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ADMIRALTY, April 28, 1848.

DISPATCHES, of which the following are extracts or copies, have been received at this Office:—

No. 45. *Vindictive, at Jamaica,*  
SIR, *5th March 1848.*

WITH reference to my letter, No. 42, of the 1st instant, reporting the departure of Her Majesty's ships Alarm and Vixen for Blewfields, to consult with Her Majesty's Consul General and Agent as to the best means of obtaining redress from the Nicaraguan Government for the insults and outrages therein mentioned, and to obtain the release of two British subjects, carried off from San Juan by Colonel Salas, of the Nicaraguan army,—I have the honour to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a dispatch, dated the 21st February, which I have this day received from Captain G. G. Loch, of the Alarm, reporting that the ships arrived at Blewfields on the 5th of that month, and Mr. Walker having been embarked, according to his request, they proceeded on the 7th for San Juan, where they arrived on the following day.

As the nearest Nicaraguan settlement was at Serapaqui, about thirty miles up the river, which, from the strength of the current and various rapids, is generally a four days journey, Captain Loch, accompanied by Mr. Walker in his own boat, proceeded to that place at once with a force of 260 men in twelve boats, and after a most fatiguing pull of seventy-two hours, anchored on the evening of the 11th, near the spot.

It was here that the melancholy death of Mr. Walker occurred; he was unfortunately drowned whilst attempting to save the life of a friend who had accompanied him in his boat, and had fallen overboard in the night. They both lost their lives.

On the morning of the 12th, the expedition got under weigh, and proceeded towards the fort, where it had been ascertained Colonel Salas was commanding officer. On nearing it, Captain Loch and Commander Ryder pushed ahead in their gigs, in order to state the object of Her Majesty's forces being in the river, but no sooner were they seen than they were fired at, both by cannon and small arms. As this act effectually prevented any peaceable arrangements, boats were at once brought up, and after an hour and a half's pull against the rapid tide to reach the landing place, during which the crews were exposed to a very heavy fire from both sides of the river, they effected their object, and the Nicaraguan troops fled at once, when Captain Loch totally destroyed the fort, and threw all the arms into the river.

The loss on our side amounted to two killed, and one officer, and 12 seamen, marines and soldiers wounded; a list of which is inclosed.

I have to express my admiration of the great gallantry, zeal, and perseverance displayed by Captain Loch and the officers and men of both services employed under his orders on the occasion.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) F. W. AUSTEN, Vice-Admiral.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Fort San Carlos, Nicaragua,  
February 21, 1848.

SIR,

IN pursuance of your instructions, and in accordance with the wishes of Her Majesty's late Agent and Consul General, Mr. Walker, I have the honour to acquaint you, that I proceeded up the river San Juan de Nicaragua, in command of Her Majesty's combined forces, consisting of 260 officers and men, contained in twelve boats of H. M. ships Alarm and Vixen, and captured the post of Serapaqui, after a sharp action of one hour and forty minutes, with a loss of two killed and thirteen wounded.

The post is situated on a point projecting into the river, very abruptly, to the height of fifty feet, is protected in the rear by a dense forest, and in the front by an abattis, formed of large trees felled, with their heads and branches reaching into the river. It was only to be approached by heading a rapid current of nearly five knots an hour, in order to pass the fort and descend towards a steep and narrow landing place above the stockaded batteries.

On Friday the 12th instant, Commander Ryder and myself (who were in advance in our gigs) hove in sight of Serapaqui, situated at the head of a straight reach, of about a mile and a half long. No sooner did my boat appear, than she was fired upon by two guns, which effectually precluded the possibility of any peaceful arrangement.

I therefore waited to reconnoitre until the heavy boats arrived, when I led them up the river. A spare pinnace, commanded by Lieutenant Johnston, of H. M. S. Alarm, contain-