

Basic Detail Report



00015638

Title

Boat Camp of HMS CRUIZER, Swan River

Date

1830

Primary Maker

Captain William Alexander Willis RN

Medium

Pen, watercolour Ink on paper

Dimensions

Overall: 294 x 423 mm, 0.05 kg Image: 251 x 400 mm

Name

Drawing

History

Captain William Willis (1799-1862) joined the Navy in 1811 was promoted to Lieutenant in 1824, Commander in 1835 and Captain in March 1844. The HMS CRUIZER was an 18 gun brig-sloop and launched in 1828. At sea from 4th November 1828 until 12th May 1831 under the command of Commander JEG Colpoys it was at sea in the East Indies based in Ceylon and arrived at the Swan River colony on 17th January 1830 where it stayed until December. It seems probable that HMS CRUIZER was sent to Western Australia to assist HMS SUCCESS in the charting of the Western Australian coastline after the SUCCESS had run aground on Carnac Island on 28th November 1829 and was under repairs for over a year. The Royal Navy played a significant part in establishing most of the major British settlements including that at the Swan River in Western Australia. In 1827 Captain James Stirling RN instigated settlement in the south west by representations to Governor Darling and later to the British Government in 1828 that a colony on the Swan River was urgently needed. As a direct result Captain Charles Fremantle RN was despatched to claim the land as a British Crown colony in May 1829.