

Excerpt from *With Vancouver* written by Thomas Manby who assisted Peter Puget in the exploration of Puget Sound:

Whilst our cooks were providing our humble fare consisting of stewed Raisins and nettle tops, two Canoes with six Indians paddled briskly up to us and landed near our Boat without the least signs of fear. We gave them some Biscuit and received a piece of Porpoise in return.

We had not long taken our places around our luxurious repast before four more Canoes came in. One of them had nine Indians in her and all the rest three or four. Amongst them was the old fellow that we had seen in the morning who would not then come to us in spite of all our persuasion. His proceedings soon convinced us of his consequence, as all the others were obedient to his command. He ordered a fish out of every Canoe and presented them to us and of course was rewarded for his civility.

Altho' their number amounted to near thirty and ours only to sixteen, we considered ourselves equal to them, even should they be ill disposed, and continued our Dinner. In the course of ten minutes twelve more Canoes dropped in, two and three at a time. This hinted to us the necessity of taking some precaution. We therefore drew a line on the Beach about twenty yards from the spot we occupied and got all to retire to it but our first visitors and the old Chief, who a good deal attracted our notice by his savage countenance and robust form. His body was deeply scarred in many places and his left eye entirely beat out.

The conduct of this treacherous old Chief soon convinced us he had some deep design in agitation by his repeatedly going from us to his collected party on the other side of the boundary and speaking to them very seriously. They all listened with attention and then called some of our first visitors, whom they likewise conversed with. Canoes kept coming in, which the Indians observed with great satisfaction, altho' their numbers exceeded ours five to one. Relying on our superiority of Arms, we set their intentions at defiance, prohibited every one from crossing the line, buckled on our pistols, examined our priming [p. 17] and prepared for action.

The tribe of savages eyed our preparations with serious attention. They had been for some time slyly slipping on their

quivers and placing their spears so as to be grasped in a moment. Old one Eye gave a signal which occasioned every Indian to string his bow and rise up. A party of twenty then attempted to gain our rear by flying off to the Woods. These we stopped, forced them to set down, tho' much against the will of the diabolical old Chief. I had shown the chief the external destructive Beauties of my double barreled Gun, filled with a sliding Bayonet and fortunately got an opportunity of shewing its effect in the midst of our party by bringing down a Crow that was flying above my head. In an instant wonder and silent astonishment ensued. I advanced to them with the dead bird and evidently saw their confused surprise. Some shook with fear and terror hung on every visage. To continue the alarm this event had occasioned, we fired a Swivel loaded with bullets. Its report and the distant skipping balls completely cooled their courage. Some dropped on the ground and others jumped to their Canoes and paddled in haste from the Cove.

As soon as half the numbers of Canoes were decamped, we again assembled and finished our Dinners, highly gratified in having frustrated the wicked intentions of these ferocious people without putting any of them to Death. Before we left this place, which we called alarm Cove, we distributed some trifling things amongst the Indians and purchased many of the arrows which but an hour before were intended for our destruction. The old Chief left us in haste with disappointment and chagrin. At the time he hovered around our Boats in the morning he was naked, but on his second visit he was accoutre'd in his War dress, which is made of very thick Leather, reaching from the Shoulders to the Knees. An arrow will not pierce them, tho' a Musket ball would penetrate with ease, had hostilities commenced. I had marked him for my Bird, resolving to have seen him lifeless before I dropped myself.