

# Basic Detail Report



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**Title**

Lieutenant Bligh and his crew of the ship BOUNTY hospitably received by the Governor of Timor

**Date**

1791

**Primary Maker**

William Bromley

**Medium**

Ink on paper

**Dimensions**

Overall: 240 x 391 mm, 0.01 kg

**Name**

Engraving

**History**

William Bromley's engraving was one of 77 plates appearing in Charles Alfred Ashburton's 'A new & complete history of England, from the first settlement of Brutus...to the year 1793...'. which was printed and published between 1791 and 1793. HMB BOUNTY was sent from England to Tahiti in 1787 under the command of Lieutenant William Bligh to collect breadfruit trees and transport them to the West Indies, where they could be cultivated as food for slaves. BOUNTY arrived in Tahiti in October 1788 where it anchored at Matavai Bay. The ship's company remained there for six months until April 1789 growing the breadfruit plants and enjoying a lifestyle of leisure, women, a warm climate and ample food. Twenty-four days after leaving Tahiti part of the crew under the leadership of Fletcher Christian mutinied in the early morning of 28 April 1789. Captain Bligh and 18 loyalists were forced into the BOUNTY's boat and set adrift near Tafoa in the Friendly Islands (Tonga). Bligh - in an incredible feat of seamanship - ultimately sailed the boat to Timor and raised the alarm. This was a 6,701 kilometre voyage that took 41 days to complete without navigation equipment. In command of the BOUNTY's cutter with 18 men on board Bligh navigated to Tofua, Tonga for supplies and then on to Timor, losing only one of his crew in the voyage, during an altercation with the Tongans. On arriving at Timor the men were severely dehydrated and malnourished but welcomed with food and drink by the Governor of Timor. Bligh returned to England and after being court martialled in 1790 was cleared of any role in the mutiny and honourably acquitted. In that same year he also released his publication, 'A Narrative of the Bounty'. In August 1791 Bligh would also get a second chance to complete the breadfruit expedition successfully.