

**CAPTAIN WOODARD'S**  
**NARRATIVE.**



*Capt.* DAVID WOODARD.

*Aged 37-1796.*

*Pub. by L. Johnson St. Pauls Church Yard Aug<sup>r</sup> 14. 1804.*

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THE  
NARRATIVE  
OF  
CAPTAIN DAVID WOODARD  
AND  
FOUR SEAMEN,

WHO LOST THEIR SHIP WHILE IN A BOAT AT SEA,  
AND SURRENDERED THEMSELVES UP TO THE MALAYS, IN THE  
ISLAND OF CELEBES;

CONTAINING  
AN INTERESTING ACCOUNT

*Of their Sufferings from Hunger and various Hardships, and their  
Escape from the Malays, after a Captivity of  
Two Years and a Half:*

ALSO AN ACCOUNT OF THE  
MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF THE COUNTRY,  
And a Description of the Harbours and Coast, &c.

TOGETHER WITH  
AN INTRODUCTION,

And an APPENDIX, containing Narratives of various Escapes from  
Shipwrecks, under great Hardships and Abstinence;  
holding out

A VALUABLE SEAMAN'S GUIDE,

*And the Importance of Union, Confidence, and Perseverance,  
in the Midst of Distress.*

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" There's a sweet little Cherub sits perch'd up aloft,  
" To keep watch for the Life of Poor Jack."

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LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, 72, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD,  
BY S. HAMILTON, SHOE-LANE, FLEET-STREET.

1804.





U9 894-45

STANTON, N.J. JUL 27 1945  
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## DEDICATION.

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TO

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL, Esq.

CAPTAIN IN THE ROYAL NAVY.

---

MY DEAR HALLOWELL,

AS seamen form the great union between the commerce and the navy of this country, and are liable from the nature of their profession to the same common accidents, I with pleasure dedicate the following Narrative to one whose standing in the navy and whose services command respect, and who has ever proved himself the seaman's true friend.

If this little collection should survive the day of its birth, I shall have great satisfaction in acknowledging that I have derived

much knowledge and information from the friendly intercourse that has subsisted between us for years; and that, though related, we are more closely united by the stronger ties of friendship, and similarity of sentiments. That you may in public and in private be useful, happy, and prosperous, is the sincere wish of,

Dear Sir,

Your affectionate friend,

W<sup>M</sup>. VAUGHAN.

*London, August 1, 1804.*

## INTRODUCTION.

**I**N addition to the many voyages which have been brought before the public, perhaps the following relation of captain David Woodard will not be found unworthy of attention. It appeared interesting to myself, and to those friends who urged the publication: I hope it may prove equally so to the public, and especially to those to whom it is more peculiarly addressed. And if it should be the cause of saving the lives of any of my fellow creatures, or of producing other narratives equally interesting and authentic, the object may be answered.

As truth is the best guide to knowledge, this narrative is presented in all its native simplicity. Of its merits, the public will form their own conclusions. As an editor, I shall content myself with stating the motives which induced this publication, and the manner by which I became acquainted with the narrative and its sufferer.

On captain Woodard's arrival off the Isle of Wight the 27th of July, 1796, in a ship called the America, bound from the Isle of

France to Hamburg, he came up to London, conformably to his orders, to the address of Messrs. Vaughan and Son, to receive the instructions that were waiting for him from his owners in America. Accident led to a discovery that he had been a prisoner amongst the Malays in the island of Celebes between two and three years, under great hardships and great trials. He related his adventures; and having ever felt an interest in voyages of discovery and their most remarkable occurrences, I solicited him, during the few days he was under my roof, to allow his narrative to be committed to paper, to which he readily consented.

It was my next wish to obtain from him some knowledge of the people, manners, customs, &c. &c., of the country in which he had been a captive.

The *second part* of this narrative, and the three copper-plate drawings of the island and its harbours, &c., which accompany it, contain the result of a number of questions which I drew up in writing for his consideration and reply. The account was then shown to him, and corrected under his own direction, with permission to print the same at my own discretion.

The *third part* contains some miscellaneous information procured at different times; which, though not immediately corrected by himself, will be found equally accurate.

The simplicity of his narrative, and the uniformity with which it was constantly related, were evident proofs of authenticity: but I have, from various channels, been fortunate enough to have captain Woodard's account corroborated by testimonials from respectable characters who knew him well in India, and who had the account subsequently confirmed to them by his employers, and from the seamen themselves who were the companions of his sufferings, so as to leave no doubt on the subject. An accident, as singular as it was unexpected, gave me also, through my friend Mr. Leard, of the royal navy, an opportunity of having the account still further corroborated on the testimony of one of his own companions.

This narrative was drawn up under many disadvantages; which were increased by the shortness of captain Woodard's residence in England. He came to London on the 29th of July, and a few days after returned to Cowes