

MARITIME INFORMATION CENTRE

Dr. S. J. T. Robertson
Torranroy
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Dornoch
Sutherland IV25 3HR

Our ref: H95/2030

15 June 1995

Dear Dr. Robertson,

Thank you for your letter, and please excuse the extremely tardy reply.

Fred Walker is no longer with the Museum, though he is still very much engaged in the business of maritime history. He was recently involved as a consultant naval architect in the building of the replica of Cook's *Endeavour* in Australia, and is engaged in the project to restore the *Carrick*.

I will arrange for your letter to be passed on to Mr. Walker.

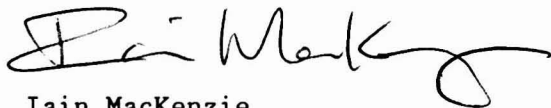
From the amount of cargo Middleton is said to have brought from Holland, together with a company of eighty men, it seems likely that the vessel employed was significantly larger than what we would normally understand as a hoy, generally a small, fore-and-aft rigged, single decked vessel, normally used for light coastal or estuary trade.

In this case, I believe that "hoy" may be interpreted to have another meaning, that of a hired ship - not necessarily a particularly large vessel, but one with the capacity to carry the cargo and passengers reported, and able to cope with a North Sea passage from Holland to the Dornoch Firth in the depth of winter. I enclose some photocopies of material from our Prints and Drawings collections, showing mid-17th C. Dutch ship types - the one entitled "*De Liefde een Noorts-Vaerder*" shows a good, typical, plain merchant hull, just the type and size that a Scots soldier of fortune might pick. Other pictures show details of deck and rigging to help your artist with the "anatomy" of the vessel, while the more artistic sketches, by Willem van de Velde, show more convincingly how the ship "sits" in the water.

I have also enclosed a couple of pages from **Swedish Weaponry Since 1630** by B.M.Holmquist and B.Gripstad (Stockholm:Royal Army Museum,1982), showing a couple of Northern European field pieces (to the artillerist, gun and piece are synonymous) of the mid-17th C.: the Royal Armouries, H.M.Tower of London, London EC3N 4AB will be able to provide a wider range of examples, and give advice about the arms and accoutrements of Middleton's party.

The other enclosures are from **The Dictionary of National Biography** and **Chambers' Biographical Dictionary of Eminent Scotsmen**, and give the entries on John Middleton, who seems to have been what you could best call a "character"...

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iain MacKenzie'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Iain MacKenzie
MIC