

# BENCOOLEN

*A History of the  
Honourable  
East India Company's  
Garrison on the West Coast  
of Sumatra  
(1685–1825)*

Alan Harfield

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It was a short-lived settlement and the British then concentrated on their newly-established settlements on the west coast of Sumatra.

The British were, on occasions, guilty of being arrogant when dealing with the minor local officials and even with some of the lesser rulers. Such conduct resulted in difficult negotiations when attempting to obtain an annual quota of spices and, on one occasion, actually resulted in the abandonment of a settlement.

In 1684 when the Company resolved to establish a trading port for pepper on the west coast of Sumatra a mission, consisting of Ralph Ord and William Cawley, both from Madras, was sent to Achin (also spelt Atjeh) with the intention of reviving the former British factory. The ruler, Sultana Zaqiyat-ud-udin Inayat Shah, refused to give her permission to

<i>Name</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Date of Burial</i>	<i>Cause of death</i>
Benjamin Reeves	Soldier	10 Mar 1755	
Thomas Pararo	Soldier	5 May 1755	
Eliazer Dunkley	Soldier	18 Jul 1755	
William Short	Serjeant	23 Jul 1755	
John Baptista	Soldier	25 Jul 1755	
James Smith	Soldier	1 Aug 1755	
Thomas Wilshire	Soldier	2 Sep 1755	
Edmund Coxele	Soldier	9 Sep 1755	
William Cockings	Soldier	10 Oct 1755	
Samuel Cricket	Soldier	16 Oct 1755	
Robert Brunt	Soldier	18 Oct 1755	
Thomas Vincent	Bombadier	20 Oct 1755	
James Gehegan	Soldier	21 Oct 1755	
Domingo D'Rosaro	Soldier	25 Oct 1755	
John Symonds	Soldier	4 Nov 1755	
Jonothan Cartwright	Soldier	25 Nov 1755	
Thomas Jones	Soldier	7 Dec 1755	
Joseph Forster	Soldier	9 Dec 1755	
James Lewardy	Soldier	9 Jan 1756	
Edward Vero	Captain	2 Sep 1757	
John Peraro	Topass	28 Jan 1758	
Savil Derozero	Topass	14 Jan 1759	Bloody Flux
John Berry	Soldier	23 Apr 1759	Fever
John Porter	Soldier	27 May 1759	Fever
John Kidd	Soldier	14 Jun 1759	Fever
Robert Baxter	Soldier	24 Jun 1759	Fever
George Nash	Soldier	10 Jul 1759	Fever
William Thompson	Soldier	1 Aug 1759	Fever
Edward Campkin	Soldier	8 Aug 1759	Fever
Richard Dutton	Soldier	9 Sep 1759	Fever
Samuel Spooner	Soldier	10 Sep 1759	Fever
Richard Correll	Soldier	25 Sep 1759	
Richard Palmer	Soldier	25 Sep 1759	Bloody Flux
Thomas Haley	Soldier	30 Sep 1759	Bloody Flux
Richard Allison	Soldier	27 Oct 1759	Fever
George Griffiths	Soldier	3 Nov 1759	Bloody Flux
Thomas Phillison	Soldier	15 Nov 1759	Bloody Flux
Richard Felps	Soldier	27 Nov 1759	Fever

The list of other ranks that died during and immediately after the occupation by the French in 1760 has been included at pages 176 to 180.

Frederick Carden	Ensign	1762
William Tobison	Capt/Lieut	1761
John Harper	Ensign	1761
Thomas Underdown	Cadet	4 Sep 1761
John Regney	Cadet	24 Sep 1761
Elliott Lawrence	Captain	Oct 1761
Benjamin Bathurst	Lieutenant	Aug 1761

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Name	Rating	Date of Burial	Cause of Death	Age
Wm Enticott	Recruit – Bengal*	4 Sep 1791	Malignant fever	22
Thos O'Brien	Recruit – Bengal*	7 Sep 1791	Malignant fever	19
Michl Morris	Recruit for Bengal*	13 Sep 1791	Malignant fever	29
Gilbt Toler	Recruit for Bengal*	15 Sep 1791	Malignant fever	20
John Grace	Recruit for Bengal*	6 Oct 1791	Putrid fever	20
Thos Brown	Corpl of Artillery	28 Oct 1791	Colliquative diarrhoea	28
Richd Siddel	Recruit for Bengal*	17 Nov 1791	Malignant fever	18
Wm Hay	Recruit for Bengal*	20 Feb 1792	Malignant fever	18
John Hy Haacker	Drummer Hanovern Regt*	12 May 1792	Fever	40
Thomas Clewer	Corporal Hanovern Regt*	18 May 1792	Fever	30
<i>at Natal</i>				
Henry Francis	Sergt of Artillery	26 May 1792	Fever	30
<i>Fort Marlborough</i>				
John Moore	Corpl of Artillery	31 May 1792	Dropsy	20
William Bell	Surgeon	3 Jul 1792	Putrid fever	33
Thos Symour	Drummer of Artillery	5 Jul 1792	Fractured tibia	32
John Healey	Matross	12 Jul 1792	Suicide	30
Robt Chapman	Matross	4 Aug 1792	Dysentery	28
John Evans	Corpl of Artillery	31 Aug 1792	Insane	30
Michl Carney	Kings soldier*	7 Mar 1793	Dysentery	32
Willm Ross	Gunner of Artillery	11 Mar 1793	Suicide	30
George Delfruman	Matross	29 Mar 1793	Dysentery	25
Robert Field	Mattross	28 Apr 1793	Drowned	20
Nichs Houison	Surgeon	20 May 1793	Dropsy	30
William Stokes	Gunner Artillery	3 Aug 1793	Fever	27
Nichl Brown	Mattross	15 Aug 1793	Fever	21
George King	Mattross	30 Aug 1793	Fever	30
Robert Hamilton	Captain Commandant	15 Dec 1793	Abscess of the liver	40

\*Note The deaths occurred on board vessels calling at Bencoolen – the soldiers were not stationed on land.