the Marlbro Sloop, which was afterwards taken by the French now proceeds to you on the Duke. The whole

Business of this Presidency will be transacted in future by the President and Council in two distinct departments the one for all Mercantile affairs the other for Secret and Military Transactions you will therefore in future advise us in separate Letters of what may occur under those distinct heads.

We are

GENTLEMEN

Your affectionate Friends and
Servants

GEORGE PIGOTT.

HENRY POWNEY.

STRINGER LAWRENCE.

W^m. PERCIVAL.

JOHN SMITH.

CHAS. BOURCHIER.

JOHN PYBUS.

HUGH NORRIS.

HENRY VANSITTART.

FORT ST. GEORGE
THE 31ST. OCT^R. 1758.

LIST OF THE PACKET [³/₄ DUKE].

- N^o. 1 General Letter [. . .]
- 2 Duplicate D^o. [. . .]
- 3 Copy of General Letter [. . .]
- 4 Copy of a [. . .]
- 5. Invoice of [. . .]
- 6. Abstract of [. . .]
- 7. Bills [. . .]
- 8. 2^d. [. . .]
- 9. Copy [. . .]
- 10. Manifest of [. . .]

N^o. 56.

TO CAPTAIN THOMAS POWNEY.
OF THE HONBLE COMPANYS SHIP DUKE.

SIR

You are hereby required to repair on board and make the best of your way to Tappanoully on the West Coast of Sumatra where you are to deliver to the Resident such part of your Cargo as he shall demand of you and then proceed to Nattall where you are to do in like Manner from thence you will make the best of your way to Moco Moco for the same purpose and then proceed to Fort Marlbro where you are to deliver the remainder of your Cargo to the Deputy Governour and Council and follow their Orders for your further proceedings. Herewith are delivered you four Packets, Viz.

One for the Deputy Gov^r. & Council at Fort Marlbro.

One for the Resident at Moco Moco.

One for the Resident at Nattal, and

One for the Resident at Tappanoully which [. . .] you will deliver as directed [. . .] Dated in Fort St. George [. . .] October 1758.

GEORGE PIGOT.
HENRY POWNEY.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
W^m. PERCIVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHAS. BOURCHIER.
JOHN PYBUS.
HUGH NORRIS.
HENRY VANSITTART.

N^o. 57.

[Earlier portion of this letter lost]

[. . .] letter we had the pleasure to [. . .] 6th. May This serves to accompany [. . .] President & Council of Bombay which you will please to forward by the first safe Conveyance.

This Grantham sailed from hence for England the 12th. of last Month with a full Loading.

We are
GENTLEMEN

Your most Obed^t. Servants

GEORGE PIGOT.
HENRY POWNEY.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
W^m. PERCIVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHAS. BOURCHIER.
JOHN PYBUS.
HUGH NORRIS.
HENRY VANSITTART.

FORT ST. GEORGE
3^d. NOVEMBER 1758.

N^o. 58.

TO THOMAS HODGES ESQ^r.

CHIEF & C^a. FACTORS AT

TELLICHERRY.

GENTLEMEN

Since we had the pleasure of Writing you the 16th. April We have received yours of the 30 of the same Month 31st. May 26th. August and 29 September.

[The remaining matter lost]

[Subsequent letters lost]



INDEX

	PAGE		PAGE
A		I	
Alwright [Allwright], Capt. Richard ..	2, 3	India	6
		Islands, the ..	7
B		L	
Batavia	5, 7	Lawrence, Stringer..	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9
Batavia. Council of.	4	London	1, 2, 3, 6
Bay, the	6	M	
Beard, Mrs. Eliza- beth	2	Manna	6
Bengal [Bengall] ..	3, 4, 5, 6	Manningham, Mr. ..	2
Bengal, River of ..	3	Mariborough [Marl- bro] (sloop) ..	6, 7
Bombay	3, 6, 7, 9	Mermaid	2
Bouchier, Charles ..	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9	Mermaid (sloop) ..	1, 2
Bouchier, Richard..	3	Moco Moco	5, 6, 8
C		N	
Carter, Roger ..	5, 6	Nattal	5, 6, 8, 9
China	3	Neptune (Sloop) ..	6
China Ships ..	1	Noble, Charles Frede- rick	7
Clive, Robert ..	1	Norr's, Hugh ..	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9
Cruttenden, Edwd. Holden	2	P	
Cumberland House.	7	Percival, William ..	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9
Current Rupees ..	2	Pigot, George ..	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9
D		Pitt	2
Darvel, Mr.	6	Pocock, Admiral ..	7
Diong Maccooley ..	7	Point De Galle ..	3, 6
Duke	4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Powney, Henry ..	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9
Du Pre', Josias ..	2	Powney, Capt. Tho- mas	4, 8
Dutch, the	4	Prince of Wales ..	3
E		Pullicat	7
Egmont	7	Pybus, John.. ..	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9
England	2, 6, 7, 9	R	
Europe	6	Ross, Andrew ..	2
F		S	
Fort Marlbro [Marl- bro]	4, 5, 6, 8	St. Angustins Bay ..	3
Fort St. George ..	1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9	Shaftesbury	3
Fort William ..	1, 3	Smith, Bastion ..	7
Frankland, Mr. ..	2	Smith, John.. ..	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9
French, the	7	Sumatra, West Coast of. See West Coast.	
Fullerton, William ..	2	Sunderland	3
G		T	
Garden, Peter ..	5	Tappanouly.. ..	4, 5, 6, 8, 9
Glover, Capt. ..	5	Tellicherry	9
Goodwin, Mr. ..	5	V	
Grafton	3	Vansittart, Henry ..	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9
Grantham	9	W	
H		Warren	2, 3, 6
Harling, Mr.. ..	3	West Coast [Sumatra, West Coast of] ..	3, 4, 6, 7, 8
Hartop	5		
Herbert, John ..	5		
Hodges, Thomas ..	9		