

bears a few scattered clumps of cocoanut trees, and appears like an island at a distance of 25 miles. The ravines and lower lands are all well wooded. The western extremity of Noessaniva Point is a bluff some 300 feet high.

The island of Melano is about 700 feet high, steep to the southeast, sloping to the northwest.

The island of Saparoea has a hill some 1000 feet in height on its northwest end, the east point as seen from a distance of 25 miles appears low.

The centre of Haruku Island is about 1200 feet in height.

At 5 P.M. the ship "came to" in Amboina Bay, off Fort Victoria, in 24 fathoms, one cable W. by N. from the pier and, sending a hawser to an anchor on the shore just south of the pier, moored with the off anchor and hawser. This method of securing the ship is necessary in Amboina Bay, for the water is so deep that it becomes extremely awkward anchoring at a sufficient distance from the shore to allow the ship to swing, consequently the Dutch authorities have placed anchors at convenient distances apart, on the mud flat before the town, to which vessels may fasten a cable or hawser, using their own anchors as off moorings. As these anchors are only partially uncovered at low water, it is necessary to dive to fasten the hawser to the ring, but the Malays are first-rate divers, and their services can be hired at a very cheap rate, so that it is much better to obtain one of these men (numbers of whom are sure to be on the beach or on the pier) than to expose Europeans to the hot sun of the tropics. The edge of the shoal abreast the town of Amboina is well marked with fishing stakes, which indeed are to be seen stretching out from the shore at intervals all down the bay.

The existence of Amboina (like Banda) was first known to Europeans in 1506, and about 1521 the island was taken possession of by a Portuguese squadron of nine ships, commanded by Antonio de Britto, who built a fort on the island.

The Portuguese occupation continued until 1605, when the natives called on the Dutch to assist them in expelling the Portuguese. In February of that year a Dutch fleet of five sail, under the command of Admiral Van der Hagen, anchored off the Portuguese fort of Amboina, and landing some men summoned the Governor to surrender, the ships opening fire. The Portuguese, without defending themselves, capitulated, and the Dutch admiral took possession of the island, which his countymen have since held with one short exception, when Admiral Rainier, during the great continental war, captured it in 1796, and it was held by the English until 1813, when at the general peace it was returned to the Dutch. The terms of capitulation between the Dutch and Portuguese were, that the single men, six hundred in number, should be granted a passage to their own country, and the married men, forty-six in number, should remain on the island provided they took the oath of allegiance to the States-general. This bloodless contest was attended by one tragic circumstance, for the wife of the Governor (Gasper de Melo), apprehensive of his disgrace, poisoned him.