

Lieutenant Lewis, first of the Honourable East India Company's steamer *Sesostris*, formed and led his marines and seamen in a masterly manner; and I gladly recommend him to your Excellency's notice.

Mr Brazier, senior mate of the *Medusa*, landed with his men, and attracted my attention by his zeal.

To Lieutenant Frazer, commanding the *Medusa*, much is due for the able way he handled his vessel in the strong tides and eddies where he had to anchor; and the most effective aid he rendered by his fire. He is a most zealous officer, and has, and is rendering daily, most valuable service to the naval and military force at Prome.

I cannot refrain mentioning that one quarter of an hour did not elapse from the time the *Medusa* anchored, before my people were formed on the beach, and the boats safely moored under charge of men to fight their guns.

Commodore F. Beauchamp Seymour, a volunteer serving up this river, landed with me, and was always to be found in the front.

The capture of these guns has again opened the river to Prome; and I rejoice that the information I received of their having been planted there, reached me in time to secure the safety of the expected steamers from Rangoon, laden with troops.

I shall leave the Winchester barge under Lieutenant Hillyar (as the *Enterprise* is not yet available) to guard the heights. But I cannot refrain from expressing my extreme regret they are not occupied by some of Her Majesty's troops.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE G. LOCH,  
*Captain and Senior Officer  
in the Irrawaddy.*

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

Enclosure No. 4, in No. 81.

*Her Majesty's ship Winchester's gig,  
Prome, 10th Nov. 1852.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that having received intelligence from the officer commanding the gun-boat, which I left to watch the heights of Akoukton, to the effect that the men had reappeared there in force, armed with jingalls and musketry, with which they had opened a fire on him, and that he was apprehensive during the night they might possibly succeed in mounting guns there; I decided immediately on proceeding there with a detachment of seamen and marines, to which Sir John Cheape kindly added a party of twelve sappers under Lieutenant Denison, and I accordingly quitted Prome yesterday morning in the *Medusa* steamer, accompanied by Major Allen, Quarter-Master General of the Forces in Burmah. On arriving off the village, situated a little above the slope leading to the upper ridge of the heights, I disembarked, and after ascending them, detached Lieutenant Hillyar with thirty men to endeavour by a circuitous route to get into the enemy's rear; we then continued our march along the ridge, and at 3 P. M. reached the position, when we captured the enemy's guns on the 4th instant, which appeared much in the same state as we had left it, with the exception that the enemy had partially succeeded in raising one of the guns which had fallen on a ledge below the parapet.

At this moment the *Bentinck*, bearing your Excellency's pendant, was descried beneath us, and at the same time the party under Lieutenant Hillyar joined us, having met with a few of the enemy and captured some of their muskets.

Having with much difficulty succeeded in getting the only two guns which had not fallen into the river into a position where we might burst them, and it being nearly dark, I re-embarked the men, and next morning sent them on shore under Lieutenant Hillyar, who effected the destruction of the guns by bursting them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE G. LOCH,  
*Captain.*

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

Enclosure No. 5, in No. 81.

*Her Majesty's ship Winchester's gig,  
Prome, 12th Nov. 1852.*

THE attack and capture of the fort opposite Upper Prome took place so immediately under your Excellency's notice, that but little is left for me to detail.

The force placed by you under my orders consisted of the steamers and boats named in the margin.\*

I intended the *Sesostris* to take up a position to cover the advance of the two small steamers containing troops, but on observing her take the ground, I desired the commander of the *Mahanuddy* to proceed ahead of her, pass the batteries, and anchor his ship close to the bank above them. The *Medusa* was to follow us, but that vessel having unfortunately got into the Chow-chow water, was unable to keep her station, notwithstanding Lieutenant Frazer used every exertion to do so.

On arriving within range of the forts they opened a steady and well-directed fire on the *Mahanuddy*, which was returned with shell, and having most fortunately passed them without a casualty, I disembarked at a landing-place just above them, which the native guide pointed out. We formed on the beach, and I found myself at the head of a reduced force of 42 men, who, with 50 men of Her Majesty's 80th Regiment under Captain Montgomery, made a total of 104 officers and men.

We advanced by a narrow pathway leading to the rear of the Upper Stockade. When in sight of this work, I had the gratification also of seeing the *Bentinck*, bearing your Excellency's pendant, open fire upon it. We advanced at the double, charged into the fort, and found that the enemy had retreated to the second.

Leaving a party in possession, we at once moved rapidly on to the Lower Stockade, which was also deserted by the time we entered it, and I regret to say that the enemy had here succeeded in removing their ordnance. From the position we found the guns in on the larger work, it was evident that they were in the act of withdrawing them also, when we appeared. We captured five guns and a jingall, besides a considerable supply of ammunition.

Although your Excellency visited the works yourself, might I be permitted to call your atten-

\* H. C. steamer *Mahanuddy*, H. Simpson, Esq. towing *Winchester's gig*, 6 men; barge, 15 men, Lieutenant Hillyar, Mr Round, mate, and Mr Slade, assistant-surgeon; launch, 21 men, Lieutenant Nelson, Mr Hinde, mate, and the Honourable H. D. Lascelles, midshipman. H. C. steam frigate *Sesostris*, Commander Campbell. H. C. steamer *Medusa*, Lieutenant Frazer, commanding, towing *Winchester's pinnace*, 8 men, Lieutenant Pearse, and Mr Bond, mate; cutter, 9 men, Mr Allingham, midshipman, Mr Gregory, N. cadet. *Sesostris* and *Medusa's* landing party, Lieutenant Lewis, Mr Duval, mate, 42 men; Lieutenant Frazer, Mr Douglas, mate, 25 men. *Fervaz*, Mr Hurlock, midshipman, 8 men.