

water, and we had to take them (at high water) some way through soft mud to get near enough to the forts, and this under a heavy fire.

Where all have so ably and gallantly performed their duty, it is difficult to particularize individuals, but I desire to express my warm thanks to Captain Griffiths Jenkins, the First Captain of this ship, for the very great assistance he has afforded me throughout the whole of the operations, and particularly during the action. He was the first officer, assisted by Major Hill, of the Engineers, and Lieutenant Clarkson, the First Lieutenant of my flag ship, to enter the town and hoist the British flag.

I trust, my Lord, it will not be taking too much upon myself to express my admiration of the gallant conduct of General Stalker and his brave army, the more so as I have had the honor of being associated with them for many weeks, and have been an eye-witness of all their proceedings from the day of landing, as well as on their advance to the town. In doing so, I offer the humble tribute of a British Admiral to the brave General, his officers, and soldiers, whose dashing conduct on the day of storming the fort of Reshire can never be forgotten.

I cannot deny myself the satisfaction of bringing to the notice of your Lordship in Council the excellent manner in which the commanders and officers and crews of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's ships (named in the margin,\*) have conducted their ships during the time they have been with the fleet. They are at all times ready for any hard work, and have rendered me very essential service, and I beg to express my sincere thanks to them collectively and individually.

To the masters commanding the merchant ships (named in the margin†) and their officers and crews, especially to the Commander of the "Result," Captain Cow, whose kind and considerate conduct in bringing off the wounded did him honor, I tender my best thanks for their active exertions. All did their duty, and vied with each other, day and night, which ship should do the most in landing the troops, horses, and stores.

In conclusion, may I again request your Lordship's notice of the gallant officers who have given me so much assistance and support during the time I have been fitting out the Persian Gulf Expedition:—by their exertions, nearly 10,000 persons, with all their camp equipage, provisions, guns, and stores, and 1,100 horses, have been landed on the shores of Persia, without the slightest accident, and with the exception of five horses, without a casualty of any sort; and by to-morrow evening, the troops will have their tents pitched, cooking things ready, and every arrangement to give them comfort and shelter from the cold weather and rains of the winter. The Indian Navy being a service of seniority precludes promotion, and unlike their brethren of the army they can gain nothing of advancement to a higher rank; but if, in bringing to the notice of your Lordship in Council their good and meritorious conduct upon this as well as every other occasion, I have the good fortune to render a service to those who have so thoroughly done their duty, it will be a source of the greatest gratification to me.—I have the honor, &c.,

HENRY J. LEEKE, Rear-Admiral  
R.N., Commander-in-Chief I.N., and  
Commanding the Naval Force, Persian  
Gulf Expedition.

\* "Precursor," "Pottinger," "Chusan," "Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy."

† "Result," "Abdullah," "Alabama," "Madge Wildfire," "Dacotah," "Fairlie," "Hydree," "Mirzapore," "Melbourne," "Merse," "Maria Grey," "Arthur the Great," "Rajah of Cochin," "Clifton," "Thames City," "Wansfield," "Sindian," "Bombay," "Rhoderic Dhu," "Philo," "Sibella."

Commander Felix Jones, I.N., Political Agent with the Forces, and Resident in the Persian Gulf, to the Secretary to the Government, Bombay.

*Residency in the Persian Gulf, Bushire,  
December 13, 1856.*

SIR,—My last Despatch made known my retirement from Bushire. I now continue the report of my proceedings to the present date, in connection with the Expeditionary Force in this Gulf.

2. On the 29th of November, a detachment of the fleet, as per margin,\* first hove in sight of Bushire, and dispelled the prevailing idea that the force would not quit the shores of India. This illusion I had been able to maintain perfect to the last moment, though the object I had contemplated of an immediate descent on the coast failed, from the fleet being scattered in various parts of the Gulf. It was not, indeed, until the 6th instant, that they were sufficiently collected to admit of direct operations being commenced; but in the mean time, the Island of Karrack was occupied, and formed into a military depôt, as reported in my Despatch to Major-General Stalker, under date the 4th instant.

3. The day subsequent to the arrival of the first ships, the Governor of Bushire wrote to me officially on the subject of the display before the town; but as I was then about proceeding to meet the General some miles off at sea, an answer to his inquiries was delayed, as shown in the accompanying letters. On the 3d of December, the Governor-General's proclamations were sent to him officially, with the sanction of the Major-General commanding the force. To these there was no reply.

4. On the 6th instant the fleet moved down to Hallila Bay, which Commodore Ethersey had pronounced the best suited for the debarkation of the force, and no spot could have been better selected. Dispositions were made for landing the force on the following morning, when it was effected in admirable order, though not unobserved by the enemy, small parties of whom were driven from their lurking-places in the date groves by the fire of the gun-boats, and well directed shot from the steam-frigate "Ajdahah."†

5. Shortly after noon, the force was enabled to advance from the beach, and take up an extended front before the enemy, seen at intervals watching our movements, a few miles in advance. Great difficulties however had to be contended with in landing the Cavalry horses and Artillery equipage, from a paucity of native boats, which I had failed in procuring from the Arab coasts, owing to the impracticability of dealing with the people in moments of emergency and need. These difficulties were however readily surmounted by the skill and activity of the Indian naval officers and men, whose exertions on this occasion merit the highest praise. These exertions were fully appreciated by their associates in arms, not less active in their endeavours to get at the enemy with the least possible delay.

6. Forty-eight hours sufficed to put the troops in motion northward; the ships of war led by the Admiral, advancing along the coast to their support. This was on the morning of the 9th, and by noon, the enemy were observed to be in some force in the village of Reshire. Here, amid the ruins of old houses, garden-walls, and steep ravines, they occupied a formidable position. But notwithstanding their firmness, wall after wall was surmounted, and finally they were driven from

\* "Feroze" steam frigate, towing two merchant ships, and corvette "Falkland."

† Commanded by Lieutenant Worsley.