

20. I append a narrative by Mr Stephen Cooke, clerk of the peace and magistrates, one of the survivors, of the circumstances immediately preceding the massacre, and, so far as he knows, of the occurrences of the massacre itself; but it is obvious from the nature of the case that it can only be a most imperfect and incomplete account. The true and full story can now never be hoped for. All the principal inhabitants of the district had been killed, and the entire volunteer force (with the exception of a few who escaped) consisting of 22 officers and men, nobly died at their posts gallantly doing their duty.

21. Having sent a requisition by the "Wolverine" for another company of white troops, we proceeded on our way and arrived at Morant Bay (the scene of the murders) at about 7 p.m., 13th October.

22. Upon landing and inspecting the position and arrangements, we found that about 100 blue jackets and marines, and some 80 men of the 1st West were encamped, whilst a detachment of about 120 of the 1st West under Captain Luke had proceeded on towards Bath to reconnoitre, and protect the ladies and children said to be in that district.

23. Having landed the 50 men brought in the "Caravelle," orders were issued for 50 blue jackets and marines to start at daylight on the 14th for Easington, in St David's, to meet and co-operate with the party of the 2d Battalion 6th Regiment, which had been detached from Newcastle, as already stated, to work up along the line of the Blue Mountain Valley to the same locality (Easington).

24. It was now about nine o'clock p.m., but Brigadier Nelson and myself at once embarked on board the gun-boat "Onyx," Lieutenant Brand, for Port Morant, where we arrived a little after midnight.

25. Here we learnt that Captain Luke, the officer in charge of the party from Morant Bay, had again sent on in advance, as far as Bath, a detachment of 35 men under Ensign Cullen, for the purpose of protecting women and children. We ascertained also that some of the rebels were in the immediate vicinity of our camp, and a party of twenty-five men was sent out at two a.m., in the morning, to try and surprise some in their huts. Two men and some women were thus captured. One of the men was a principal in the disturbances, of the name of Fleming. He was tried by court-martial, and at once hung. The second, quite a young man, was flogged. The women were released.

26. Early on the 14th October, having made arrangements for the remainder of the party at Port Morant to march to Bath, to co-operate with the detachment of thirty-five already there, and under the guidance of several settlers of the district, who had come up with us for the purpose, to collect and bring down the ladies, children, and other refugees to Port Morant, we returned in the gun-boat to Morant Bay, arriving about nine a.m.

27. Soon after we reached Morant Bay the "Wolverine" came in sight, having on board another company of the 2d Battalion, 6th Regiment. The day was intensely wet, and as the encampment was not very well protected from the weather, the troops and sailors were subjected to much discomfort and exposure.

28. The prisoners on board the "Wolverine" were landed, and five of them tried by court-

martial, four of whom were hung on the stone archway of the burnt Court-house, near to which all the massacres had taken place on the 11th. One prisoner was flogged. The Attorney-General of the colony, in his capacity as a captain in the militia, sat as a member of the court.

29. Having made all necessary arrangements, we got under weigh to leave Morant Bay about 4 p.m., the gun-boat having already been despatched to Port Morant to take in the refugees collected by the troops.

30. As we were leaving the bay, the "Urgent" troop-ship was signalled in sight making for Port Royal to effect changes of the troops from one West Indian island to another. She was at once signalled to come up to us, and, on my application, was ordered by Captain De Horsey to go in to Port Royal to coal, and then at once to proceed to Barbados for troops, for which I wrote the accompanying letter to the officer administering the Government.

31. Having made this arrangement we steamed again to Port Morant, and found the gun-boat had already taken on board the ladies and children and other refugees (numbering about 100) collected from the Bath, Plantain Garden, and contiguous districts. Many of these unfortunate people had suffered great hardships and run great risks, some having been for days and nights in the cane fields or in the woods, without food or clothing save what they had on, and subject to all risks which exposure at night in a tropical country entails.

All were come away without any other possessions than the things they had on. The weather was extremely wet, and the little gun-boat, though a refuge from the rebels, could not afford to such a crowd either adequate shelter from the weather or accommodation of any kind suited to the requirements of delicate women and children. Lieutenant Brand, and those acting under him, were most kind and zealous in doing all they could. And Captain De Horsey assisted by sending his Medical Officers to visit and cheer and supply cooked medical comforts to the invalids. Still the night spent on board the gun-boat, and the subsequent voyage to Kingston, must have been one of great trial and suffering to the unfortunate refugees. Eventually they were all landed safely on the afternoon of the 15th.

32. All having been done for the refugees in the gun-boat that was practicable, the troops, through whose exertions they were collected and brought in in safety, were re-embarked on board the "Wolverine."

Both vessels remained at anchor for the night.

33. At daylight on the 15th October, the "Onyx" started for Kingston and the "Wolverine" for Port Antonio, where we arrived about 11 a.m.; just in time to save this settlement from the rebels, who were burning buildings and destroying property about twelve miles to the eastward, and had already threatened to come in and destroy Port Antonio this very day.

34. A large number of the principal inhabitants had taken refuge on board an American barque the "Reunion," Captain Tracey, who had taken them out to sea since Friday evening, and only returned to port and anchored just before we arrived. It will be my duty to bring Captain Tracey's kindness under your notice in a separate despatch.