

the boats named in the margin\* having joined us, I quitted Prome and steamed down the river. On passing the White Pagoda, (from whence our boats have been frequently annoyed with a distant fire of jingalls and musketry), I perceived that a strong breastwork was in the course of construction on its right, not a vestige of which was perceptible when I quitted Prome on the 13th instant; and that some two and a half or three miles inland the jungle was being cleared, and two stockades were being built.

Leaving the boats, with the exception of my gig, anchored out of musket range of the enemy's shore, we stood down the river, and at 8:30 A.M. anchored abreast the Honourable East India Company's steamer *Enterprise*, off Padangmew. I directed Captain Niblett to proceed to the anchorage under the heights of Akoukton, and remain there until he received further orders.

I then steamed back to the boats anchored within three hundred yards above the White Pagoda, and disembarked the brigadier, his escort, and the naval brigade. Sir John Cheape ordered an advance, and immediately on our crowning the terrace beneath the Pagoda, the enemy's skirmishers who lined the jungle were discovered, evidently expecting that we should have come on by the lane beneath the Pagoda; on their being driven in, a fire was opened by them from the high ground inland, their stockade being unoccupied. They were immediately driven from their different posts with the utmost expedition, until we attained our object, viz.—a distinct view of the two stockades which they are throwing up, and a knowledge of the country in the vicinity.

At this time the enemy were in possession of two commanding positions between us and their stockade, which they were immediately driven out of. The heat was now so intense, and three men having received strokes from the sun, I halted under cover of the enemy's look-out houses for an hour.

Having accomplished our reconnaissance, I caused the naval brigade to return to the river stockade, Sir John Cheape recalled the Royal Irish at the same time, and we burned the greater part of the lower breastwork, leaving the larger and more valuable timbers on the beach to be brought to Prome to-morrow, for the use of the steamers.

It is with much satisfaction that I have to express my approbation of the zeal, good conduct, and bravery of every officer and man of the force employed.

I have to mention the conspicuous zeal and gallantry displayed by Commander F. Beauchamp Seymour, R.N., serving with me as a volunteer, from whom I received most useful and ready assistance.

I beg to bring before your Excellency's favourable notice the zeal and gallant conduct of Lieutenants Hillyar and Pearse, of the *Winchester*; also Lieutenants Lewis and Windus, of *Sesostris*; and I have to notice the officers named in the margin, all of whom merit my thanks and approbation.

Lieutenant Hillyar has, while serving in the *Irrawaddy*, always shown himself foremost in the performance of every duty required of him.

\* *Winchester's* boats—gig, Commander F. B. Seymour, volunteer, Mr Gregory, naval cadet, 5 men, 3 marines; barge, Lieutenant Hillyar, Mr Round, mate, Mr Slade assistant-surgeon, 15 men; pinnace Lieutenant Pearse, Mr Bond, mate, 13 men. *Sesostris's* boats—pinnace, Lieutenant Lewis, Mr Capel, midshipman, Dr. Walsh, assistant-surgeon, 14 men, 11 marine artillerymen; 1st cutter, Lieutenant Windus, 11 men; 2d cutter, Mr Duval, mate, 11 men. *Medusa's* cutter, Mr Harris, midshipman, 10 men, 6 marine artillerymen—total force landed, 74.

I am happy to state that the reconnaissance and destruction of the stockades was effected with only the single casualty of a marine artilleryman\* of the *Medusa*, wounded badly in the arm.

The loss of the enemy I am unable to state, for they retreated through thick jungle.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) GRANVILLE G. LOCH,  
Captain and Senior Naval Officer  
in the *Irrawaddy*.

To His Excellency Commodore G. R. Lambert,  
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure No. 3, in No. 81.

*Her Majesty's ship Winchester's gig,*  
at Prome, 5th Nov. 1852.

SIR,  
I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I landed with the seamen and marines named in the margin,† stormed the heights of Akoukton, and captured five guns, defended by 350 or 400 men, yesterday afternoon, between the hours of 3 and half-past 5 P. M., and I am happy to say without the loss of a man.

The landing was covered by the fire of the Honourable East India Company's steamer *Medusa*, Lieutenant Fraser commanding, which was so admirable that to it I attribute our good fortune in being able to ascend a narrow pathway, winding up the ridge of the hill to the outer breastwork, every yard of which might have been defended by a handful of men, screened from sight in the dense underwood growing on either side, against almost any number of assailants. We found a Burmese, wounded by a shell from the steamer, lying in the intrenchment; he told me the troops were before us, so on we went, and at last were met by a partial fire, which after an immediate and rapid charge was never renewed, nor could we again see the enemy through jungle everywhere as thick as a bramble-bush.

The guns were loaded and primed, with the exception of one which was fired with a volley of musketry and some jingalls at the *Medusa* as she approached the cliff, just before anchoring; four of them were iron, 9 feet 18-pounders, one an iron 6 feet 9-pounder; having no powder to burst them I threw them over the cliff, and moved the force slowly back to the boats, protected by a rear-guard. When it was embarked, I directed Lieutenant Frazer to anchor the *Medusa* for the night at the entrance of the creek, facing the cliff, and commanding the entire front.

I experience great pleasure in having so soon again to bring before your Excellency's notice the gallant bearing and good conduct of all the officers and men engaged.

When they landed they saw the difficulty and apparent danger of the pass, and they knew the superiority in numbers of the enemy, they had no reason to contemplate so easy a victory; yet they formed with as much steadiness as old soldiers, and with the cheerful alacrity which always distinguishes British seamen and marines. Lieutenant Hillyar, of the *Winchester*, commanded under me, and again added to his well-known character of an able, zealous officer.

\* Christopher Byrne.

† *Winchester's* boats—gig, Commander F. B. Seymour, volunteer, Mr Gregory, naval cadet, 4 men, 3 marines; barge, Lieutenant Hillyar, Mr Round, mate, Mr Slade, assistant-surgeon, 15 men; pinnace, Lieutenant Pearse, Mr Bond, mate, 13 men; H. C. steam-frigate *Sesostris*, Lieutenant Lewis, Mr Duval, mate, 22 seamen, 8 marine artillerymen; H. C. S. *Medusa*, Mr Brazier, mate, Mr Harris, midshipman, 15 seamen, 12 artillerymen; total force landed, 82.