

you find it impossible, you will then make signal No. 5. On your coming in sight, our attack will begin, which you will have notice of from the schooner's guns.

The disposition of your force (sixty men) is left to your own judgment; but great care is to be taken that your men are well arranged in divisions, to support each other, and that they are not suffered to stray from their divisions. Strict orders must be given that their ammunition is not wasted, and that their fire is reserved for the natives. No woman or child is, on any account, to be hurt, unless it should be for the preservation of life of your party; but every man or native capable of using a club, or stone, is to be destroyed. This you will make all understand before they leave the brig.

Your whole force must be ready by eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

The strictest injunctions will be given that all orders are executed strictly and with promptness, and in silence, and no confusion suffered to take place.

You will destroy every kind of plantation.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES WILKES,

Commanding Exploring Expedition.

LIEUT. COM. C. RINGGOLD,  
U. S. Brig Porpoise.

U. S. Brig Porpoise,  
Isle of Malolo, July 26th, 1840.

SIR,—

In compliance with your instructions of this day, I landed on the isle with a force of sixty men, arranged in three equal divisions, taking the centre myself, with Lieutenants Johnson and Maury on my right and left, and proceeded without delay to the accomplishment of your orders.

My first object was to endeavour to dislodge the natives who had assembled in considerable numbers on the hill-tops, armed, and evincing signs of hostility. I employed Lieutenant Maury in the destruction of extensive plantations on the left, while Lieutenant Johnson proceeded on the right towards the hills. Our movements could not be concealed from the natives, owing to the surface of the isle being free from undergrowth and trees, and our approach of course discovered in time for them to flee to more remote and distant peaks.

I at once resolved to proceed forthwith to the attack of the village, calling the two divisions to my assistance, and set forth in the direction of it, about a mile distant. I soon discovered the natives were